

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Numbers 10:1-7

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. This week we will read Numbers chapter 10. Today we will read verses 1-7.

In Numbers 9:15–23, we see that the Israelites' setting out and camping in the wilderness were completely based on the leading of the cloud. When the cloud covered the Tabernacle, the Israelites would camp; when the cloud was taken up from the Tabernacle, the Israelites would set out. The Israelites had to follow the leading of the cloud unconditionally and without asking why—whether to camp or to set out.

The Israelites numbered more than two million people. With such a vast number of people, how could they effectively and quickly follow the leading of the cloud? Therefore, before they set out, God instructed Moses to make silver trumpets and to use the sound of the trumpets to announce to the Israelites what they were to do.

Verses 1–2: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.’”

We see that God's consideration was truly comprehensive. God instructed Moses to make two silver trumpets. The method of making them was to hammer the silver into a long, straight tube, with one end shaped like a trumpet and the other end having a mouthpiece. A person could blow into the mouthpiece and produce a sound. The purpose of these two silver trumpets was to assemble the congregation or to direct the congregation to set out. The sound of the silver trumpets was very

loud, so that the entire congregation of Israel could hear the trumpet blast and begin to act according to the meaning represented by the sound.

We know that every army has trumpet blowers who use trumpet sounds to communicate the commands of the commander, so that the entire army can begin to move together in unity. The people of Israel had already been organized as an army in the wilderness and had become the army of the LORD. Therefore, God commanded Moses to make silver trumpets.

Silver typifies redemption. The silver trumpets made of hammered silver typify Christ, who endured suffering on the cross and accomplished redemption. According to what follows, which we will read tomorrow, these trumpets had to be blown by the priests. Aaron had two sons who were priests; therefore, there were two trumpets here. The number two typifies testimony. This tells us that these two silver trumpets were precisely the testimony of salvation.

The redemption of Jesus Christ not only purchased and redeemed us, but also gathered us together to become the church, constituting the Body of Christ, to bear witness for Christ on the earth. At the same time, the salvation of Jesus Christ also motivates us to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, to be children of light in a crooked and perverse generation, to run together the heavenly race, and to welcome the return of Christ.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the priests used the two trumpets to assemble the Israelites and to direct their movements in the wilderness. Later, after the Israelites entered the Promised Land, by the time of King David, the nation of Israel had been established. In 1 Chronicles 15:24, we read that seven priests blew trumpets before the Ark of God. We see that the two trumpets had become seven trumpets. This typifies the end of the age, when Christ returns to establish His kingdom, and the seven trumpets will be sounded. Seven is the number of completeness in time. In other words, when the fullness of time has come, Christ will return to establish the millennial kingdom on the earth and bring in the age of the kingdom.

By the time Solomon became king, the Temple had been completed. In 2 Chronicles 5:12, we see 120 priests blowing trumpets. The seven trumpets had become 120 trumpets. What a glorious scene that must have been! In terms of typology, twelve represents completeness in eternity. Twelve multiplied by ten speaks of everything being brought to completion. This therefore typifies the eternal New Jerusalem, where 120 trumpets will be sounded in everlasting worship and praise to God.

Next, verses 3–7 describe how, in the wilderness, the different trumpet sounds produced by these two silver trumpets were to communicate different instructions to the Israelites, and the Israelites were to respond with the corresponding actions. These more than two million Israelites all had to become familiar with what the different trumpet sounds meant and be able to distinguish one sound from another so that they could take the appropriate action.

God intended to use the sound of the trumpets to bring the Israelites into unified action, so that ultimately, they could reach the land of Canaan promised by God. The Israelites had become the army of the LORD. They had to travel through the great and terrible wilderness in order to reach the Promised Land.

Likewise, today the church is also the army of Christ, walking in a world of darkness. The saints in the church must also pay careful attention to distinguish the sound of Christ's trumpet and then take the corresponding action, so that they can follow Christ into glory.

Verses 3–4: “When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.”

When both silver trumpets were sounded simultaneously, this was the signal to assemble the entire congregation of Israel. The people of Israel were to gather at the entrance of the Tabernacle to hear Moses communicate God's commands. If only one trumpet was blown, this was the signal to assemble the leaders of Israel. The leaders of the twelve tribes, who were the commanders of the army of Israel,

were to gather before Moses. The gathering of the entire congregation of Israel was primarily for proclaiming God's salvation or communicating God's commandments, statutes, and judgments.

The gathering of the leaders of the twelve tribes was primarily for giving God's instructions or discussing plans for moving forward. All of this was preparation for the congregation of Israel to set out, so that the entire congregation would have one united purpose and would be prepared for various emergencies, preventing anything from interrupting the progress of God's army.

Dear brothers and sisters, the church today is the same as it walks through the wilderness of this world. Sometimes we need to sound the two silver trumpets of redemption and proclaim God's full salvation to the entire congregation. Just as Jesus proclaimed His first message in the city of Nazareth, recorded in Luke 4:18–19, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." The church must continually sound the two silver trumpets of redemption, proclaiming Jesus Christ as the gospel.

At times, we need to sound one silver trumpet of redemption, gathering the co-workers together before God to consider the needs of the church, so that some of the saints will not be unable to keep up with the progress of the church and be left behind. Just as Jesus said in John 10:11–12, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them." Today, God has entrusted the church to the elders within the church. Therefore, the elders and deacons in the church are shepherds; they should not be hirelings.

One day, when Christ returns, the trumpet of God will sound. As recorded in 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead

in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:52 further tells us, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” Here we are clearly told that when the last trumpet sounds, we will all be resurrected, and we will all be changed. At that time, we will all be caught up. 2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us where we will be brought, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” At that time, the elders and deacons who are responsible for the church will have to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ for every sheep entrusted to their care.

May God have mercy on us. God has given us the privilege of serving in the church today. We should use the sound of Christ’s trumpet to proclaim the grace of redemption. We should also use the sound of Christ’s trumpet to work together with the saints in salvation, so that when the last trumpet sounds, we will not have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ without an answer. May our life and actions today always look toward the light of the judgment seat of Christ, so that the work we do today will be able to endure the fire on that day.

Verses 5–7: “When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but you shall not sound the advance.”

The trumpet for assembling was sounded by one or both silver trumpets with a peaceful and melodious sound, allowing the entire congregation of Israel to hear. But the phrase “sound the advance” in verse 5 comes from a Hebrew word that originally means to cry out loudly. Therefore, the KJV translates it as “blow an

alarm.” It means to sound an alarm—to use the silver trumpets to produce short, urgent, repeated blasts, so that everyone would know that this was a warning signal. In the wilderness, this was the signal to set out. The first sounding of the alarm told the camp of Judah, which was stationed on the east side, that it had to set out. The second sounding of the alarm told the camp of Reuben, which was stationed on the south side, that it had to set out. And so on. The third alarm was for the camp of Ephraim on the west side, and the fourth alarm was for the camp of Dan on the north side.

The trumpet sound for setting out was an alarm—a short, urgent, repeated blast—while the trumpet sound for assembling was peaceful and melodious. The Israelites had to learn to distinguish between the two.

The church today is the same. There is a trumpet for gathering and a trumpet for moving forward. The purpose is to bring every saint into the Promised Land. Dear brothers and sisters, every saint in the church must learn to listen to the sound of Christ’s trumpet. Whether it is a call to gather or a call to move forward, we must be able to keep up with the church’s progress and not be left behind. And the saints who serve in the church must bear even greater responsibility for what Christ has entrusted to them. We must be able to minister to every saint whom Christ has placed around us and bring each one into the presence of the Lord. In this way, we will be able to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ.

Let us pray together: Dear Lord Jesus, because You gave Your life and shed Your blood on the cross and accomplished redemption, today we have the silver trumpets of redemption. Bless the church where I am. When the two silver trumpets are sounded, may we all proclaim the grace of Your redemption and preach the gospel to all the places where people live. And when the trumpet sound calling the church to move forward is sounded, preserve every saint in the church so that each one may keep up, and not one will be left behind. Bless the church where I am, that it may become Your testimony in this age. We pray in the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ.