

THEM THAT FELL A LUSTING

NUMBERS 10:1 – 11:5

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is going to observe Israel make two silver trumpets at the direct commandment of God in this report. After those trumpets are fashioned, they will be blown; and when they are blown, the children of Israel will march out for the first time from where they are currently encamped. Moses and Aaron will be led by the Lord out in front of the tribes as they all follow the cloud of smoke by day and the pillar of fire by night - and until the Spirit of God brought them to rest, they marched....

X

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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.

~ God said that out of the mouths of two or three witnesses a matter is established. Well, these two trumpets were used to signify to Israel that it was time to move on through the wilderness. The single blowing of the trumpet brought the elders together. There will be a shout 'like a trump' – as in, one – which calls the church to the rapture. That will be the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Invitation after invitation has been sent out - and when this happens, it will be His last call! Remember, the last comment Jesus made to the church in Laodicea was, "behold, I stand at the door and knock!" With the last trump, Christ will call His church out of the world....

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.

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

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

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.

9 And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth 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.

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.

~ Joshua blew the trumpets when the children of Israel march around the city of Jericho. Also, certain segments of time and different occasions that were to be observed by the children of Israel were denoted by trumpets. Silver is the metal of redemption and, when the trumpet is heard, that is the call of redemption. This is the way the trumpet was used to conduct Israel along on the wilderness march. So, from this verse forward, we see Israel getting lined-up and prepared to move out as the cloud is taken up. We see that the children of Israel have been at Sinai for two years getting

all of this law. This chapter becomes very detailed now and somewhat difficult to follow....

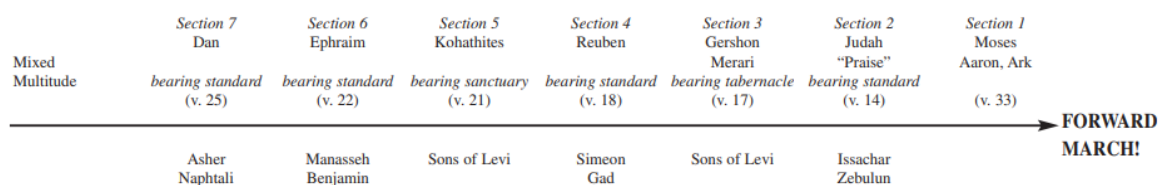
11 And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony.

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

~ When the children of Israel set up camp, it was all about the tabernacle first, foremost, and secondary. The three families of Levi were immediately around the tabernacle with Merari on the north, Kohath to the south and Gershon on the west. Moses and Aaron were out in front to the east. The camps of the tribes were placed out beyond that with Judah, Issachar and Zebulun way out east. Reuben, Simeon and Gad were to the south. Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin were to the west and Dan, Asher and Naphtali in the north....

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

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.



~ So, one morning the trumpet blows, the cloud lifts, and everyone suddenly packs up and moves. The ark is in front leading them. This is the picture that speaks of the way Christ leads His church through the wilderness of this world. The trumpet then blows a second time, and Judah moves; and they always go towards the east....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ocran.

27 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Naphtali was Ahira the son of Enan.

28 Thus were the journeyings of the children of Israel according to their armies, when they set forward.

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.

~ That is an exceptionally beautiful passage of Scripture - but it's too bad Moses didn't stop there. This is a spiritual picture of the contemporary church as we are complete strangers and pilgrims down here on this earth as believers. This world is our wilderness; one that we are wandering and struggling through. So many of God's so-called children think they are in some sort of paradise. Some seem to assume they are back in the Garden of Eden. Well, the Bible teaches that we are marching through a wilderness, carrying our crosses daily on our way to the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, friends. That's what's real.

We are seeing Christ closely on safari – I hope – but we will be in His immediate presence one day relatively soon. Your invitation is from Moses and that invitation says, "... come with us." If you're reading this report and you so desire, then, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you can join our exclusive little safari. We aren't better than anyone else – we're sinners – SINNERS who were saved by the grace of God. If you see yourself as the sinner that you are, then turn to Christ today and He will accept you. If you are one who likes to march in protest then this, actually, may be good for you. We don't protest, but what we're learning is so utterly contrary to and abjectly far-removed from the world's philosophies and thinking today, you will find yourself in a radical minority with us. The Spiritual Safari is a salvation march....

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

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.

~ Well, Moses' father-in-law politely declines the invitation to go along with them. Moses pleads with him to stay, but I have no idea why. Telling him he will be 'as the eyes' is something I do not think I will ever understand about Moses. God has made it clear that the pillar, the cloud, and the ark are leading them. What's this all about, Moses? Was Moses ready to relinquish leadership? Had he talked to Aaron about this? Those are my questions. Sure, the old man had been raised in Midian and he knew the area – but so did Moses. The problem is: they aren't to depend on natural means or lean on their own understanding - and the old man has no idea which way God wants them to go anyways. Things just got really weird in Numbers.

Unfortunately, the church today is listening to the voice of the so-called experts, too. They are worldly men who have no spiritual discernment whatsoever. Tragically, the church has gone out of and off the garden path as far as I can tell. The church – overall – is a very sad place to be these days. The tremendous responsibility that rests on church leaders is sloughed off for donations. Are you sure you have the mind of Christ, friends? Are you absolutely positive Christ is the head of your church and that He is leading and guiding you? So many church members want their leaders to be "instead of eyes" for them. They won't use their own eyes for Bible study is what that means. These are the symptoms of Christian Tragedy, as Luke would say. This was a big mistake for Moses; and Moses made other mistakes. Most interestingly, he could write them all down truthfully. If this were not the Word of God, these parts would be edited out, spun a certain way, trumped up - or falsified altogether, believe me; it wouldn't have been recorded this way....

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.

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 upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.

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 rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

~ Moses apparently performed this ritual every morning and every evening after they departed from Mount Sinai. God is clearly leading them, and the mixed multitude is bringing up the rear; and they are a mixed-up group of individuals, to be sure. This intermingled crowd aren't sure if they're Egyptian or Israelite - and they aren't sure if they are coming to a Promised Land or going back to Egypt someday.

Well, the trumpet has been blown seven times which signifies marching. In Revelation, we are going to see seven trumpets being blown. Those seven trumpets are connected with the nation Israel, and their movement back into that land during the Great Tribulation period! The trumpets are always and exclusively connected with the children of Israel. So many people like to connect the trumps from first Corinthians and Revelation, and they erroneously conclude the church will go through the Great Tribulation period. Well, that's just wrong. The last trump in Revelation is the voice of the Son of God – there's no way around that!

First Thessalonians chapter four tells us the same thing. The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, and His voice is like an archangel

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and also as a trumpet. Friends, you must get your prophecy straight or just, well, just shut up about it. John tells us in Revelation chapter one that he 'heard the voice of Jesus as the sound of a trumpet.' John said he turned to see; and he saw the glorified Christ! We aren't guessing at this. That's the trumpet that will raise the dead and change the living. No trumpet is ever connected with the church – only with the children of Israel....

XI

1 And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

2 And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

3 And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

~ Every time the people complained, the glory of the Lord appeared; but God was displeased with their groaning and complaining. Well, complaining is what they did the entire time. The mixed multitude, in particular, fell a lusting; and that was the basis for contempt. This mixed group is not sure who they are. They couldn't lay claim to any of the tribes because they couldn't declare their pedigree. What they did know is that they had no part in serving the True and Living God, which was His plan and purpose for them.

This group is just Egyptian enough to want to stay - but just Hebrew enough to want to go - and that is the condition of most of our church members today. They like to mix with churchy people and they even like the sermons, sometimes; they want to appear upstanding, dignified and respectable, so they join a church. Well, during the week they want to run with the world.

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They're a mixed-up multitude that is never sure of their salvation. These are always the real troublemakers in any church, too; they are actually trying to bring the world into whatever church they're infecting at that time. It typically starts with politics. They love to have a potluck dinner and play volleyball, but they don't like Bible study. That's just too close to the heart and too tedious to boot. They like to stay way in the back because they aren't sure that maybe they'll return to their worldly ways some day back in Egypt. They're never happy, and they never enjoy any real times of spiritual blessings or genuine fellowship. That makes them uncomfortable, but so does the world. They simply don't fit in anywhere, and it's usually because they're nothing but troublemakers. Well, these fell a lusting - and look at what they wanted....

5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

~ With the exception of the fish, all of these items are condiments. The manna God had provided contained all the vitamins and nutrients their bodies needed. Well, they may have had all the fish they wanted down in Egypt, but they didn't seem to miss any fish until now - when things get rough. All the things the mixed multitude missed grew on the ground or in the ground, too; earthy substance - like them. They loved the worldly and earthly things - and not having them is where all the problems and complaining began ~

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