

# THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

## Leviticus 23:23-25

### INTRODUCTION

- For many people, alarms form part of their everyday experience
- Over the centuries, man has devised various means to send out loud signals to inform people over a large area of something important
- God's chosen instrument for summoning his people is "the great trumpet" (Isaiah 27:13), and the "trump of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- The feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and Pentecost find their prophetic fulfilment in Christ's first advent
- The final three feasts, Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles, will be fulfilled at Christ's second advent
- Feast of trumpets (*Yom Teruah*) observed on the first day of the seventh month (Tishri), which was the beginning of the Jewish civil year.
- It is known today as Rosh Hashana - literally the head of the year
- Ten days later was the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*)
- Between those two days were the Days of Awe (*Yommim Noraim*)
- It is known by the Jews also as:
  - ✓ The Day of Triumph which celebrates the creation of the world
  - ✓ The Day of Remembrance, where the sins of the people are remembered in preparation for the Day of Atonement
  - ✓ The Day of Judgment, as they believe that God judges their sins on that day
- The Scripture does not specify what type of trumpet is to be used, but the Jews traditionally use the shofar, a ram's horn, in remembrance of God's provision of a substitute for Isaac in Genesis 22
- During the feast, the shofar is blown in a cycle of blasts of long, short, and staccato lengths totalling 100 blasts, with the final blast, the *tekiah gedolah*, the last trump, the longest, lasting as long as the trumpeter's breath can sound it
- In Nehemiah 8-9, the Jews gathered on the first day of the seventh month to hear the law read and expounded

- Their response of solemn worship, grief over their sins, and rejoicing in God's grace, has established the tenor of the feast followed by Jews since then
- The Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled by the regathering of believing Israel at the coming of the Lord in preparation for the millennial kingdom

## **I. THE INTERVAL OF THE PRESENT**

A. The four-month period between Pentecost and Trumpets is briefly alluded to in Leviticus 23:22

1. It describes the summer wheat harvest
2. By the time of Trumpets, the wheat harvest was finishing, while the tree and vine crops were being harvested

B. There is a reference to the "stranger" in this verse

1. Throughout the chapter, the singular focus is on the children of Israel, and the feasts they were to observe
2. This is the only mention of non-Israelites in the chapter
3. The stranger participating in the harvest with Israel points to the receiving of the Gentiles into the church during this dispensation
4. God chose the nation of Israel by his grace, made his covenant with them and set his love upon them (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)
5. Through this nation God gave his law (Romans 3:2), and God sent the Messiah, hence "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22)
6. Yet they rejected their Messiah and King, but through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles (Romans 11:11-12,15)
7. For Israel now, there is no festival or appointed feast, they have been set aside, yet in the fullness of time, the present harvest period will conclude, and God will resume his program with his covenant people

## **II. THE INGATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

A. God's covenant promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are perpetual, and have not been done away with

1. They would not cease from being a nation forever (Jeremiah 31:35-36)
2. The New Testament emphatically states that God has not cast away his people which he foreknew (Romans 11:1-2)

3. The suffering of the Jews throughout history has been a fulfillment of the curses pronounced upon them for disobedience to God (Deut. 28)
  4. Replacement theology, held by Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Reformed, and many other denominations is a serious error that questions God's integrity
- B. A regathering of the Jews to the land began in the twentieth century
1. The Zionist Movement began in 1881, and in 1948 the state of Israel was officially formed
  2. The population is presently about 9 million, with 75% Jewish
  3. Spiritually, Israel remains in darkness, continuing their rejection of Christ
  4. This present gathering in unbelief is prophesied in Scripture
  5. God will "plead with them" and cause them to "pass under the rod" (Ezekiel 20:33-38)
  6. "I will gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you" (Ezekiel 22:17-22)
  7. In the tribulation God will use their trouble to refine and purify them, and one-third will survive (Zechariah 13:9)
- C. The Scriptures also speak of another future gathering of Israel to the land in a state of believing in Christ
1. "The great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem" (Isaiah 27:12-13)
  2. This return to the land is not their historic return from Babylon, but a future return "out of all countries" (Jeremiah 32:37-41; cf. Deuteronomy 30:4)
  3. In Ezekiel 36 God describes his scattering them among the nations (16-20), his pity upon them (21-23), his gathering them out of all countries (24), his converting of them to himself (25-29), and his blessings upon them (30-38)
  4. In Ezekiel 37, Israel is depicted as dry bones which were joined together, given flesh, sinews and skin, before God breathed life into them
  5. When Christ lamented over Jerusalem and their rejection of him, he prophesied of the day when they would again see him and receive him

as their King: “Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:37-39)

6. The fulfilment of the Feast of Trumpets will take place at the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and “he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:30-31)

### III. THE INSTRUMENT'S PURPOSE

- A. Numbers 10 shows the various purposes Israel were to use trumpets
  1. To call an assembly (Numbers 10:1-4,10; cf. Hebrews 10:25)
  2. To call an alarm (Numbers 10:5; Isaiah 58:1; Ezekiel 33:1-9)
  3. To call to war (Numbers 10:9; Jeremiah 4:5; 1 Corinthians 14:8)
- B. During the Tribulation, God will pour out his wrath upon the earth through seven trumpets
  1. The seven seals portray God's wrath *unveiled* (Revelation 6-7), the seven vials portray God's wrath *outpoured* (Revelation 15-16), so the seven trumpets portray God's wrath *proclaimed* (Revelation 8-11)
  2. The seven trumpets of Revelation summon the hosts of heaven to execute God's judgments during the Tribulation
  3. Trumpets are associated with the day of the Lord and second coming of Christ (Joel 2:1; Zephaniah 1:16)
- C. Prophetically, the next trumpet to sound will be at the Rapture
  1. The last trumpet that sounded from heaven was at Christ's ascension (Psalm 47:5)
  2. The next trumpet that will sound from heaven will be at the rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

### CONCLUSION

1. For the believer the trump of God at the Rapture will usher in eternal joy in the presence of Christ
2. But for the unbeliever, the trumpets of God's wrath will bring unspeakable misery in this world, and in the world to come (John 3:36)
3. The trumpet reminds us that every one of us shall give account of himself to God (Romans 14:12)