

TRUMPETS

A Guide for Christian Understanding and Celebration

COME JOIN US:
590 Forest Lawn Drive
Marion, OH 43302

Special
Planning
Guide
-Page 7-

It will be to you a day for the blowing of trumpets...

REPENT AND PREPARE TO WELCOME THE LORD

TRUMPETS BEFORE CHRIST - A CALL TO READINESS

The Feast of Trumpets also termed “Yom Teruah” (Hebrew for “The Day of the Loud Blowing of Trumpets”) is described in Leviticus 23: 24-25 as a day of rest and personal preparation. The Biblical text says: ‘Speak to the

Continued on Page 2

TRUMPETS AT THE TIME OF CHRIST - THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING PREDICTED

As we await the coming of the LORD with anticipation, one cannot help but wonder how long He will delay. Are we given clues as to when He may return? Are there any signs mentioned in Scripture that indicate the time may be near?

Continued on Page 3

TRUMPETS IN THE FUTURE - YESHUA (JESUS) COMES IN VICTORY

The Feast of Trumpets is a dark day for Israel. Along with the day falling on a new (dark) moon, the prophets of old repeatedly warn of a coming day of judgement: The “Day of the LORD.”

Continued on Page 4



Blowing of the ram's horn or “shofar”

The primary items of the Feast of Trumpets are the blowing of a warning call on the shofar, a gathering of believers and an attitude of readiness to anticipate and prepare for the coming of the Day of the Lord.

“Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life.”

EZEKIEL 33:5



TRUMPETS BEFORE CHRIST - A CALL TO READINESS (from page 1)

sons of Israel, saying, *‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.’* In the text, the original word for “trumpets” was referring to a “shofar” or ram’s horn trumpet and a “convocation” meant to gather with fellow believers. So, in the modern terms we would say we are to gather on the 1st day of the 7th Hebrew month of Tishri, blow trumpets, remember, and prepare ourselves for the holidays that are to follow and for the coming of the LORD.

In the ancient near-eastern world, readying oneself before the arrival of a king included the same elements as does the Feast of Trumpets. Reconciling accounts and debts and cleaning up business for his inspection was common. Just before an ancient king’s arrival, trumpets would blow as an announcement of the king’s arrival. In like fashion, Trumpets causes us to annually remember that we are to remain prepared for a meeting with God and that His arrival may come at any moment in the person and return of Jesus Christ, especially when we would least expect it. The call to readiness in the Feast of Trumpets is a gift from Him to make sure we do not drift far from what our lives should be as children of

God, lest we not be ready when He returns (Matthew 25:1-13).

A further point can be made connecting the unknown timing of the LORD’s return and the timing of the Feast of Trumpets. Note that the Scriptures say with regard to this holiday, “on the first day of the month”. In the ancient world, having a holiday fall on the first day of the month carried an immediate uncertainty in knowing the correct timing of the event. Here’s the reason: In the modern day, clocks are readily available and trustworthy. In those days, the sun, moon and stars were used to judge the seasons and to announce the appointed times God had set. The first day of the month, the time when the Feast of Trumpets falls and on which day we prepare to meet Him, is uncertain in that a new moon occurs the first day of each month. Judging exactly when the day is to arrive is exceedingly difficult when based on a new (dark, absent) moon. This is so true that before and at the time of Christ, this particular holiday was celebrated for two days just to make sure it was not missed by misreading the moon. Consider Christ’s own word of His return and its uncertainty in Matthew 24:36. In the Jewish faith, this day is similarly called the “hidden day of judgement”. Do not Jesus’ words in Matthew concerning His unknown time of return and the need for us to “stay prepared” make more sense when considering this background? Would it be possible He would return on the Feast

of Trumpets? After all, He was crucified on Passover, buried on Unleavened Bread, raised on First Fruits and sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The long summer between the Spring and fall feasts may represent the delay in His return and the Feast of trumpets that would be akin to the announcement of a king’s return occurs next in line on the Biblical calendar!

So, in looking back to the original intent, meaning and symbolism in the feast of Trumpets, we experience the resounding blast of the shofar as a type of divine call, inviting all God’s people to stand before him in awe and reverence. For this reason, these days during the fall feasts are frequently referred to as the High Holy Days. Especially at this time, we approach God as our Father and our King, seated on a throne. As His chosen servants, we tremble as we draw near, yet we are compelled to draw near, nonetheless. We know that our own righteousness is not sufficient to stand before him. Yet, “if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). Though we have no worthy deeds to justify ourselves, we find that his throne is a throne of grace and lovingkindness. “Let us therefore (heed the trumpet call and) draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).



"Be on the alert then,
for you do not know the day nor the hour."

Matthew 25:13

TRUMPETS AT THE TIME OF CHRIST - THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING PREDICTED *(from page 1)*

While the exact date and time is known only to the Father Himself (Matthew 24:36), He has not left us without clues. The entire chapter of Matthew 24 deals with certain indicators of what times will be like close to the time of Christ's return. Many of these and other signs scattered here and there through the Scriptures have come to pass. The singularly most significant sign is that of the Jews returning to the land and being gathered from among the nations to Israel. No other single great event in the last 2000 years equals this unprecedented miracle of regathering Jews to The Land.

Of course, the second coming of the Lord is not the same as the church of believers being taken away from the earth. This taking away of believers is termed "the Rapture" of the church and will precede the wrath of God being poured out on a disobedient and sinful world prior to Jesus' return to earth (Revelation 8-9). The Rapture (literally: "snatched" or "quickly taken") is a calling of the church away from the earth and the second coming is the church coming back with Christ, after the Father's wrath has been poured out on sinful man. Following the Rapture and the wrath, then Christ will return. This return will be marked by the armies of Christ and those of the anti-christ (satan's representative on earth) doing battle. Anti-christ will seek to destroy Israel and the Jews once and for all to show that God could not fulfill His promise to save and protect

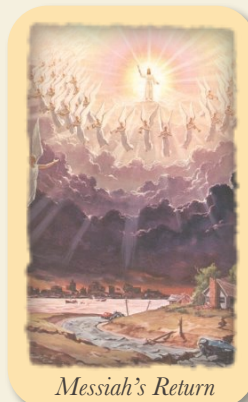
them, and Messiah and His army of believers will do battle to save them in their greatest hour of need when all seems lost for them.

With regard to the Rapture, however, the Scriptures indicate at least an association with a trumpet call that precedes the event. Whether this trumpet call that announces the rapture to believers was meant to be associated with the Feast of Trumpets by God is somewhat in debate, but the

understanding that the church of believers should be ready for that day of His calling is certainly consistent with the holiday message of repentance and readiness.

So, the sound of the Trumpet as it relates to that sound believers will hear as Christ calls away His church before the wrath of God is poured out is drawn from Revelation 4:1, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. Certainly it is easy to see how the Rapture, the calling of the church by Christ Himself, is heard as a trumpet call, since God's voice is described as such in Scripture several times. It is

therefore good for believers to know the sound of the shofar and to gather to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets to be able to recognize the sound that will call them to safety before the wrath of God comes upon those who do not concern themselves with readiness (read Ezekiel 33:1-11 and Matthew 25:1-14). Look forward to this time of deliverance, but know the sound and take this time of year to prepare yourself.



Messiah's Return

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone”

MATTHEW 24:36

TRUMPETS IN THE FUTURE - JESUS COMES IN VICTORY (from page 1)

The Day of the LORD is a terrible time at the end of this age when the Lord pours out His judgement and wrath upon the nations and Israel herself to bring her to repentance and into the New Covenant belief in her Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus). This Day of the LORD is spoken of in Amos 5:18-20, Zephaniah 1:14-16, Joel 2:31 and Revelation 6:12-17. In these passages, one may see that, just as the Feast of Trumpets occurs when it is dark and moonless, so too the Day of the LORD is a time of darkness. The wrath poured out on this great and terrible day is meant to prepare Israel for her national Day of Atonement (the next feast we will observe) wherein she will be rescued from destruction by Jesus as she mourns over her previous refusal of Him at His first coming. She will look upon Him whom she has pierced (crucified) and mourn over her prior rejection of Him as He is revealed to her and saves her from her trouble. Therefore, we see a Trumpet call announcing the coming of the LORD during the tribulation (trouble) at a time when Christ will rescue a faltering Israel, with all Jewish people recognizing Him for who He is and always was: their Messiah and Savior. As they place trust in Him, all Israel will be saved (Romans 10: 25-32).

THE LAST TRUMPET CALL

There are many occasions of trumpets being blown in Scripture (Numbers 10:1-10, Revelation 8-11). We have spoken of trumpets being used to gather God's people to Himself (Numbers 10:2-4), to sound an alarm for battle (Judges 3:27, 7:19-22, Nehemiah 4:18-22 and Ezekiel 33:3-6), and lastly to announce the coronation of a king (1Kings 1:34, 39, 2Kings 9:13, and 2Kings 11:12-14). While there are many instances of God's people blowing trumpets, there are only two instances in Scripture where God's own voice is likened to a trumpet. The **first** occasion was on Mount Sinai at the giving of the Law (see our Pentecost Educational Issue for more details on this). Fire and smoke descended upon Sinai and the sound of trumpet blasts became louder and louder as God descended upon the mountain (Exodus 19:18-20).

The **last** trumpet call issued by the LORD Himself is mentioned in the books of Zechariah and Revelation. "The LORD will blow the trumpet and go with whirlwinds from the south." (Zechariah 9:14) and "The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he will reign for ever and ever.'" (Revelation 11:15)

This final trumpet call is to the battle of Armageddon, leading up to the crowning of Christ as King of King and Lord of Lords.

SUMMARY

The Feast of Trumpets marks a call to accept a spiritual call to repent and ready yourself to meet the LORD. Whether you are a relatively faithful believer, one who has fallen away from His side, or one who has never come to know the LORD or followed His ways, the Feast of Trumpets is a point of new beginnings for you. God asks not that you attempt to offset your wanderings and sin with good deeds, but that you turn to His Son, accept the forgiveness offered through His shed blood and follow Him into a life of obedience to the Commandments of God. Whatever position you are in, respond to the call of the trumpet. Ready yourself for His arrival. Protect yourself from the wrath to come, and find salvation and true life as you both live a life worthy of the name "Christian" and share His name with others, inviting them to do the same. Rabbi Eliezer, an ancient rabbi, once said, "Repent one day before you die." His student replied, "Does one know when they will die?" To which the rabbi replied, "Then all the more reason you should repent today." (Shabbat 153a)

Shalom.

For the Holiday - Psalm 81

A Psalm encouraging God's people to repent at the blowing of the trumpet

GOD'S GOODNESS AND ISRAEL'S WAYWARDNESS.

1

Sing for joy to God our strength;
Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob.

2

Raise a song, strike the timbrel,
The sweet sounding lyre with the harp.

3

*Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
At the full moon, on our feast day.*

4

*For it is a statute for Israel,
An ordinance of the God of Jacob.*

5

He established it for a testimony in Joseph
When he went throughout the land of Egypt.
I heard a language that I did not know:

6

"I relieved his shoulder of the burden,
His hands were freed from the basket.

7

"You called in trouble and I rescued you;
I answered you in the hiding place of thunder;
I proved you at the waters of Meribah.

Selah (Heb: "pause and remember").

8

"Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you;
O Israel, if you would listen to Me!

9

"Let there be no strange god among you;
Nor shall you worship any foreign god.

10

"I, the Lord, am your God,
Who brought you up from the land of Egypt;
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

11

"But My people did not listen to My voice,
And Israel did not obey Me.

12

"So I gave them over to the stubbornness of
their heart,
To walk in their own devices.

13

"Oh that My people would listen to Me,
That Israel would walk in My ways!

14

"I would quickly subdue their enemies
And turn My hand against their adversaries.

15

"Those who hate the Lord would pretend
obedience to Him,
And their time of punishment would be
forever.

16

"But I would feed you with the finest of the
wheat,
And with honey from the rock I would satisfy
you."



Additional Steps to Explore the Holiday Further

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR YOM TERUAH

The Shofar call to repentance and to prepare for His return:

Leviticus 23:23-25
 Psalm 81
 Matthew 3:2 and 4:17
 Isaiah 58:1
 Ezekiel 33:1-11
 1John 1:9 (important: "if")
 Hebrews 10:18-22
 Matthew 25:1-13
 1John 5:3,
 Deuteronomy 30:11-20, 29:18b -20.
 (to acknowledge that His commandments are good and right and that it is reasonable for Him to expect us to follow them.)

The Shofar call of the Rapture of Believers:

Joel 2:1
 1Thessalonians 4:16-18
 1Corinthians 15:50-58
 Revelation 4:1
 Psalm 89:15 (blessed are those who know the sound of the trumpet)
 Isaiah 26:19 (resurrection)

The Shofar call of His Second Coming as Judge and King:

Isaiah 27:12-13
 Matthew 24-31
 Hosea 5:15
 Zechariah 9:14-16
 Zephaniah 1:14-18 and 2:2-3

PRAYER AND PRACTICE THEMES FOR YOM TERUAH

- Make it a point to gather with fellow believers on the holiday.
- Rest and take the day to ready your heart and consider your actions over the last year.
- Make a list of those situations you need to work on over the next year. Include thoughts of your commitment to the Lord and His church as well as family, work and friendship items you need to work on.
- How is your personal Bible study time? How is the daily prayer habit you have? Do you read and teach the Word directly to your kids and read with your wife/husband? Do you pray daily with them? Are your priorities in these matters easily changed as you become busy with other duties?
- Do you spend time with your wife or husband discussing Scripture and in prayer? Do you carve out special time for him or her?
- Are you too busy with activities? Do they displace church or personal times with the Lord?
- Are you spending too much time with work?
- Do you spend quantity and quality time with your kids?
- Are your dealings at work a good witness? Do you cut corners or bend the rules of business? Are you totally honest in your work?
- Do you witness to the lost? Do you have tracts or can you present the Gospel to those you know or run into daily?
- Do you know God's Word better than the books of Christian authors? Do you spend



Steps to True Repentance:

- Humility (you don't have it "all together")
- Honesty (don't deny your faults)
- Sorrow about failings
- Willing to Change
- Turn away from your own way of life
- Turn to obey God's Commandments

PLANNING GUIDE FOR THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Evening Celebration - Feast of Trumpets celebration service at Marion Bible Fellowship. The service will last about one hour and there will be time afterwards for fellowship and food.

The Following Day - A holiday Sabbath, so join us for a formal liturgical prayer service, study the Scriptures, then take some personal time to enjoy a day out with family and friends.

"A LOOK AHEAD" PLANNING GUIDE

Next Holiday: Day of Atonement Evening Service - A more informal beginning to a personal time of deeply seeking the Lord. Come begin this important holiday with other believers and support one another.

The Following Day **is a Sabbath** and a very serious one at that. This is a day we reconsider our ways, asking forgiveness and having sorrow for our sins of the last year (See Lev 23: 26-32 and 1John 1:6-10). Attend a formal prayer service at the church and share the reading of several books of the Bible with times for personal reflection and prayer.

Of all the days on the Biblical holidays calendar, the Day of Atonement is one where you want to obey (please read Leviticus 23:29-32): **NO WORK, NO FOOD, TAKE TIME TO PRAY and CONSIDER AND MEND YOUR WAYS**. You will spiritually benefit greatly from this time

What is Rosh Hashanah?

Rosh Hashanah is renaming of the Feasts of Trumpets (~100 AD) by Pharisaic Judaism that means "head of the year". The holiday marks the Jewish (traditional) New Year and is characterized by the entry into a serious time of self-reflection and repentance. Because salvation in Judaism is earned by repentance (Tseuvah - תשובה) and good works (mitzvot - מצות), Rosh Hashanah is a time of charity (Tzedakah - צדקה), seeking forgiveness and righting the wrongs of the past year. During Rosh Hashanah, good works, a humble attitude of repentance and sorrow and an inventory of sins committed is practiced. A ceremony called Tashlich (תשל"ך), where the individual casts bread on the water as a symbol of God forgetting the sins of the repentant person, is held (Micah 7:19).

We would teach at **Marion Bible Fellowship** that no ceremony can pay for sins committed and that repentance (tshuvah) AND faith in Jesus Christ is the only effective way for sins to be reconciled before God (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:21-23). For these reasons of difference, we celebrate this holiday under the Biblical name "Yom Teruah" or "Trumpets" rather than Rosh Hashanah and place the new year where the Scriptures place it, in the Hebrew month of Nisan just before Passover (Lev. 23: 5). We hold in common with Judaism that this holiday rightly calls us to reflect and prepare with a humble heart for the coming Day of Atonement.

Join the Trumpets Celebration

Marion Bible Fellowship
590 Forest Lawn Drive
Marion, OH 43302



Marion Bible Fellowship



*"Proclaiming Jesus as Savior, Messiah and Lord
and the Bible as the Rule for Life."*

FROM:

MARION BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

590 Forest Lawn Drive
Marion, OH 43302

The Fall Feasts
Educational Issue

TRUMPETS/ YOM TERUAH

The Fifth Feast
of the Lord