

Trumpets, Blood, Cloud, and Fire



SABBATH—OCTOBER 17

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Exodus 12:1–29; Numbers 9; Numbers 10; Matthew 26:36–43; Luke 22:15, 19, 20; 1 Corinthians 15:52.

MEMORY VERSE: “Get rid of the old yeast. Be like a new batch [lump] of dough without yeast. That is what you really are, because Christ has been offered up for us. He is our Passover¹ lamb” (1 Corinthians 5:7, NIV).

AT THE LAST PASSOVER, JESUS ATE WITH HIS DISCIPLES (FOLLOWERS).

At that time, He set up the “Lord’s Supper.” Christians are to take part in it as a way of remembering Jesus’ death until He comes again. Using some of the same things that were part of the Passover meal, Jesus said, “‘Take this and eat it. This is my body.’” And of the cup, He said, “‘This is my blood of the new covenant.² It is poured out to forgive the sins of many’” (Matthew 26:26–29, NIV). And Paul wrote, “When you eat the bread and drink the cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again” (1 Corinthians 11:26, NIV).

The Lord’s Supper is the Christian Passover. The Passover reminded Israel of their freedom from Egypt. In the same way, the Lord’s Supper in the New Testament reminds Christians of their freedom from sin through Christ. This week we will study what Israel did the first year after God set them free from Egypt. We also will read about the Lord’s presence at the camp of the Israelites. And we will read about the silver trumpets that were blown at certain times. There will be a few other stories we will read about Israel and the special situations they found themselves in.

As always, we will seek to learn lessons from their stories. Their lives teach us lessons that help us to face some of the same kinds of problems and temptations³ that they did. It makes no difference that their situations are very different from ours. We still can learn many precious lessons from them.

1. Passover—Jewish holiday celebrating the freedom of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

2. covenant—a promise or agreement between God and His people.

3. temptations—things that can turn us away from God and that try to get us to do, think, feel, or say what is wrong.

SUNDAY—OCTOBER 18**REMEMBER ME (Numbers 9:1–5)**

Read Numbers 9:1–5 and Exodus 12:1–29. What truths can we learn from these stories? As you read, think about such things as obedience, grace,⁴ salvation,⁵ faith, and judgment.

This was the first anniversary of the night in Egypt when the Lord’s angel killed the firstborn children of the Egyptians. But on that night, the angel did not visit the Israelite homes that were marked with the blood of a killed lamb. Instead, the angel “passed over” these homes. And so, the firstborn children in these homes were safe from death. This is how the name *Passover* came into use. Now, in a celebration of this event once a year, the Israelites were to remember the night of their special freedom from Egypt. In doing so, they also were to remember the salvation that God had given them.

According to Luke 22:15, 19, 20, how are the followers of Jesus to take part in the Passover today? What is this service to remind us of?

“Christ was standing at the point of change between two eras [time periods] and their two great festivals [services]. Jesus, the spotless Lamb



The angel passed over the homes marked with the blood of a lamb.

of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering. In this way, He would bring to an end the old system that for four thousand years had pointed to His death. As Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples, He set up the service that was to honor His great sacrifice.⁶ The Passover of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service that Christ set up was to be kept and honored by His followers in all lands throughout history.

“The service of the Lord’s Supper was given to honor the great gift of freedom from sin made possible by the death of Christ. . . . Through

4. grace—God’s gift of forgiveness and mercy that He freely gives us to take away our sins.

5. salvation—God’s plan for saving sinners from eternal (without end) death; the gift of eternal life; being saved.

6. sacrifice—Jesus’ death for us on the cross.

this service, we remember anew His great work for us.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 652, 653.

MONDAY—OCTOBER 19

GOD’S PRESENCE AMONG HIS PEOPLE (Numbers 9:15–23)

One of the most marvelous (amazing) signs that Israel had in the wilderness⁷ was God’s presence. He was with them in the most wonderful way: in the cloud by day and in the fire by night.

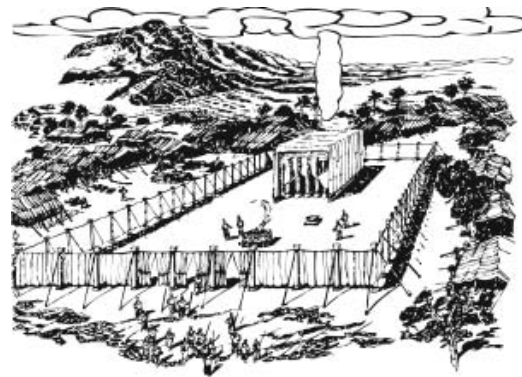
Think about it. There were about two million people living in a dry and empty land. So the camp must have spread out for many miles in all directions. At that time, there were no radios, telephones, or Internet. So there had to be some way of letting the people know when and where they were to go.

According to Numbers 9:15–23, how did the cloud show the people where God wanted them to go?

The Lord’s leading of Israel with the cloud did not always mean they traveled over highways. Jeremiah writes that God led the Israelites “through a dry and empty land. He guided us through deserts and deep valleys. It was a land of darkness where there wasn’t [was not] any rain. No one lived or traveled there” (Jeremiah 2:6, NIV).

But there is a deeper issue here

than just where and when to go. The cloud by day and the fire by night were also very powerful reminders to the people that God’s presence was always with them. Numbers 9:16, NIV, reads, “That’s [that is] what continued to happen. The cloud covered the tent.⁸ At night the cloud looked like fire.” No matter where the people were, what problems they would face, what enemies they would meet, there was in the sky an example of God’s presence among them.



God led His people in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

It must have been nice to have had that. This cloud and fire would have been more than enough to keep them faithful, trusting, and obedient to God, right?

When choosing where to go, how often have you wished you had a cloud by day and a fire by night to lead you? But what promises can you find in the Bible of God’s desire to lead us and to be always with us even today? What choices

7. wilderness—a dry and barren (empty) land in which few people live.

8. tent—the dwelling place of God; sanctuary.

can you make that will help you be more open to God's leading?

TUESDAY—OCTOBER 20

**SILVER TRUMPETS
(Numbers 10:1–10)**

Israel had two kinds of horns. One was the common ram's horn (the shofar). And the other kind was the two silver metal horns that belonged to the sanctuary.⁹ These metal horns were blown only by the priests (Numbers 10:8). The metal horns were made of hammered work. Each horn was made from one piece of metal. The silver horn was like a long tube with a larger opening at one end.



The sound of the silver trumpets meant that Israel would be saved from their enemies.

According to Numbers 10:1–10, why were these trumpets blown? What kind of spiritual lessons can we learn from the use of these trumpets?

The blowing of these silver trumpets had special meaning. Their blowing was to be considered a “command.” In war, it reminded them that they would “be remembered before the Lord your God,” and that they would be saved from their enemies (Numbers 10:9, KJV). So the sounding of these horns served as “a memorial [a reminder] before your God: I am the Lord your God” (verse 10, KJV).

How interesting! Even with all the examples of God's leading, guiding, and presence, the Lord used these trumpets to remind Israel of His presence and care. The cloud and the fire and the silver trumpets gave the people special reminders of God's leading and presence among them.

Today, we do not have the cloud or the fire or the silver trumpets to remind us of God's leading and presence. But we have the books of the New Testament to show us what God has done for us and is doing for us through Jesus. These books give us examples of God's love and care that Israel did not have. Israel had a knowledge of God's love only in types and shadows (examples), while we have the real knowledge of God's love as shown through the Cross.

Would you rather have a silver trumpet sounding in your ears or the knowledge of the love and the care of Jesus? “In his very nature he [Jesus] was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He took on the very nature

⁹. sanctuary—the home of God on earth in early Bible times.

of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death. In fact, he died on a cross” (Philippians 2:6–8, NIV).

What one “trumpet sound” do you really want to hear, and why? Read 1 Corinthians 15:52.

WEDNESDAY—OCTOBER 21

“BE TO US EYES” (Numbers 10:29–32)

After Sarah’s death, Abraham remarried. Keturah gave him several sons. One was named Midian (Genesis 25:1–6). Jethro (also named Reuel [Exodus 2:18], “friend of God”) became Moses’ father-in-law when Moses married his daughter, Zipporah. Jethro was “the priest of Midian” (Exodus 18:1) and worshiped the true God (verse 12). Other future children of Midian turned away from the faith of Abraham to false gods. They often were enemies of Israel.

According to Numbers 10:29–32, what favor did Moses ask of Hobab, Jethro’s son? What was his answer?

Moses did not ask God for advice before he encouraged Hobab to stay with Israel. Was not the presence of

God in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night more than enough to lead the migrating (traveling) nation through the wilderness without asking for Hobab’s help? Here we find Moses’ weakness before the challenge that faced him. And Moses failed to remember that the God who opened the Red Sea also could open a path through the deserts and give both food and water to His people.

What does Matthew 26:36–43 tell us about Jesus in His human form?¹⁰

Even our Savior felt at times the need for human sympathy (mercy; pity) and support. Jesus loved all the disciples, but He felt close to Peter, James, and John. In Gethsemane,¹¹ Jesus asked for their prayers. On the mount of transfiguration,¹² the same three slept instead of praying. But Heaven sent Moses and Elijah to encourage Christ to go ahead with His death as our Sacrifice (Luke 9:28–31). “Now heaven had sent its messengers to Jesus. They were not angels, but men who had experienced suffering and sorrow before. They were the ones who could sympathize¹³ with the Savior in the suffering of His earthly life. Moses and Elijah had been coworkers with Christ. They had shared His desire for the salvation of men. . . . The hope of the world and the salvation of every human were the important

10. human form—having the body of a human being (person).

11. Gethsemane—the name of the garden (place) on the Mount of Olives where Jesus spent His last night before He was nailed to the cross.

12. mount of transfiguration—the mountain where Jesus’ body shone in glory before Peter, James, and John and where Moses and Elijah appeared with Him. Read Matthew 17:1–8.

13. sympathize—to share another person’s sorrow and trouble; to feel pity.

topics of their discussion.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pages 422, 425.

We are to depend on the Lord. But how often we find human sympathy so comforting and helpful! Remember the times when you especially have been blessed by someone who gave you comfort and sympathy in time of need. What made it so helpful? How might you now give comfort and encouragement to someone in need?

THURSDAY—OCTOBER 22

HEADING HOME? (Numbers 10:11–36)

Read the story in Numbers 10:11–36 about the Israelites’ first journey as God’s people. What is the one thing that is very important about the way in which they moved? Why is this so important?

Moses said it was only an 11-day journey from Mount Sinai (Horeb) to Kadesh-Barnea. Kadesh-Barnea was a city or area that later would become the southern border of Judah.

Study the order of Israel’s armies when they traveled. The armies of three tribes followed the cloud and the ark. Then the Levites with their wagons carried the different parts of the portable¹⁴ sanctuary. Three more tribal armies followed. Then came the Kohathites, a group of Levites carrying pieces of the sanctuary furniture. Six armies followed, protecting the

back of the group. Everything was done in perfect order. If traveling had not been done in perfect order, they would not have been able to march together or go very far as a group.



Israel marched in perfect order.

The quickest way to Canaan from Egypt lay through the area alongside the sea, which was “the way of the land of the Philistines.” But God knew Israel was not ready for war (Exodus 13:17, KJV). So the pillar of cloud made it clear to the people it was time to march. But it led the nation east and north into the wilderness of Paran (Numbers 10:11, 12). It was a journey of three days (verse 33).

“As the people marched, the way became more difficult. Their route lay through stony canyons and barren waste. All around the people was a great wilderness. . . . The rocky canyons, far and near, surrounded the men, women, children, beasts, wagons, and long lines of flocks and herds. Their progress was very slow and took hard work. The crowds of people had been camping in one place for a long time. They were not ready to face the dangers and hardships of the way.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White,

¹⁴. portable—something that can be folded up and carried from place to place.

Patriarchs and Prophets,¹⁵ page 377.

How could you use the principles in Numbers 10:35, 36, today in your struggles and battles in the faith? Also, ask yourself this question: why did God not use His great power to make the way clear and easy for them? If God could have made the way easy, why did He not just do so instead of allowing them to go through such a rough time? How can your answer help you understand why God does not simply make your paths and journeys easy?

FRIDAY—OCTOBER 23

ADDITIONAL STUDY: We make decisions every day, some more serious than others. Study the following promises about God’s leading: Psalm 31:31; Psalm 32:8; Psalm 48:14; Psalm 78:52; Isaiah 58:10, 11.

“If you have dedicated [given; set apart] yourself fully to God to do His work, you have no need to worry about tomorrow. God knows the end from the beginning. The events of tomorrow, which are hidden from your view, are open to the eyes of God who is all-powerful.

“Suppose we take over the management of things with which we have to do, and depend upon our own wisdom for success. Then we are taking a load that God has not given us. And we are trying to carry it without His help. In this way, we are taking upon our-

selves the responsibility that belongs to God, and are really putting ourselves in His place. . . . But when we really believe that God loves us and means to do us good, we shall stop worrying about the future. We shall trust God as a child trusts a loving parent. Then our troubles will disappear. This is because our will [desire] becomes God’s will.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pages 100, 101.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

① As a class, share your answers to Thursday’s final question. Why do we face troubles when God could take all of them away? How does our understanding of the great controversy (war between Christ and Satan) help us answer this question? Read Job 1 and Job 2.

② Discuss more this question of human support or people helping other people out. What are other examples you can find in the Bible of how human support was so important and helpful to some of God’s faithful people? In what ways does God minister to (help) people through human support? How well does your local church do in this area?

③ When we take part in the Lord’s Supper, how can we better understand exactly what it means? Think again about the great truth of salvation by faith alone. How, through faith in Jesus’ death for us, do we have the promise of eternal life?

¹⁵ *Patriarchs and Prophets*—patriarchs were leaders of God’s people in early Bible times, such as Abraham and Isaac, or other leaders of Israel, such as Moses; prophets are men and women who are given messages by God to give to His people.