

Numbers 10:9

“Sound the Alarm”

I. **Going to war**

A. *When you go to war...not “if” – Ps. 23:4; Is. 43:2; John 16:33*

1) War = a period of armed hostility & conflict.

a) We need to stop approaching the war zone of Christian living with a peacetime mentality – Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-6.

B. *“In your land...”*

1) Our enemy will NOT wait to do battle on our terms! If we don't take the fight to our enemy, rest assured he'll bring it to us!

2) He's constantly looking to attack; for a new angle; for a moment of weakness – 1 Pet. 5:8.

C. *“Against the enemy who oppresses you...”*

1) Israel had no shortage of enemies, so they had to be on constant guard against attack.

2) Oppress (Heb.) = to cramp (birth pangs); to wrap or tie up.

a) Same meaning as “harass” in Num. 33:55 which describes the results of allowing your enemy (sin) to remain in your life.

b) ***Our enemy is relentless & will take every opportunity to tie us up or entangle us to render us useless: sin; mental, emotional or spiritual anguish; tragedy; difficulty; division; distraction; discouragement...our enemy will continue to harass & oppress***

II. **The solution**

A. *“Sound an alarm with the trumpets...”*

- 1) Multiple uses/meanings of trumpets – v.2-8, 10: moving/gathering the people; specific time of worship/feasts; *alerting the people to impending danger; rallying the troops* – Josh. 6:5; 2 Chron. 13:14.
 - a) A major weakness in Christianity today is that we don't "sound the trumpets" as we should when under attack – James 5:14.
 - b) Various reasons: we don't want to bother anyone (everyone has their own issues); embarrassment of our struggles; we can handle it ourselves; it's not that big of a deal =
 - i) *All lies & deceptions of our enemy to keep us isolated & vulnerable so he can attack others in the same manner!*
 - ii) *When we don't sound the alarm we actually help the enemy perpetuate further attacks on Christians.*
 - iii) *V.7-8 – the priests blew the trumpets to come together for worship, but it was everyone's responsibility to warn people of impending danger – Ezekiel 3:16-27; 33:1-11 = responsible watchmen.*

III. Results of sounding the alarm

A. "...and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies." – the trumpets a symbol of prayer.

- 1) **Remembered** – (Heb. – Zaw-kar) = to mark or mention; Zechariah (Heb.) = God has remembered
 - a) One of satan's most effective lies is that God has forgotten us or doesn't hear our prayers (trumpets), b/c if convinced, we'll stop crying out altogether, for ourselves as well as others.
 - i) *When we start doubting God's goodness, we'll stop seeking His help.*
 - b) God tells us to call on Him in times of trouble b/c He hears & answers: "...you will be remembered...you will be saved..."

i) Matt. 11:28; Heb. 4:16; Ps. 18:6; 34:4, 6, 17-18; 50:15; 55:16-19; 62:5-8; 81:7; 86:1-7; 91:14-16; 107:6-9; 145:19; Is. 30:19; 58:9; Jer. 29:12-14; 33:3; Zech.13:9; 2 Tim. 3:10-11

c) If we feel God hasn't answered our cry; consider:

i) He's answered; I just don't like the answer – Prov. 28:9.

ii) Is there sin in my life barricading His answer? – Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; John 9:31

iii) Am I asking according to His will? – 1 John 3:22; 5:14-15; James 4:3

******Don't simply pray "LORD, deliver me from this", but, "what is Your will in this? What do You desire me to do?"***

2) **Saved** (Heb.) = to be delivered or set free

a) "...and you will be saved from your enemies."

i) Our enemy wants to convince us we're fighting a losing battle, when in reality, just the opposite is true – Rev. 19-20.

B. *Christians today are waiting for the sound of God's trumpet to gather us all home to celebrate Jesus for eternity & for God to declare war on all manner of sin & evil – 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.*

1) Have **you** sounded the alarm to God, crying out to Jesus His Son, to free you from the grips of your sinful past? – Rom. 10:13; John 8:36.