

~TRUMPET (216)

[Hebrew, *chatso-tserah'*, Greek, *sal'pigx*]

- A wind instrument consisting of a mouthpiece, a long metal tube, and a funnel-shaped end.
- In the wilderness, before Israel had broken camp for the first time, Yehowah commanded Moses to make two trumpets of silver of hammered work.
- Erastus stayed in Corinth, but I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. (2 Timothy 4:20)
- Although no further description of these instruments is given, coins circulated at the time of the Maccabees and a relief on the Arch of Titus picture the **trumpets** as being from about 45 to 90 centimeters (1.5 to 3 feet) in length, straight, ending in a bell.
- Josephus states that what Moses made was a kind of clarion with a narrow tube, slightly thicker than a flute, with a mouthpiece wide enough to admit the breath and a bell-shaped extremity such as trumpets have. [Jewish Antiquities, III, 291, xii, 6]
- At the inauguration of Solomon's temple, 120 trumpets were played.
- And the Levites that were singers belonging to all of them, namely, to Asaph, to Heman, to Jeduthun and to their sons and to their brothers clothed in fine fabric with cymbals and with stringed instruments and harps, were standing to the east of the altar and along with them priests to the number of a hundred and twenty sounding the **trumpets**. (2 Chronicles 5:12)
- Three signals are described, employing two methods of playing.
- (1) Blowing both **trumpets** called all the representative men of the whole assembly of Israel to the tent of meeting
- (2) blowing one **trumpet** would summon only the chieftains who were heads over thousands
- (3) blowing fluctuating blasts signaled the breaking up of camp.

- And they must blow on them both, and the whole assembly must keep their appointment with you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 10:3**)
- And if they should blow on just one, the chieftains as heads of the thousands of Israel must also keep their appointment with you. (**Numbers 10:4**)
- And you men must blow a fluctuating blast, and the camps of those camping to the east must pull away. (**Numbers 10:5**)
- And you must blow a fluctuating blast a second time, and the camps of those camping to the south must pull away. They should blow a fluctuating blast for each time one of them pulls away. (**Numbers 10:6**)
- Now when calling the congregation together, you should blow, but you must not sound a fluctuating blast. (**Numbers 10:7**)
- Yehowah further directed that in times of war the **trumpets** should sound, **a war call**.
- And in case you should enter into war in your land against the oppressor who is harassing you, you must also sound a war call on the **trumpets**, and you will certainly be remembered before Yehowah your God and be saved from your enemies. (**Numbers 10:9**)
- This was done thereafter by the priest accompanying the army.
- Then Moses sent them out, a thousand of each tribe, to the army, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the army, and the holy utensils and the **trumpets** for blowing calls were in his hand. (**Numbers 31:6**)
- Abijah of Judah, when seeking to avert war with Jeroboam of Israel, pointed to these **trumpets** for sounding the battle alarm as a divine assurance of Judah's victory in warfare.
- When Jeroboam stubbornly persisted in his aggression, his forces were defeated by a Judean army that had been greatly encouraged by the priests loudly sounding the **trumpets**.

- And, look! With us there is at the head the true God with his priests and the signal **trumpets** for sounding the battle alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against Yehowah the God of your forefathers, for you will not prove successful. (**2 Chronicles 13:12**)
- And Jeroboam, for his part, dispatched an ambush around to come behind them, so that they proved to be in front of Judah and the ambush behind them. (**2 Chronicles 13:13**)
- When those of Judah turned around, why, there they had the battle in front and behind. And they began to cry out to Yehowah, while the priests were loudly sounding the **trumpets**. (**2 Chronicles 13:14**)
- And the men of Judah broke out shouting a war cry. And it came about that, when the men of Judah shouted a war cry, then the true God himself defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. (**2 Chronicles 13:15**)
- **Trumpets** were included among the musical instruments in the temple.
- And it came about when the priests came out from the holy place for all the priests that were to be found had, for their part, sanctified themselves, there was no need to observe the divisions. (**2 Chronicles 5:11**)
- And the Levites that were singers belonging to all of them, namely, to Asaph, to Heman, to Jeduthun and to their sons and to their brothers clothed in fine fabric with cymbals and with stringed instruments and harps, were standing to the east of the altar and along with them priests to the number of a hundred and twenty sounding the **trumpets**. (**2 Chronicles 5:12**)
- And it came about that as soon as the **trumpeters** and the singers were as one in causing one sound to be heard in praising and thanking Yehowah, and as soon as they lifted up the sound with the trumpets and with the cymbals and with the instruments of song and with praising Yehowah, for he is good, for to time indefinite is his loving-kindness, the house itself was filled with a cloud, the very house of Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 5:13**)
- The **trumpeters** were sons of Aaron, the priests.

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- So the Levites kept standing with the instruments of David, and also the priests with the **trumpets**. (**2 Chronicles 29:26**)
- When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of Yehowah, then the priests in official clothing, with the **trumpets**, and the Levites the sons of Asaph, with the cymbals, stood up to praise Yehowah according to the direction of David the king of Israel. (**Ezra 3:10**)
- At length the two thanksgiving choirs came to a stand at the house of the true God, also I and half of the deputy rulers with me. (**Nehemiah 12:40**)
- And the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, Hananiah with the **trumpets**. (**Nehemiah 12:41**)
- Every account where the **trumpet**, Hebrew, *chatso-tserah'* is mentioned without the priests being clearly identified as the players is an event of national importance when the presence of the priests would be expected. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that they were the ones playing the **trumpets**.
- So they swore to Yehowah with a loud voice and with joyful shouting and with the **trumpets** and with horns. (**2 Chronicles 15:14**)
- So they came to Jerusalem with stringed instruments and with harps and with **trumpets** to the house of Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 20:28**)
- Then she saw, and there was the king standing by his pillar at the entry, and the princes and the **trumpets** by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing the trumpets, and the singers with the instruments of song and those giving the signal for offering praise. Immediately Athaliah ripped her

garments apart and said; Conspiracy! Conspiracy! (**2 Chronicles 23:13**)

- And Shebaniah and Joshaphat and Nethanel and Amasai and Zechariah and Benaiah and Eliezer the priests loudly sounding the trumpets before the ark of the true God, and Obed-edom and Jehiah the gatekeepers for the Ark. (**1 Chronicles 15:24**)
- And all the Israelites were bringing up the ark of the covenant of Yehowah with joyful shouting and with the sounding of the horn and with **trumpets** and with cymbals, playing aloud on stringed instruments and harps. (**1 Chronicles 15:28**)
- There is a possibility, though, that a variety of **trumpets** existed, and some of these may have been possessed by nonpriests.
- Jesus told his hearers not to **blow a trumpet**, *Greek, sal-pi'zo* related to *sal'pigx*, meaning, **trumpet**, to attract attention to ones acts of charity in imitation of hypocrites.
- Hence when you go making gifts of mercy, **do not blow a trumpet** ahead of you, just as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they are having their reward in full. (**Matthew 6:2**)
- It is generally suggested that the **trumpeting** is here figurative, Jesus warning against ostentatiousness in making gifts of mercy.