

# Numbers 10 - Departure from Sinai

## I. Preparation of the first generation at Sinai to enter Canaan (Num 1:1—10:36)

### (2) Sanctification of Israel (Num 5:1—10:36)

#### (D) Sanctification by divine guidance (Num 9:15—10:36)

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##### (c) Departure from Sinai (10:11-36)

###### (i) From Sinai to the Wilderness Paran (10:11-13)

###### (ii) Tribes and clans fulfill function in journey (10:14-28)

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## Journey to Kadesh Barnea: "What Might Have Been" (Num 10-14)

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## Numbers 10

### (b) Two silver trumpets (10:1-10)

1 The LORD spoke further to Moses, saying,

1 The LORD spoke further to Moses, saying,

1 The LORD also told Moses,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 "Make yourself two trumpets of silver, you shall make them of hammered work; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and breaking camp.

2 "Make yourself two trumpets of silver, of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out.

2 "Make two trumpets, crafting them from beaten silver, for use in calling the congregation together and for notifying the camps to set out for travel.

2 Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

- As described by Josephus and represented on the arch of Titus, these trumpets were straight, a cubit or more in length, the tubes about the thickness of a flute.

- Both extremities bore a close resemblance to those in use among us. They were of solid silver—so as, from the purity of the metal, to give a shrill, distinct sound; and there were two of them, probably because there were only two sons of Aaron; but at a later period the number was greatly increased (Joshua 6:8; 2 Chr 5:12)

3 Now when both are blown, all the congregation shall meet you at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

3 When both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

3 Sound them when the whole assembly is to gather together at the entrance to the appointed place of meeting.

3 And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

4 But if *only* one is blown, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall meet you.

4 Yet if *only* one is blown, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall assemble before you.

4 When one trumpet is blown, the elders and the heads of the thousands of the Israelis are to gather to you.

4 And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.

5 And when you blow an alarm, the camps that are pitched on the east side shall set out.

5 But when you blow an alarm, the camps that are pitched on the east side shall set out.

5 When you sound an alarm, the ones encamped on the east side are to begin to travel.

5 When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward.

- Two is the number of witness—it is in the mouth of two witnesses that a matter is established

- These two trumpets were used to move Israel on the wilderness march

- The blowing of one trumpet brought the princes together

- These trumpets, made of silver, which is the metal of redemption, sounded the call for a redeemed people

- This reminds us that there is to be a last trump for the Church

6 Then when you sound an alarm the second time, the camps that are pitched on the south side shall set out; an alarm is to be sounded for them to break camp.

6 When you blow an alarm the second time, the camps that are pitched on the south side shall set out; an alarm is to be blown for them to set out.

6 When you sound the alarm the second time, those encamped on the south are to begin to travel. Alarms are to be sounded for their travels.

6 When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.

7 When convening the assembly, however, you shall blow *the trumpets* without sounding an alarm.

7 When convening the assembly, however, you shall blow without sounding an alarm.

7 But when you blow the trumpet to assemble the whole congregation, don't use the same sound as you do for sounding an alarm.

7 But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm.

8 The sons of Aaron, moreover, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and *this* shall be a permanent statute for you throughout your generations.

8 The priestly sons of Aaron, moreover, shall blow the trumpets; and this shall be for you a perpetual statute throughout your generations.

8 The descendants of Aaron the priest are to blow the trumpets. Have them do this for you permanently throughout your generations to come."

8 And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations.

- The trumpets were used to bring this tremendous number of people into formation for the march through the wilderness

9 And when you go to war in your land against the enemy who attacks you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, so that you will be thought of by the LORD your God, and be saved from your enemies.

9 When you go to war in your land against the adversary who attacks you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and be saved from your enemies.

9 "When you wage war in your land against an enemy who is hostile to you, you are to sound an alarm with the trumpets. Then you will be remembered before the face of the LORD your God and you will be delivered from your enemies.

**9** And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresses you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

- Another use of the trumpets was to blow the alarm for war

10 Also on the day of your joy and at your appointed feasts, and on the first *days* of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be as a reminder of you before your God. I am the LORD your God."

10 Also in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first *days* of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be as a reminder of you before your God. I am the LORD your God."

10 At the beginning of the month, during your time of rejoicing at the appointed place, sound the trumpet over your burnt offering, then sacrifice your peace offering, since they are to be your memorial before the LORD your God. I am the LORD your God."

10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

- The sounding of the trumpets also would denote certain segments of time and special occasions

(c) Departure from Sinai (10:11-36)

(i) From Sinai to the Wilderness Paran (10:11-13)

**11** Now in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth of the month, the cloud was lifted from above the tabernacle of the testimony;

**11** Now in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth of the month, the cloud was lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony;

**11** On the twentieth day of the second month in the second year, the cloud was lifted up from the Tent of Meeting,

**11** And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony.

12 and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the cloud settled in the wilderness of Paran.

12 and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran.

12 so the Israelis set out from the Sinai Wilderness until the cloud settled in the Paran Wilderness,

12 And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.

13 So they moved on for the first time in accordance with the command of the LORD through Moses.

13 So they moved out for the first time according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses.

13 doing what the LORD had said through Moses.

13 And they first took their journey according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

- This was only 20 days after the beginning of the instructions to Israel about their move from the Sinai wilderness (Num 1:1)

(ii) Tribes and clans fulfill function in journey (10:14-28)

14 The flag of the camp of the sons of Judah, by their armies, set out first, with Nahshon the son of Amminadab, over its army,

14 The standard of the camp of the sons of Judah, according to their armies, set out first, with Nahshon the son of Amminadab, over its army,

14 The standard of the camp of Judah was the first to travel, accompanied by its army with Amminadab's son Nahshon in charge.

**14** In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah according to their armies: and over his host was Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

15 and Nethanel the son of Zuar, over the tribal army of the sons of Issachar;

15 and Nethanel the son of Zuar, over the tribal army of the sons of Issachar;

15 Zuar's son Nethanel was in charge of the camp of Issachar.

15 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Issachar was Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

16 and Eliab the son of Helon over the tribal army of the sons of Zebulun.

16 and Eliab the son of Helon over the tribal army of the sons of Zebulun.

16 Helon's son Eliab was in charge of the camp of Zebulun.

16 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Zebulun was Eliab the son of Helon.

- The first trumpet puts Moses and Aaron out in front

— The trumpet blows again and Judah moves out from the east side, with Issachar and Zebulun marching with Judah under his banner

**17** Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari, who were carrying the tabernacle, set out.

**17** Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari, who were carrying the tabernacle, set out.

**17** The tent was taken down, and the descendants of Gershon and Merari carried the tent.

**17** And the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set forward, bearing the tabernacle.

- After them come Gershon and Merari, bearing their part of the tabernacle—they had the heavier things, such as the boards and the bars and the coverings

**18** Next the flag of the camp of Reuben, by their armies, set out with Elizur the son of Shedeur, over its army,

**18** Next the standard of the camp of Reuben, according to their armies, set out with Elizur the son of Shedeur, over its army,

**18** Then the standard of the camp of Reuben set out, accompanied by its army with Shedeur's son Elizur in charge.

**18** And the standard of the camp of Reuben set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elizur the son of Shedeur.

**19** and Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai over the tribal army of the sons of Simeon,

**19** and Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai over the tribal army of the sons of Simeon,

**19** Zurishaddai's son Shelumiel was in charge of the tribe of Simeon.

**19** And over the host of the tribe of the children of Simeon was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

**20** and Eliasaph the son of Deuel was over the tribal army of the sons of Gad.

**20** and Eliasaph the son of Deuel was over the tribal army of the sons of Gad.

**20** Deuel's son Eliasaph was in charge of the tribe of Gad.

**20** And over the host of the tribe of the children of Gad was Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

- Then the trumpet blows and Reuben with Simeon and Gad move out, marching under the standard of Reuben

**21** Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy *objects*; and the tabernacle was set up before their arrival.

**21** Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy *objects*; and the tabernacle was set up before their arrival.

**21** Then the descendants of Kohath, carrying the sanctuary, set out, since the tent was to be set up before they arrive.

**21** And the Kohathites set forward, bearing the sanctuary: and the other did set up the tabernacle against they came.

- The trumpet blows again and the Kohathites follow them

- They are carrying all the articles of furniture of the tabernacle (except the ark, which has gone ahead to the front of the march?)
- All these articles of furniture were equipped with poles and the Kohathites bore them on their shoulders

22 Next the flag of the camp of the sons of Ephraim, by their armies, set out, with Elishama the son of Ammihud over its army,

22 Next the standard of the camp of the sons of Ephraim, according to their armies, was set out, with Elishama the son of Ammihud over its army,

22 After this, the standard of the camp of Ephraim set out, accompanied by its army with Ammihud's son Elishama in charge.

**22** And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elishama the son of Ammihud.

23 and Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur over the tribal army of the sons of Manasseh;

23 and Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur over the tribal army of the sons of Manasseh;

23 Pedazzur's son Gamaliel was in charge of the tribe of Manasseh.

23 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Manasseh was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

24 and Abidan the son of Gideoni over the tribal army of the sons of Benjamin.

24 and Abidan the son of Gideoni over the tribal army of the sons of Benjamin.

24 Gideoni's son Abidan was in charge of the army of the tribe of Benjamin.

24 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Benjamin was Abidan the son of Gideoni.

- The trumpet sounds again and Ephraim moves out with Manasseh and Benjamin under his standard

**25** Then the flag of the camp of the sons of Dan, by their armies, *which* formed the rear guard for all the camps, set out, with Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai over its army,

**25** Then the standard of the camp of the sons of Dan, according to their armies, *which formed* the rear guard for all the camps, set out, with Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai over its army,

**25** Then the standard of the camp of Dan set out, functioning as the rear guard for all the encampments, accompanied by its army with Ammishaddai's son Ahiezer.

**25** And the standard of the camp of the children of Dan set forward, which was the rearward of all the camps throughout their hosts: and over his host was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

26 and Pagiel the son of Ocran over the tribal army of the sons of Asher;  
26 and Pagiel the son of Ocran over the tribal army of the sons of Asher;  
26 Ocran's son Pagiel was in charge of the tribe of Asher.  
26 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ocran.

27 and Ahira the son of Enan over the tribal army of the sons of Naphtali.  
27 and Ahira the son of Enan over the tribal army of the sons of Naphtali.  
27 Enan's son Ahira was in charge of the tribe of Naphtali.  
27 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Naphtali was Ahira the son of Enan.  
- Finally, Dan moves out with Asher and Naphtali, under the standard of Dan  
- Bringing up the rear is the mixed multitude, folk who were part Israelite and part Egyptian  
— They didn't know whether they should stay or go. Each one was mixed up. As a result, they were stragglers who came along on the wilderness march.  
— The young man who blasphemed (whom we read about in Lev 24:10-23), who had an Egyptian father and an Israelite mother, had been part of this group.  
See [12 Tribes of Israel](#) for more information on how the 12 Tribes are listed in Scripture.

### **The Order of March**

- (1) Moses & Aaron (10:33)
- (2) The Camp of Judah (10:14)
- (3) Gershon & Merari (10:17)
- (4) The Camp of Reuben (10:18)
- (5) Kohathites (10:21)
- (6) The Camp of Ephraim (10:22)
- (7) The Camp of Dan (10:25)

28 This was the order of marching for the sons of Israel by their armies as they set out.  
28 This was the order of march of the sons of Israel by their armies as they set out.  
28 This was the travel order for the Israelis, whenever their companies traveled.  
**28** Thus were the journeyings of the children of Israel according to their armies, when they set forward.

(iii) Hobab agrees to come on the journey (10:29-32)

**29** Then Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out to the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us and we will do you good, for the LORD has promised good concerning Israel."

**29** Then Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out to the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you'; come with us and we will do you good, for the LORD has promised good concerning Israel."

**29** Then Moses told Reuel's son Hobab, Moses' relative by marriage from Midian, "We are traveling to the place about which the LORD said 'I will give it to you.' So come with us and we'll be good to you, because the LORD has spoken good things about Israel."

**29** And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel.

- Here we have recorded an encounter with Moses' father-in-law and Moses' invitation to him

- This could be applied to the church. We are strangers and pilgrims going through this world today. We are in a wilderness here, but we are on the way to the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our invitation is the same invitation that Moses gave, "Come thou with us"

30 But he said to him, "I will not come, but rather will go to my *own* land and relatives."

30 But he said to him, "I will not come, but rather will go to my *own* land and relatives."

30 But he said, "I won't go with you because I'm returning to my land and to my own family."

**30** And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred.

31 Then he said, "Please do not leave us, since you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will be as eyes for us.

31 Then he said, "Please do not leave us, inasmuch as you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will be as eyes for us.

31 Then Moses responded, "Please don't leave us now, since you know where we can camp in the wilderness. You could be our guide.

**31** And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes.

32 So it will be, if you go with us, that whatever good the LORD does for us, we will do for you."

32 So it will be, if you go with us, that whatever good the LORD does for us, we will do for you."

32 And when you come with us, the good things that the LORD will grant us, we'll give you as well."

32 And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee.

- God had made it clear to Moses that the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night would guide them and that the ark was leading them, both of which speak of Christ. He is the leader

- [Unfortunately today, the church is listening to the voice of the "experts"—men without real spiritual discernment]

- What a responsibility church leaders have today, the ministers and the church officers! Are you sure Christ is the Head of your church?

(iv) Supernatural guidance (10:33-36)

**33** So they moved on from the mountain of the LORD three days' journey, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD going on in front of them for the three days, to seek out a resting place for them.

**33** Thus they set out from the mount of the LORD three days' journey, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD journeying in front of them for the three days, to seek out a resting place for them.

**33** So they traveled from the mountain of the LORD, a three-day trip, with the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD traveling in front of them—a three day trip to explore a place for them to rest.

**33** And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.

34 And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp.

34 The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp.

34 Moreover, the cloud of the LORD protected them during the day when they left their camp.

34 And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.

**35** Then it came about when the ark set out that Moses said, "Rise up, LORD! And may Your enemies be scattered, And those who hate You flee from Your presence."

**35** Then it came about when the ark set out that Moses said, "Rise up, O LORD! And let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You."

**35** Whenever the ark was ready to travel, Moses would say: "Arise, LORD, to scatter your enemies, so that whoever hates you will flee from your presence."

**35** And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.

36 And when it came to rest, he said, "Return, LORD, *To* the myriad thousands of Israel."

36 When it came to rest, he said, "Return, O LORD, *To* the myriad thousands of Israel."

36 Whenever the ark was being readied to rest, he would say: "Return, LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel."

36 And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.