

Numbers 10-11 - Trumpets & Complaints.

I. Trumpets (10:1-36).

The two silver trumpets were to be made and blown for marching, gathering troops for battle, gathering the nation and leaders for a meeting and for celebration. God also promised to hear the trumpet and defend Israel in warfare.

- i. (11-28) The march to Canaan begins.

“...imagine the huge sense of excitement that flowed through the people - now they were on their way to the Promised Land! Previously, their journey had been *from* Egypt and slavery; now it was *to* Canaan and liberty.”

“They were ordered and organized, cleansed and purified, set apart and blessed...given God's presence as a guide and the tools needed to lead the people.”

They actually marched in the order God had commanded earlier in the book; Judah, Issachar, Zebulun – Gershon & Merari – Reuben, Simeon, Gad – Kohath – Ephraim, Mannaseh, Benjamin – Dan, Asher and Naphtali.

- ii. (29-32) Moses appeals to his brother in law to stay with Israel.

Just as the priests would sound the trumpet, God will soon sound the loudest Trumpet ever, to call us to Himself and glorify us forever and ever.

Revelation 4:1 - *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - *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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 - *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

II. (1-3) Complaints.

“How can it be that a nation so blessed can still complain? God had done so much in and for Israel; yet they still murmur against Him?”

They are complaining about their miraculous diet,, instead craving fish, meat, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic, so ungrateful and unreasonable!

Moses intercedes for the people, and the fire is quenched - but the place is named **Taberah** ("burning") as a reminder of God's estimation of the complaining heart.

“Israel fell in love with an illusion from the past (how great Egypt was), instead of looking for what God had for them in the future - the Promised Land, which was truly a land of milk and honey - all the great food they could ever want! God's best for us is always ahead, never behind us.”

***Psalm 78:27-31** - He also rained meat on them like the dust, feathered fowl like the sand of the seas; and He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings. So they ate and were well filled, for He gave them their own desire. They were not deprived of their craving; but while their food was still in their mouths, the wrath of God came against them, and slew the stoutest of them, and struck down the choice men of Israel.*

***Psalm 106:13-15** - They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul.*

“This was a strict judgment, but it was a *help* to Israel because it taught them to not be ruled by their craving, then it was a huge help to the nation. Promised land people must be ruled by more than their physical or emotional appetites.”

They named the place **Kibroth Hattaavah** - which means "Graves of Craving." How many have had their cravings be their grave? How many have lived in spiritual death because they yielded to their cravings, and never found victory over their lusts?

***James 1:13-15** - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

1 Corinthians 10:6 - Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Galatians 5:16-17 - I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

2 Timothy 2:22 - Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.