

## **Two Silver Trumpets**

Exodus 40:36-38

Numbers 1 – 4

Numbers 9:15 – 10:36

by Don Falkos

copyright 2016 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

The Lord spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting, commanding him to take a census of the people of Israel. There were over 600,000 men twenty years old or older who could serve in the army of Israel. The Levites were not included in this number. They were responsible for the care and transportation of the Tabernacle and all its furnishings, including the most sacred object of all, the Ark of the Covenant.

On the day the Tabernacle had been set up, the pillar of cloud had settled on it – a pillar of cloud during the day, a pillar of fire during the night. As long as the pillar remained over the Tabernacle, Israel was to remain encamped. When the pillar lifted, they were to set out.

The Tabernacle was at the center of the Israelite camp. Moses and Aaron along with his sons camped to the east of the Tabernacle, toward the rising sun, in front of the Tent of Meeting. The Levites camped immediately around the Tabernacle and a little further out, the twelve tribes of Israel – three tribes to the east, three to the south, three to the west, and three to the north.

The Lord had Moses make two silver trumpets. Blasts from these trumpets were used to call the community together and to inform the people when to break camp, when to set out, when to stop and set up camp again.

After a year at Mount Sinai, the pillar of cloud lifted. The Israelites set out. They traveled in a very specific order, the same order in which they camped. The Ark of the Covenant was carried ahead of them. For three days they followed the pillar of cloud until it settled in the Desert of Paran. There they camped.