

Feast of Trumpets: Return of the King of Kings

Light on the Rock

by Philip Shields

.....
Feast of Trumpets sermon, part 1 (Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006). This begins God's Fall holydays and the final countdown in God's Plan of Salvation for mankind, and the **10 "Days of Awe"** leading to Atonement. Find out why "Rosh Hashanah" is the wrong name. What is prophesied to happen before Jesus returns? How close are we to His return? Are we in "the Last Days"?
.....

One of the most exciting, climactic, thrilling, suspenseful, action-packed holydays – has got to be the Feast of Trumpets, also called *Yom Teruwah*, which means "the memorial of blowing", presumably trumpets. But the Hebrew words for this feast day in Leviticus 23 can also refer to any alarm, shouting, trumpet peals, anything like that. This sermon is about the Feast of Trumpets. I urge you to listen to it on the **Feast of Trumpets, Saturday Sept. 23.**

And yes, I keep the holydays of God. The early church did. Remember how they received the Holy Spirit as they were gathered on a holyday – the feast of Pentecost? We know they also kept Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles and the days of Unleavened Bread. So God's people still keep the holydays today. God inspired Moses to call them "the Feasts of the LORD" in Lev. 23:1-2.

Each holyday pictures another step in God's plan of salvation. This holyday shows us the final steps in God's plan of salvation, and the fulfillment of this holyday will be when every living human being will see God Himself, in the person of King Jesus, returning to the earth, along with at least 144,000 of His saints, who will have been changed to spirit beings, plus tens of millions of His powerful angelic soldiers. No wonder King Jesus is called "the Lord of Hosts, King of kings, Lord of Lords, God Almighty". The Son of God is coming soon. And this time, He isn't coming as a carpenter – but as a conquering King. He isn't coming on the foal of a donkey this time, but on an intelligent and powerful white charger. He isn't coming this time as a quiet lamb awaiting slaughter – but as the Lion of Judah!

Are you ready?

Greetings brothers and sisters – children of the Almighty, you heirs of God! This is Philip Shields, your brother, and today's sermon is all about the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets! PLUS, we'll talk about the exciting events leading up to the explosive landing by King Jesus and His royal Bride – hopefully including you and me – and hundreds of millions of angels on the Mount of Olives! What a day this Feast of Trumpets is, and what thrilling – and fearsome – events it foreshadows, depending on whose side you're on! So that's our topic today. Clip on your seatbelts, take a deep breath – your ride of a lifetime is about to begin as we zoom through the years ahead with Bible prophecy.

When is the 2nd Coming Going to Happen? When are "the last days"?

People want to know WHEN all this is going to happen. The more important question is: are you ready for Christ return now, right now? It won't matter if Christ returns in a few years or in 30 years, if you are ready NOW. Jesus warned all of us to "be ready" – not to "get" ready (**Matthew 24:44**). After all, for any one of us, if we die unexpectedly, we will be seeing Jesus Christ in our very next moment of consciousness! If that were the case, Christ will have come for you *already*. Are you ready for the 2nd coming of the Son of God, king of kings, Lord of lords – *whenever* it is?

In **Matthew 24:44**, Jesus warns us: “Therefore **you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**”

Jesus says: “BE ready”, so whether Jesus comes back tomorrow or comes back in 30 years it won’t matter! *That’s* the important point. You or I could have a major heart attack and our next moment will be facing the Almighty! In that sense, His coming could be your next moment of life. Are you *ready*?

If you don’t die suddenly, Jesus forewarns us that He’s coming at a time when no one expects Him. Right now, LOTS of people expect Him to return soon. That would be great. But *since* so many are looking for it to happen anytime real soon, and since there’s so much more prophesied to happen before He comes, I personally am *not* among those who think Christ will be on the Mt. of Olives within 2-5 years. What’s important is to BE ready – and to have right now **a strong relationship with God whether or not** Jesus comes back tonight, or in 5 years, or in 20 years, or not in our lifetime! We should be excited about God and the things of God – because of our *relationship with Him*, and *not* because we somehow “know” we’ll witness His return any day or any year now.

I don’t want anyone to accuse of me of preaching “the Lord delays His coming”. I’m preaching we should *be* ready *right now*. Hear that, please. **Our Lord will return when Father tells Him to return.** It’s that simple. Right *now*, fundamentalist Christians are *expecting* His return *soon*. What do you think the highly popular **“Left Behind” book and movie series** was all about? My friends, my siblings and others – regardless of their religious affiliation -- expect to be raptured off real soon!

But what does Jesus tell us? “...the Son of Man comes at an hour you think not, at a time you don’t expect”. We, God’s own people, will be caught off guard. He’ll come initially as a thief in the night. At an unexpected time. A thief in the night comes when you’re asleep. God warns us that the end time church IS asleep! Even the story of the Shulamite and her Beloved in the Song of Solomon is all about this: notice she says she hears Him at the door, but she wants to sleep. Go back and read **Song of Solomon 5:1-3**. That’s about us, brethren! We need to wake up, brethren.

I’m aware of the warning given to those who preach “the Lord delays His coming” (2 Pet. 3:4-5). Having said that, I want you to notice again, however, what Jesus *Himself* says. In the parable of the 10 virgins, HE says very clearly in **Matthew 25:4-5**, “While the bridegroom **was delayed**....” Read it with your own eyes. It’s in Jesus’ own words.

I believe Jesus is coming very, very soon. I believe He is 20 years closer to returning now than He was 20 years ago. But I don’t believe He is coming back to rule this earth in the next year or two or even 4 or 5 years out. *And I hope I’m wrong!* I want Jesus ruling, and I want to be there with Him. But just read what the Bible itself tells us:

- * no one knows the day nor hour
- * The bridegroom was delayed – **Matt. 25:4-5**

Jesus himself – referring to his return to heaven for a time – gave other parables, like **in Luke 20:9** about the man who owned a vineyard, leased the land, and “went into a far country **for a long time.**” He repeats the theme **in Matthew 25:19** in another parable: “and **after a LONG time**, the lord of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.”

So His return was longer than expected, but *when* He returns, the parables seem to show the folks back home aren’t really ready. Hence, the command to BE ready. That doesn’t mean we should be having arguments about when He is returning, but be spiritually ready. Repent. Draw nigh to God and He

will draw near to you. Be studying His word more than ever. Be fighting sin more than ever. Be living the righteous life thru the power of the Holy Spirit more than ever. Be serving fellow man and woman more than ever. Be living a life that is kind, gentle, and full of loving concern- - more than ever. *THAT'S what being ready means!*

When God says to “WATCH therefore” --- He's not referring primarily to watching the news, though we should be. The primary meaning of that Greek word “watch” is to “*be on guard*”, stay alert, watch yourselves so we don't end up falling asleep, or slipping back into a life of lethargic sin and being hateful of one another. In **Matthew 24:45-50**, Jesus warns against His servants “smiting” one another while He is gone. There's a lot of “I'm of Peter, I'm of Paul” going on. That's a form of “smiting” one another that God says He *hates*.

So Jesus admonishes His end time servants to *BE ready*, and to have a close relationship with Him and with one another – and to be doing His work. **Ecclesiastes 8:17** says we can't limit, fully understand or completely define the “work of God”. How does Jesus define “the work of God”? He says simply: ***“this is the work of God, that you believe in whom He has sent” (John 6:29).*** So “doing the work” is helping people believe in Jesus Christ and accepting Him as their Savior as they build a strong relationship with Him.

In spite of the clear scriptures about being gone a long time, even Paul believed Christ was returning in his lifetime. He wrote, “we who are alive and remain, shall be caught up in the clouds with them...” (**1 Thess. 4:17**). John wrote, “Little children, it is the last *hour*...” (**1 John 2:18**).

ARE We in “The Last Days”?

So are we in the last days? Absolutely. Yes, without question.

When did “the last days” begin? “Days’ is plural. To God, a day is as a thousand years (**2 Peter 3:8**). With that in mind, let's see what scripture tells us.

Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, under inspiration, that the prophecy of Joel was being fulfilled, and Peter himself called it “the last days” (**Acts 2:17**, quoting Joel 2).

- **James** rebuked the wealthy of HIS day for “heaping up treasure in the last days” (**James 5:3**).
- **Paul** says God has spoken to us “in *THESE last days* by His Son...” (**Hebrews 1:2**).
- **Peter** says Jesus was manifested to us “in these last times for you” (**1 Pet. 1:20**).
- **John** wrote “Little children, it is the last HOUR....” (**1 John 2:18**). (KJV: “it is the last time”)

Now get this; let me say it another way: ***Our enthusiasm and excitement for the things of God should not be based on believing everything's wrapping up soon. We should be excited about the things of God because we're excited about GOD and His way, not just because we believe everything's wrapping up soon! And then our passion for the things of God doesn't depend on whether God sends Jesus tonight or in 30 years! It won't matter! We'll be busy doing the work of God, no matter it all starts to wrap up!***

Peter says it beautifully:

2 Peter 3:8-14 “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise**, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day **of the Lord will come as a thief in the night**, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, ***what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness***, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 **Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, [now listen!] be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot, and blameless;**"

It's our attitude and our conduct *while* we are waiting that Christ is measuring right now!

I believe personally that the world is going to become a much, much rougher place before Christ returns. I believe a lot yet is prophesied to happen before Christ lands on the Mt of Olives. ***I believe before King Jesus returns we will see these things developing and happening FIRST:***

- men and women becoming *much* more violent and evil than they are now. (2 Tim. 3:1-5).
- almost NO caring, no loving of others going on (Matt. 24:12). Frankly, we're not there yet.
- horrific volcanic eruptions, huge 8 – 9 -10 Richter scale earthquakes in our country, unseen before solar flares that will destroy our electric grid, 200 foot high tidal waves on both coasts
- I believe we'll see initially small nuclear suitcase bombs going off in our major cities, and in Tel Aviv and London and *nearer the end*, *HUGE* atomic and biological bombs going off.
- Terrorism will occur ever more often in *our* cities like we see happening in Baghdad today
- Unparalleled famines, droughts, starvation on a massive scale will start to be seen even here in America and Britain before Christ returns – and I don't mean just in the Darfur area of the Sudan. There are prophecies that women will be eating their own afterbirth and even their own newborns. But the surprising aspect of all this: life will continue going on as before, people marrying and giving in marriage, building houses, prospering (Matt. 24:38).
- I believe we're going to see America lose its power and strength and **see the rise of a powerful and mighty Europe, alongside the rise of a powerful and united Muslim world** under a new Mahdi, a modern day Saladin or Mohammed. We'll also see China become a super power before the very end comes.
- I do NOT accept the notion that America is the prophesied Babylon of the Bible. WHY? Because Modern day descendants of Israel – which include the United States and Britain and Canada and Australia – are taken captive *by* Babylon. We don't take ourselves captive! And the end time Babylon will be destroyed, *never* to be rebuilt (Rev. 18:21-23; Isa. 13:19-22) – but the USA and UK, etc. *will* be rebuilt. And on and on – we cannot be the modern day Babylon. That is an error that I hope you don't get taken in by.
- We WILL see America and Britain lose their pride in their power. You *will* see America and Britain suffer catastrophic defeat and actually be sold into captivity, and **we will see Americans and Britons sold as SLAVES** throughout the world, several years before Jesus returns. Keep that in mind as we go into part 2 of this sermon – the point: we will be scattered around the world, and punished for our sins against Holy God. But God won't abandon us!

- I expect to see a one main world religion form before Christ returns – ***other than the Muslims*** who will also be coming together as ONE under their new MAHDI. That first one world religion will probably be a mesh, a syncretism, of various religions and if we don't participate and subscribe to it, we won't be able to buy or sell (**Rev. 13:17**) or get a job or function in this world! I expect a **time of horrific war** – and followed by a time of *apparent* peace (**1 Thess. 5:3**), and the world will worship the Beast power and the False prophet who will be headquartered in Jerusalem at that time preaching peace. He'll be a religious leader of great charisma, even lamb-like (**Rev. 13:11; Dan. 11:32**), and will have miracle working powers and will deceive MANY. He will even do Elijah-like wonders like calling down fire from heaven and deceive many (**Rev. 13:13**).
- It will be a time of “**JACOB'S TROUBLE**” (**Jer. 30:7**), a time of sore *distress* and also great *persecution* on the people of God, to the point of **awful martyrdom**, including mass beheadings. No, we're not *seeing it to that degree yet*. Not even *close yet*, though there is awful persecution going on, it will get much, much worse.
- The time at the very end will be the time of “**the WORST trouble the world has ever seen**” (**Matt. 24:21**). I know the world is very bad already, but I believe we have a ways to go yet before we're even as bad as in the days of the Roman gladiators when people would go watch slaves being raped by animals, by men fighting each other to the death as the mobs cheered. Oh, the time will come when we will do all that and much more – but we're not openly there yet. The Mayans, Incas and Aztecs practiced live human sacrifices, ripping the hearts out of live captives and young girls, as a part of their worship just a couple hundred years ago! We don't have that going on yet, but it will as thousands of God's people are beheaded (**Rev. 20:4**). We're not yet seeing as widely and openly the Inquisition tortures. Or the gassing of *millions* of Jews, Poles, gypsies and political prisoners by the Nazis. You get the point?
- How about **the so-called “pre-tribulation rapture”**? Well, if we read carefully what our Lord tells us in Matthew 24, He comes for His Elect *after* the tribulation, not before.

Matthew 24:29-31 “Immediately *after the tribulation* of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 ***And He 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.***”

Apparently the elect brethren are still on earth when Jesus comes for them AFTER the Tribulation. There may be a place of safety for some of God's people in a wilderness area (Revelation 12:14) but that is not the same as a rapture to heaven. The word “rapture” is nowhere in the Bible.

I believe after the resurrection God's elect will be taken to heaven to marry Christ – but that's long after the Great Tribulation has started, and it's not the Rapture. After the wedding in heaven, King Jesus and his royal Bride start the final moments of the most massive invasion the world has ever seen, and that will include you and me, as we prepare to establish God's rule on earth. This invasion will pale into insignificance anything science fiction movies have tried to show.

I could go on and on: but again, my point is, Jesus' point is, and Peter's point is: BE ready, don't just get excited when you see these things happening!

Mark 13:33-37 *“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming -- in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning -- 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”* -- meaning ‘stay ALERT’, STAY AWAKE, watch yourself!

So let's get back into this theme of the return of King Jesus to rule on earth, pictured largely by the Feast of Trumpets. This is going to be a 2 part Feast of Trumpets sermon. Let's review the when, how and why and how it pertains to this holyday. Why is it called “The Feast of Trumpets”? Why do the Jews call it something different?

Rosh Hashanah or

The only time the Feast of Trumpets is clearly mentioned in the Bible as being observed was in **Nehemiah 8:1-2** when Ezra read to them clearly from the law of God from morning to midday.

Otherwise the only other times this day is specifically mentioned are in **Leviticus 23:23-25**, where it is listed among all God's feasts, and also in **Numbers 29:1**. Again, in the Hebrew, it just says it is a day of *Teruwah* – loud noise, blowing, a blast of alarm or joy, of shouting. That's what it means.

Numbers 29:1 *“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].”*

The Feast of Trumpets, or “Rosh Hashanah” as the Jews call it, is on the 1st of the 7th month, called Tishri. Should the “Feast of Trumpets” also be called Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish term, which began to be employed in the 2nd century. I say “no”, because of the following:

- the BIBLICAL name for this day is “a memorial of blowing”, or *TERUAH*, or *teruw'ah*, which literally means a “memorial of blowing”. Some call it “Yom Teruwah”. The English version of the Bible has the word “trumpets” in it, but in the original Hebrew, it simply is “memorial of blowing”. God's word, , *including the same word of God the Jews use, nowhere calls this day “Rosh Hashanah”*. They have to rely on their *tradition* to call it that.

The Biblical name is “a memorial of blowing”. It's implied that the blowing was the blowing of horns or trumpets, so “trumpets” is inserted into the English text. Keep in mind however that the 2 silver trumpets of the priests were blown on ALL the holydays of God and on all the new moons.

Numbers 10:10 *“Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months [all the new moons], you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”*

These trumpets were not the *shofar*, or *ram's horn* – but the silver trumpets blown by special priests. There were only 2 trumpets, so only two priests could blow them. By the days of Solomon, they had increased the trumpets to 120 (2 **Chronicles 5:12**).

The Bible says it was to be by a silver trumpet. ***Jewish rabbinic tradition says that on the day of Trumpets, the primary instrument intended by scripture was the SHOFAR, or ram's horn, for blowing on Tishri 1.*** However, I just draw your attention to what GOD says: that on each of the holydays, including therefore the 1st of Tishri, the silver trumpets were to be blown.

Later the day's name was changed by the Jews to "Rosh Hashanah" meaning "head of the year" and it has become the Jewish civil new year. However, there is nothing in scripture to tell us that, and in fact scripture says this day is to be observed on the FIRST day of the **SEVENTH** month (**Lev. 23:24**), corresponding usually to our late September or October. Traditionally the Jews teach that Adam and Eve were created on this day, in the autumn and that this was the beginning of the creation. They believe that partly because Genesis 1:1, which we read in English as "in the beginning", in the Hebrew implies "1st of Tishri" apparently. The opening word of the Bible means "beginning, head, chief, first".

But GOD tells us that the beginning of the year, or if you will, "the head of the year was not in the Fall but in the SPRING.

- **another reason to reject the name Rosh Hashanah, is that the modern observances of Rosh Hashanah bear little or no resemblance to the instructions of scripture. The Jews today treat it more like a New Year holiday or celebration, rather than a solemn Feast.**

THE NEW MOON HOLYDAY – THE DAY OF BLOWING

The other holydays usually were during a time when the moon could clearly be seen – lots of light. But THIS holyday was on the 7th NEW moon of the year, or the time when there was either NO moon at all or just the tiniest sliver of a new moon, depending on which meaning of "new moon" you accept. But my point is, either way, this feast day is during a time of DARKNESS, GLOOMINESS, hence the Jews felt it portended to difficult times. That much could be correct.

ALL the final 4 feast days occur in the 7th month. SEVEN is the number of finality and completion. The final 4 feast days are the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement 10 days later, and then the 7 day Feast of Tabernacles, followed by the 8th day, a separate holyday that many have begun to call the "last great day".

I call it a "good news, bad news" day. It pictures the time when the "day of the Lord" begins, a time pictured in scripture as a "day of darkness". To the modern Jews, it starts a 10 day period they **call the "Days of Awe"** between 1st of Tishri and the 10th of the Tishri, **the Day of Atonement.**

Amos 5:18-20 "Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.

19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him!

Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him!

20 ***Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?"***

So to some people, the Day of the Lord will be a terrible time. And yet we are commanded to pray "Thy Kingdom come". WE who are on the right side of God CAN desire it, looking for it, because it signals the beginning of the end of this world's evil ways and the start of a wondrous rule of God.

If you want more on this being a day of darkness and gloominess:

Zephaniah 1:14-16

“The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly.

The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.”

Also **Joel 2:1-2** calls it a day of darkness and gloominess, clouds and thick darkness.

So its a day of cloud and gloominess, blowing of trumpets and shouting and a day of alarm and war and – get this – the gathering of the people of God, including for the purpose of war, as you shall see.

I think the Jews are on to something when they call this day *the beginning of “the Days of Awe”*, beginning God’s wrath on the world and even on the Jews, which they believe leads them to repentance, pictured by the Day of Atonement, on the 10th of Tishri. TEN days of AWE. I’ll get more into that aspect in the 2nd follow-up sermon to this one. They see the theme of darkness and gloominess as having a spiritual meaning, and they are right on that point.

The Purpose of the TRUMPET

This part of the sermon is very important to grasp, so you get the full meaning of ***the next sermon on “The Coming Great Exodus”*** – as well as understanding the purpose of the trumpet in the Feast day called “the Feast of Trumpets”.

The trumpet was to get one’s attention for a particular purpose, to communicate what they were to do

For example the Pharisees actually sounded a trumpet to get people’s attention to their good deeds.

(**Matthew 6:2**) Jesus warns us *not* to use a trumpet for that kind of attention-getting.

There were 2 silver trumpets, blown only by priests – the sons of Aaron. (Numbers 10)

- 1 trumpet = assemble the leaders
- 2 trumpets = assemble everyone, but not sound the signal to advance
- There was another sound **for advancing the nation** – starting from the east, to the south, west and the north (**Numbers 10:5-6**). Keep this in mind when we talk about the resurrection and the advance of the spiritual Israel of God to rise and meet King Jesus, our husband and Lord and Master.
- ***It was also – perhaps surprisingly – a signal from God’s people TO GOD HIMSELF*** to call HIM to action in behalf of His people (**Numbers 10:9**).
- The same two silver trumpets were blown to alert the nation of the **holydays**, at the new moons at the beginning of each month. The new moons were to be acknowledged, but they are not sabbaths, they are not holydays, they are not listed in God’s list of feasts in Lev. 23. (**Numbers 10:10**).

Turn now to 1 Cor. 14:6. There were also sounds of the trumpet for battle. For the army, there are trumpet calls for reveille (wake up) the first sounds in the morning, a call to the colors for raising or lowering the flag, the call to mess, and so on. The trumpeter could also call the army to attack, or to retreat, or to assemble – depending on the clear sounds he would make. **The trumpeter had to know**

how to make a clear signal or chaos could ensue. That is why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:8 – “If the trumpet makes a certain sound who will prepare for battle?”

A trumpet was sounded to gather the people

So the trumpet was to get one's attention – and often to gather the people (for example, **Num. 10:7**).

The first time the word “trumpet” is used in the Bible, is when God gathered His children – the nation of Israel – together to meet with Him at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. It was a day of thunder and clouds and earthquakes and fear, and yet it must have been exciting and fearsome to come before His holiness.

Let's read it in **Exodus 19**. the trumpet signals something is about to happen. It wakes people up, it calls them to attention, to make them stop and listen and think about why they're being alerted. It's a signal of something important about to be announced.

What I'm about to read was not just for ancient Israel. Scripture is for our admonition: WE are to be the ones coming into God's presence as we hear His trumpet call:

Exodus 19:10-13 “Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. 11 And let them be ready for the third day. **For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.** 12 You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. 13 Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' **When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.**”

THIS HAPPENED ON PENTECOST!

Exodus 19:16-20 “Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, **and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.** 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp **to meet with God**, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 **And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder**, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20 Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.”

You'll see in the next sermon also how a trumpet is also blown to gather the enslaved and scattered Israelites all over the world, after Christ returns.

Trumpets also proclaimed the Jubilee celebration every 50th year on the Day of Atonement Leviticus 25:9

Trumpets were blown at the Coronation of a King. You can see this when Solomon was crowned (1 Kings 1:38-40).

This was also true when **Joash** was crowned king (2 Chron 23:13) and **Jehu** (2 Kings 9:13) as well as when Absalom tried to crown himself king (2 Samuel 15:10).

Now: Who is the KING of kings? Who wears many crowns on His head, symbolizing that HE is king of this country and country and all kingdoms? Who is most worth of the trumpet blast announcing HIM as King of the kings and none other worthy of that title? None other than the very King of kings Himself, King Jesus.

The trumpet was a call to perform various actions; various signals

In war, the same trumpet made various sounds to achieve various goals – withdraw, to attack, to celebrate the return of the ark, to gather people together, on and on.

So we, as people of God, need to not only hear the trumpet, but be in tune to what the Commander wants us to do. We have to hear it – and understand its message!

So here's the upshot: when people heard the trumpet blast – whether a silver trumpet or a ram's horn blast, called the *shofar* – they listened and perked up. ***It was not always a good sound, except on the holydays. More often than not, it was the alarm that an enemy force has been sighted and for people to prepare for WAR.***

Look at how Jeremiah put it:

Jeremiah 30:6-7 “Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child?

So why do I see **every man with his hands on his loins** like a woman in labor, And all faces turned pale? 7 Alas! **For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble**, But he shall be saved out of it.”

So this is a segue into the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets! It is widely understood to picture the day of the return of Jesus Christ and the events leading up to it, called “the Day of the Lord”. The Bible also refers to that time period as “in that day” or “in the last days”. Let's start with a real quick review of the holydays leading up to Trumpets.

The meaning of the previous Feasts of the Eternal reviewed

The feast days of the Eternal are listed in Leviticus 23 and are mentioned numerous other places. The early church in the New covenant times watched the meaning of the **Passover** as they watched Jesus being crucified as the Lamb of God on the 14th of God's first calendar month, which corresponds to our spring season. So did the ancient Israelites in Egypt, as they slaughtered *their* lambs also on the 14th. The Passover is a feast day, but not a holyday or rest day. **It pictures Jesus, the Lamb of God.**

Then on the evening of the 15th, after the sun had set on the 14th, Israel marched out of Egypt as A FREE people, because of the effect of 10th plague and the safety afforded those who killed a Passover lamb according to God's instructions. The **7 days of Unleavened Bread** began with that march out of Egypt, picturing God's people living a new way of life after they eat the Passover. We too now, after accepting Jesus' sacrifice, walk in newness of life, eating daily and completely of Christ, for HE is our Unleavened Bread, HE is the manna from heaven.

The next feast, which falls within the days of Unleavened Bread, is what I call the “forgotten feast” – **the Wavesheaf Sunday** offering of firstfruit barley, picturing the next step in the plan of Salvation: Jesus had to die for us, symbolized by the innocent lambs slain for the people, but then that dead Lamb of God had to be resurrected and accepted by God the Father in our behalf. I'm sure that was a wondrous event in heaven as the angelic choirs sang hosannas to honor the Son of God and of course the Father, who resurrected Him. Now in Him we know we have life, for since Christ was resurrected

from the dead, we know we can be and will be, as well. So wavesheaf Sunday pictures Jesus and His ascent to heaven to see His father.

The next holyday is **Pentecost**, which pictures the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest – the first real harvests in the land. The big harvest of all the fruits and other plants comes in the Fall. **This pictures those being called now as God's first fruits of his salvation. The first harvests, for those who will become a part of the first resurrection later on. Be sure to listen to my sermon on Pentecost on the web. I believe Pentecost also pictures other things:**

- **God's covenant with Israel with the giving of His Torah, the Law**, at Mt. Sinai, which Paul says was a tutor to bring us to Christ. God married Israel at Sinai on Pentecost – the church in the wilderness (**Acts 7:38**). It was also in the season of Pentecost when Boaz marries Ruth.
- sending the promised gift, the *arrabon* or earnest, of the **Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2)**, God's *arrabona* – the engagement ring, if you will of His promise.

Just as Isaac took Rebekah into Sarah's tent after Rebekah went back to Isaac, who was with His FATHER – we too will go back to Jesus, who will be with HIS father, and we will enter "Sarah's tent" which symbolized – are you ready for this – heavenly Jerusalem.

So it makes sense that these pictured Jesus returning for His bride and taking her (us) to Father in heaven. **This was also pictured by Rebekah, who was of the house of Bethuel – meaning "house of God"-- coming back to where Isaac was** – and then Isaac took Rebekah into his mother's tent and there consummated the marriage (**Gen. 24:67**). **The Bible makes it clear that Sarah represents Jerusalem above, the mother of us all.** Think about it: **Rebekah pictures us – the church** – going to Isaac, who pictures Jesus. Isaac is with his father Abraham. Isaac takes Rebekah into his mother's tent, picturing Jerusalem above. Read it yourself in **Galatians 4:22-26**, which I covered on Pentecost. Our heavenly Father performs the wedding (**Matthew 22:1-2**).

Jesus is the way to the Father (John 14:6). We assume He primarily meant it *spiritually* right now – but there's coming a time, I believe, when He will also *literally* be our way to the Father, in person, face-to-face with the God the Highest. Jesus will personally present His Bride in her beautiful wedding garments of righteousness to His Father, who was the one who chose the Bride in the first place (**John 6:44**). So in **John 14:6** Jesus tells us, "**no one comes to the Father but by me**" -- ***so He is the way, to where He was going, back to His Father in heaven. Jesus has to marry like "kind" as He is. So we have to be changed from mortal to immortal, from flesh to spirit, from human to of the same family as God. And we go to the city above – God's city, our city – the new Jerusalem prepared for the Bride of Christ. That's our home. Jesus is taking us there for the wedding and to let us each see our new home up there.***

We WILL have offices, titles and positions in God's kingdom --, but the word in John 14:2-3 is "abode, a home, a dwelling place" – not just a title, not just an office, as some have been taught. It's the same word Jesus used to talk about God making HIS abode with us, in us, by the Spirit. He dwells in us. So we're just like Christ at that point, also sons of God as HE is THE Son of God, of the same kind, same type of Being that He is.

I went into DETAIL on all of this and I suggest you go back and hear it – **Part 3, of "The Mystery of Christ and the Church", given in March, 2004.** It's one of my favorite sermons. I recommend it along with the details I gave in my Pentecost sermon in June 2006.

Some have therefore also concluded that it is very possible that the wedding of Jesus Christ will also occur on a day of Pentecost in the future. I'll address that some more in a minute, but be sure to hear my **Pentecost sermon 2006** for more information.

POSSIBLE? THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND WEDDING SUPPER ON PENTECOST?

Many think Christ **returns** with His Bride on a future Feast of Trumpets – but if so, that also means to ME at least, that Christ returns earlier than that, so there is time to have a wedding and a wedding feast in heaven so Christ returns as a married king. This also allows for the 7 last plagues to occur after the 7th Trumpet, the last, trumpet when the dead in Christ are resurrected and any of us who remain alive are changed.

The first time Jesus came, He came on the foal of a donkey, humble, as a sacrifice, the Lamb of God. When He comes the *next* time, it will be as the conquering king, to stop the carnage on earth, to establish the holy Kingdom of God on earth as the ruling kings over this earth. The Kingdom is the spirit family of God. This time He comes with power and might and glory and honor! This time, though He is at first once again rejected by humanity, He will conquer the earth and then win the world over to God's way of doing things.

Many have believed the first resurrection occurs on the Feast of Trumpets, though the Bible nowhere says that. *The reason we believed that, is that it says Christ returns with the trumpet of God and that when the last trumpet sounds, the dead in Christ are raised first. But then the assumption was, that Jesus would remain here on earth with His saints and set up the kingdom of God – and presumably have the wedding at a later date on earth. But who would perform it? And how can the events of the 7 last plagues occur on one day? They can't!*

So in this scenario, Christ returns first *on or before* the Feast of **Pentecost, at the 7th Trumpet blown on that day, to pick up the Bride and take us to our wedding supper prepared in heaven (Rev. 19).** Remember that trumpets were blown on EVERY holyday, including Pentecost. *After* the 7th trumpet is blown, and after the saints are resurrected or changed to glorious spirit beings and taken up to be with the Lord, they are then raised up – like **the 2 leavened barley loaves were on Pentecost** by the High Priest – raised to heaven. And just as the barley loaves were then brought back down as the high priest lowered his arms back down, so will the Bride be eventually brought back to earth – but now united in marriage to Jesus Christ and they will be *one*. Fully one with Christ, fully one *in* Christ, flawless, perfect, sinless, incorruptible spirit beings.

I'll have to end it there for now for time's sake – and we'll immediately pick up in tape 2 – titled "The Coming Great Exodus". Be sure to hear the rest of the exciting news of this day. If these messages are feeding you, please let others know about the website and spread the word. Until this next time, this is your brother in Christ, Philip Shields, wishing you a solemn and thought provoking Feast of Trumpets. Be sure now to hear the next sermon.

(TO BE CONTINUED.... BE SURE TO HEAR THE NEXT TRUMPETS SERMON TITLED "The Great Exodus", which continues from this point.)