

Numbers 10: 1-7

"Hearing The Two Trumpets"

Rev. Tony Frederick

When you consider the plight of Moses and the wilderness journey surely you can see the miraculous hand of God.

The thought of how the Lord provided for the Israelite people during their wilderness journey is sometimes beyond comprehension.

I am comforted to know that the same God who lead them through the wilderness and provided daily for them is the very same God I serve today!

Moving this mass of individuals through the wilderness was a gargantuan feat!

It was an effort that took cunning precision and cooperation.

Every tribe of Judah was given responsibility for this journey through the wilderness.

Each day the Children of Israel would travel on their quest to reach a land which was flowing with milk and honey – The Promise Land.

The Tabernacle was moved each day they traveled.

What a task!

All of this couldn't be done in just a blink of an eye.

Although the Levitical priesthood was responsible for the setting up and tearing down, each tribe had a responsibility in the moving of the tabernacle.

What a journey it must have been!

- Watching with your own eyes the miracle of the Red Sea.
- Some of you women would have had real trouble with the wilderness journey.
- Imagine those women wearing the same clothes and same SHOES for 40 years!
- Whew!

- Witnessing for yourself the daily manna provided by God for his people.

Yes there was much that went wrong during that journey but I might interject how there was a lot of things that also went right!

But there had to be some ground rules for this journey, a lot of organization.

Rules that were instilled for the betterment of the entire camp rather than for just a few.

Rules that no doubt were put into place to direct the easy movement through the wilderness.

I can't prove this but common sense tells me that plans that were instituted during the beginning of the journey was no doubt tweaked and adjusted.

No one is well versed in every path of knowledge so surely there were some things which were changed for the better movement of the people.

I am also sure there were some things which were forever settled and never debated nor were they considered for change.

An example of one such item is the travel of the Ark of the Covenant.

I would rather for you to read later just how the Ark was to be handled during travel.

Just remember all of those years later how Uzzah lost his life because an improper method was used.

These scriptures I read in your hearing was the instruction to the Israelites concerning when it was time for the Israelites to prepare to move out.

The instructions were as follows:

- There were two trumpets made of silver.
- They were to be used for two separate things.
 1. The calling of the assembly.
 2. The journeying of the camps.

The first trumpet was to be used as a warning or sign that it was time to stop what you were doing and prepare to start that day's journey.

This was a responsibility which they lived with for forty years.

When the second trumpet was sounded, that was the sign that it was time to start moving and pursue that promise land.

My sermon this morning is a sermon of information.

Simply put, the Israelites could never take a chance that they ventured too far from the camp.

To do so would be to jeopardize their ability to hear the sounding of the first trumpet.

Not to hear the first trumpet was to mean they were unprepared to move at the sounding of the second trumpet.

To be unprepared to move would mean to be trampled asunder at the sounding of the second trumpet.

What would happen if a person ventured too far away from the camp and from safety and didn't hear the sound of the trumpet?

I have spent this entire time to get to this question.

Is it possible that if you were unable to hear the blowing of the first trumpet that you won't be prepared to hear the second trumpet?

I am walking a fine line here this morning.

But as the Pastor of this Church I am struggling to blow a trumpet to gather this Church in.

And the reason that I am blowing that trumpet is to prepare you for the sounding of the second trumpet.

I am blowing the first trumpet but the Lord himself is surely preparing the sounding of the second trumpet!

I am blowing the trumpet for your preparation for a place called Heaven.

I am blowing the trumpet of:

- Separation from the world.
- Dedication to the Lord.
- Danger to your soul.
- Impending hazard and peril to your family.

I must believe that as Pastor the Lord allows me to see things that are a threat and menace to you spiritually.

I must believe that as Pastor the Lord allows me to recognize circumstances that are placing your soul in jeopardy.

As your Pastor it is my responsibility to blow the trumpet loud and strong when I recognize personal situations that may be, or could be, affecting your ability to hear that second trumpet.

Sometimes I must admit that I want to be a Hireling and not the Shepherd of your soul.

It's too much responsibility for a man!

Sometimes I want to be the Hireling that flees when he sees the wolf coming.

I want to say: "Forget it, work it out on your own!"

But I'm not a hireling; I will not try to compare myself to the good shepherd, but I am willing to march into the fog and mud to help you work through those desperate situations.

I sometimes grow weary of blowing the trumpet because it only wreaks havoc in my life.

Trying to blow that trumpet as Pastor of this Church has caused me more personal anguish than I want to bear.

I grow weary of taking shots from people.

It makes me want to stop blowing the trumpet sometimes!

But I am not a Hireling!

I have not given my life **FOR THE SHEEP!**

But I can stand before you and proclaim that I have given my life **TO THE SHEEP!**

It's all for one reason, that the sheep might be able to hear the second trumpet and be ready to go.

Personal attacks and tacky statements about me just because I blew a trumpet in your life only proves I was right to blow that trumpet

You can beat your chest and make your chide innuendos.

You can leave this Church for greener pastures but when you get to that greener grass you're going find that under that grass is the same thing: **DIRT!**

As Pastor of Greater Life Apostolic Church I need for someone else to be preaching this message.

But you should get on your knees every night and every morning and be thankful to God himself that a man is willing get up everyday and blow that same trumpet.

I want to say that I am thankful for men of God who watched for my soul.

Men who blew the trumpet loud and strong so that I might make personal renovations and prepare to hear that second trumpet.

I want you to take it personal when that trumpet is blown.

- Get mad at me, but HEAR THE TRUMPET!
- Pop off about me to others, but HEAR THE TRUMPET!

I don't have the luxury of playing the popularity game.

It's not in my job description!

I have certainly seen times that I was not happy with the men who were warring for my soul.

But this one thing I know beyond all doubt, I didn't get to where I am today without a lot of help from men who refused to stop blowing the trumpet.

Thank God for the Pastors and Counselors of my life that didn't become

exhausted with their effort of caring for my soul.