

# 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, *כלי הקודש*)—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, *חצצרות התרועה*)—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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לְאַבָּא	לְמִלְטָה	אֶלְף	מֵשֶׁה	אַתָּה	מִשְׁלֵחַ
<b>sent</b>	H853	<b>And Moses</b>	<b>a thousand</b>	<b>of every tribe</b>	<b>them to the war</b>
H7971		H4872	H505	H4294	H6635
לְאַבָּא	לְפָנָים	אֶלְעָזָר	פָּנָים	יְהוָה	אֶלְעָזָר
H853	H853	<b>them and Phinehas</b>	<b>the son</b>	<b>of Eleazar</b>	<b>the priest</b>
H6372		H1121	H499	H3548	H6635
בְּיַדְךָ	בְּתִרְשָׁתְךָ	וְתַּזְבִּזְךָ	וְתַּזְבִּזְךָ	וְתַּזְבִּזְךָ	וְתַּזְבִּזְךָ
<b>instruments</b>	<b>with the holy</b>	<b>and the trumpets</b>	<b>to blow</b>	<b>in his hand</b>	
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.

