

## **Make for yourself two silver trumpets – make them hammered out, and they shall be yours for the summoning of the Assembly and to cause the camps to journey. (10:2)**

The *Talmud Menachos* 28b states: “All the vessels which Moshe made were valid for him and (remained) valid for future generations. (This is exclusive of) the *Chatzotzros*, silver trumpets, which were valid for him and invalid for future generations.” The limitations of age did not apply to such *keilim*, vessels, as the *Menorah*, *Shulchan*, *Shofar*; every utensil which Moshe *Rabbeinu* had made was perfectly kosher, valid, for all future generations. The silver trumpets were different. They were made by Moshe for his own use; no one else could use Moshe’s trumpets. They would have to fashion their own.

The rationale behind the trumpets’ exclusiveness is simple. The trumpets were used to rally the people; to call them together; to initiate forward movement. Every generation has its unique manner of communication. What was novel last century might be considered primitive by contemporary standards. Likewise, the masses respond differently today than they did one hundred years ago. How we respond to the call of our leadership defines us; how our leadership conveys their message will somehow reflect upon them. While it is important that, with the changing times, the method of communication must change to placate the level of and attitude concerning the art of listening – the message must be the same. The call to Torah has not changed in three thousand years. We might resort to a different presentation or manner of expression, but the message is unchanging. Truth is immutable.

The *Aron HaKodesh*, the *Shulchan* and the *Menorah* could be handed down from one generation to the next, because they each, in its own way, represent a timeless valued aspect of Judaism. Their message is a constant and absolute. How their message is conveyed depends on the lifestyle and culture of the people of that generation. Someone living in an age of materialism must be spoken to in “his” language. At times the “volume” must be lowered, and, at times, it must be raised. It all depends on the generation’s ability to hear and acquiesce, to listen and accept.