

# Numbers 31:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand.

## Analysis

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**Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest**—Phinehas, whose zealous action stopped the Baal-Peor plague (Numbers 25:6-13), was the natural choice to lead this holy vengeance. As priest, he brought **the holy instruments** (keley ha-kodesh, כְּלֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ)—likely the Urim and Thummim for divine guidance (Exodus 28:30) and possibly the Ark's silver trumpets.

**The trumpets to blow in his hand** (chatzotzerot hat'ruah, חֲצֹצְרוֹת הַתְּרוּעָה)—These sacred trumpets (Numbers 10:1-10) signaled God's presence and invoked His aid. Their use in battle (Joshua 6:4-20) declared this was Yahweh's war. The priest leading armed men illustrates that Israel's military campaigns were liturgical acts, extensions of worship.

## Historical Context

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Phinehas's leadership established a pattern of priestly involvement in warfare (Joshua 6:4-6, 1 Samuel 4:4, 2 Chronicles 20:21-22). The holy instruments and trumpets sanctified the campaign, distinguishing it from pagan conquest. This was not Israel's initiative but divine command executed with ritual propriety.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Phinehas's dual role (priest and military leader) challenge false dichotomies between spiritual and practical service?
2. What "holy instruments" (spiritual disciplines, Scripture, prayer) do you carry into your daily battles against temptation and sin?
3. How does viewing spiritual conflict as "Yahweh's war" shift your approach from self-effort to dependence on God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁלַח	אֶת־	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל־	לְכָל־	לְצָב־
sent	H853	And Moses	a thousand	of every tribe	them to the war
H7971		H4872	H505	H4294	H6635
וְאֵת־	פִּי־יִנְחָם	בֶּן־	אֶלְעָזָר	הַכֹּהֵן	לְצָב־
H853	H853	the son	of Eleazar	the priest	them to the war
	H6372	H1121	H499	H3548	H6635
וְכָל־	הַקִּדָּשׁ	וְהַצִּפּוֹרֹת	הַתְּרוּעָה	בְּיָדוֹ	
instruments	with the holy	and the trumpets	to blow	in his hand	
H3627	H6944	H2689	H8643	H3027	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 14:44** (References Moses): But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.

