

Feast of Trumpets: When the Trumpet Sounds

In **Leviticus 23:23-25** we read: “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.’ ²⁵ You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.”

The cycle of the Feasts reflected the cycle of the harvest. From Passover and the reviving of earth in the Spring to the final harvest ingathering in the Fall ending in the Feast of Tabernacles. Even the cycles of nature would be used by God to point the people to the greater truths these feasts represented.

The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) closed the spring grain harvest. The next Feast of **Leviticus 23** brings us to the three Fall feasts, that coincided with the end of the fruit harvest. All three would occur in the seventh Jewish month, or Tishri - September/October. The Jews “borrowed” some monthly names from the Babylonians while in exile.

The Spring Feasts celebrated God’s delivering the nation of Israel and bringing them into existence as His church. The Fall feasts were God’s call to Israel to reach to Him for moral & spiritual maturity to experience the ultimate blessings God would have for them.

The Spring Feasts typify how God, through Christ’s ministry, would call and deliver His new nation, Spiritual Israel, into existence. The Fall Feasts typify God’s call to Spiritual Israel to prepare for the final events by looking to His grace to be overcomers. Each Feast commemorated the past and typified the future. God was involved with His people then, and He still is now.

The Spring Feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits/Wavesheaf, Pentecost) typify the inauguration of Christ’s redemptive ministry the Fall Feasts (Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles) typify the consummation of His redemptive ministry.

All seven Feasts would occur in seven months, not twelve. And within those 7 months the entire harvest that sustained Israel would be gathered in and the feasts celebrated.

All Three Fall Feasts fall in the seventh month of Tishri. Seven is a number of completion and perfection. In this month, God’s perfect redeeming work would find its symbolic completeness.

While the Spring Feasts began in the first month, which is the beginning of the religious year, the Fall Feasts began in the seventh month, which started the civil year. The Jewish people call this feast Rosh Hashanah, which literally means "Head of the Year". Tishri was the first month in the Babylonian calendar. On the first day of the seventh month the Feast of Trumpets was literally their civil calendar’s “new year’s day” for Israel.

Numbers 29:1-6 says “And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a

holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets.

² You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the Lord: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish. ³ Their grain offering shall be fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, ⁴ and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; ⁵ also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, to make atonement for you; ⁶ besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the Lord.”

Leviticus called it a “memorial blowing”. **Numbers** called it a “day of blowing”. The Feast of Trumpets was a solemn feast. It was a very solemn day of the Jewish religious calendar. The trumpets were an announcement, getting the attention of the people, and focusing their attention on the next feast, the Day of Atonement, that would come nine days later ten inclusively), and the Festival of Booths (Tabernacles) fourteen days later (fifteen inclusively).

God was summoning His people to repentance so that He could vindicate them on the day of His judgment so He could later tabernacle with them.

When the blowing of the shofar or ram’s horn trumpets (**Num 10:10**) began on the first day of the month it heralded a solemn time of preparation. This preparation time was called “Ten Days of Repentance” or the “Days of Awe.” The trumpet sound was an alarm of sorts and can be understood as a call to introspection and repentance. The Jews looked at it as the beginning of a judgment process that would culminate on the tenth day. On which, the destiny of each person would be decided. But the trumpet blast was also a reassurance that God would remember to vindicate them on the tenth day if their trust was in Him, their hearts and lives given to Him.

The Feast of Trumpets marked the beginning of ten days of consecration and repentance before God. During this celebration, no kind of work was to be performed, but burnt offerings and a sin offering were to be brought before the Lord.

While you won't find this Feast or the other two Fall Feasts explicitly mentioned in the New Testament, they are to be found and understood in the imagery of Revelation especially.

Trumpets could convey messages across distances. Not only did ancient Israel blow shofars or Ram’s horns at the beginning of each new month, as indicated by the Hebrew’s language of **Numbers 10:10**, they also used metal trumpets for signaling: **Numbers 10:1,2 (-9)** “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ² “Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.”

Trumpet blasts were: Calls to Worship, such as in the feasts or the New Moons Directions.

Psalm 81:3 “Blow the trumpet (shofar) at the time of the New Moon, At the full moon, on our solemn feast day.”

Trumpet blasts were also used in war, they were also: Calls to Directions, Warnings, and Alarms.

During the seven months there were also seven New Moons. In Revelation we find the seven Trumpets – seven warning blasts, seven time periods where God’s disciplinary action was intended to call mankind back to God. While God’s final wrath, His punishment, will destroy sin and sinners, God’s discipline is meant to save not destroy (Rev 3:19).

So how did the Feast of Trumpets foreshadow aspects of the ministry of Jesus Christ? Shofar trumpets were also used to announce the anointing of Solomon in 1 Kings 1:39 “Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!”

Some scholars attribute Psalm 47, with its blowing of the shofar, to the crowing of Christ as King of all the earth.

Joel 2:1 links the blowing of trumpets to the future Day of Judgment: “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand” (so does Zephaniah 1:14, 16).

In Revelation 14:7 the first angels sounds the alarm: “saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Isaiah 27:13 says “So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”

The blowing of the trumpet was designed to result in the perishing repenting and turning to Jesus.

Like ancient Israel, people still need to hear the trumpet call of the Feast of Trumpets today, to prepare to stand trial before God and seek His cleansing grace because, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:10,11, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;

The Feast of Trumpets would occur at the new moon. Only the slightest crescent would be visible. However, clouds could obscure the moon making it difficult to see. Watchfulness was critical for this feast. The New Testament echoes the need to be watchful and prepared in connection with the Lord's coming: Jesus said “Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Matthew 24:42.

In 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, we see Jesus’ Second Coming accompanied by the sound of a trumpet

Just as the trumpets called the Jewish nation to turn their attention to the Lord and ready themselves for the Day of Atonement, the “trump of God” calls us to repentance and to warn the world of coming judgment.

Elijah’s message must have been like a trumpet blast. It got the attention of King Ahab & Jezebel, and Israel. It was a signal to prepare the way for a return to Jehovah.

John the Baptist's message must have been like a trumpet blast. It got the attention of Herod and Israel. It was a signal to prepare the way for Jesus 1st coming

Immediately after the sixth trumpet of Revelation comes **Revelation 10**. For several years the Millerite message was like a trumpet blast to the world. It was a signal to prepare, for Jesus was to soon return. They had the correct date, October 22, 1844, but they had the wrong prophetic interpretation, the wrong message. And what started out so sweetly became an experience of bitter disappointment, as prophesied in **Revelation 10:11**, by the end of Oct 22, 1844.

Matthew 24:31 says that God will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. While no one but God knows the specific day, the signs foretold in Scripture tell us that it won't be long.

In **1 Corinthians 15:52** and **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, Paul wrote that the trumpet will sound, and in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

But before those trumpets blasts can occur, Seventh-day Adventists and all of God's children must continue blowing the trumpet, boldly proclaiming the message of **Revelation 14:6-12**. This message of the everlasting gospel calls the world to recognize God as Creator and Redeemer. To worship God alone, and observe His holy seventh day Sabbath. To prepare because God's time of investigative judgment has begun (in October 22, 1844). It calls people to recognize the primary false and fallen religious system (Babylon) that has corrupted the world in the name of religion and spawned "daughters – other false religious systems that follow its system. It explains how to recognize that fallen religious system and warns of the dangers of receiving the mark of the beast – following, belonging to, being a part of that corrupt and fallen system. For it will receive God's full wrath. Just as Scripture identifies these false systems, it also clearly identifies God's people, His church, His saints. They are simply the ones who have put their faith in Jesus Christ and received His redeeming and transforming grace. They have been given the faith of Jesus and enabled by His grace to keep all of God's commandments (**John 14:15**). He has written His new covenant in their hearts and minds.

But this message will only be effective when it is given in the power and grace of the Holy Spirit's latter rain power (**Rev 18:1,4**). Those who are God's heralds, must/will sound the trumpet alarm, to prepare the way for Jesus second coming. An alarm, a message of both warning and grace that calls people to repentance, to come out of "Babylon", to prepare because the time of judgment has come.

The author of the book, **Testimonies to Ministers, 411.1** wrote: ["When God puts His Spirit upon men, they will work. They will proclaim the word of the Lord; they will lift up their voice like a trumpet. The truth will not be diminished or lose its power in their hands. They will show the people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins."](#)

Much time has passed since the Millerite message began to be proclaimed and it's resultant, and prophesied, disappointment. Much time has passed since the three angels message of **Revelation**

14, the eternal gospel, began to be proclaimed. Yet, Jesus has not returned. There are two more feasts, but they can be hastened. The same author above also wrote this: “If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us.” **Volume 9 of the Testimonies, 29.2**

What is the “certain sound” that must be we kept in the three angels trumpet message of Revelation 18:1-8? That while judgment has come/begun, God’s justice includes His message of mercy – righteousness comes by faith in Jesus! We are saved by grace through faith!

Friend, God is calling the world to repent while there is time, before judgment ends, before His “strange act” begins. Notice **Micah 7:18-20** “Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.”

How will your answer God’s trumpet call? Will you accept His grace, and follow the Lamb wherever He leads (Rev 14:4)? Will you keep all of God’s commandments (Ex 20:1-17), including the fourth (Ex 20:8-11)? Will you allow Him to write His new covenant on your heart and mind (Heb 10:15-17)?