

The Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:9-14

The Feast of the Tabernacles is introduced on the first day of the seventh month by the blowing of trumpets. It was a festival of trumpets sounding throughout the land and calling the nation to prepare for the coming Day of Atonement, the day of national cleansing.

I. THE TYPE OF TRUMPETS

There were two kinds of trumpets in Israel; those made of ram's horns and those made of silver.

A. Trumpets of Ram's Horns

Exodus 19:16, 19; 20:18; Leviticus 25:9; Joshua 6:4-13, 20; I Samuel 2:1; I Chronicles 25:5. The horn here came from some sacrifice – the bullock or the ram. The ram's horns were especially used to blast out the note of shouting at the fall of the walls of Jericho. It was the trumpet of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:10-54).

B. Trumpets of Silver

Numbers 10:2, 8, 9; 29:1; II Chronicles 5:12-13; 7:6; Psalm 98:6. The trumpets here were made of silver. Silver was the symbol of the price of redemption of the soul. It was used as ransom or the atonement money (Exodus 30:11-16). It is possible that the two trumpets made from one piece of silver came from the atonement money after the numbering of the firstborn (Numbers 3:40-51).

For Israel, Aaron and his sons were responsible as priests to sound the trumpet message on the special occasions (Exodus 28:1, with Numbers 10:3, 4, 10). For the church, the body of Christ, the two silver trumpets may be likened trumpeting the word of the Lord to the spiritual Israel of God (Ephesians 4:8-16). It is important that the trumpeters make a clear and distinct sound so that the people of God may hear and understand the message (I Corinthians 14:8; 13:1; Mark 4:23-25; Luke 8:18).

II. THE TIME FOR TRUMPETS – NUMBERS 10:1-10

A. For the Calling of the Assemblies – Numbers 10:2

Under this call the Twelve Tribes gathered as one nation. The trumpet was always used to call Israel, God's people, together (Isaiah 27:13).

So the church as the Israel of God gathers as one in Christ (Psalm 50:5; Matthew 18:20; Ephesians 4:10; John 17). At the coming of Christ the trumpet will sound and gather all the elect from the four corners of the earth (Matthew 24:30-31).

B. For the Journeying of the Camps – Numbers 10:2

When the cloud moved, then the trumpets were to be blown and the people were to move on with God (Numbers 9:15-23; 10:11-36; Hebrews 11:13).

C. For the Calling of the Princes – Numbers 10:4

When the leadership of the nation was to be gathered together, then only one trumpet was to be blown. Two trumpets would sound when the whole nation or the whole congregation was to be called (Psalm 107:32; Ezekiel 34:1-7; Revelation 1:10).

D. For the Blowing of Alarms – Numbers 10:5-7

At times they had to sound an alarm and warn the people of that which was coming (Joel 2:1; Amos 3:6-7). So today God sounds an alarm to his church to warn her of coming events in the world and thus cause the church to seek his face.

E. For War or Enemy Oppression – Numbers 10:9

Trumpets were often blown in times of war and enemy oppression. When God heard the trumpet, He would fight for His people and bring them deliverance (Jeremiah 4:19-21; Judges 3:27; 6:34; 7:4-22; Numbers 31:6-7). So the New Testament church, in times of spiritual oppression, can call on the Lord and be delivered (Acts 10:38; Eph. 6:10-18).

F. For Days of Gladness – Numbers 10:10

There were times of great joy and gladness on the various Festival occasions. In these days the trumpets were blown as the people rejoiced together before the Lord their God. This is seen in the Tabernacle of David order of worship (I Chronicles 4:12; Ephesians 3:18).

G. For Solemn Assemblies – Numbers 10:10

There were other occasions when the people of Israel were called by the trumpets to days of Solemn Assemblies; in times of intercession, prayer and fasting (Joel 2:1-17; Psalm 81:3; Zephaniah 3:14-20; II Kings 10:20).

H. For the Beginning of Months – Numbers 10:10

All Feast Days and all the beginning of the months were announced by the sound of the blowing of trumpets. These trumpet sounds were to keep God's "times and seasons" in the people's mind (Exodus 19:6, 13; Leviticus 23:24). So the Spirit of God speaks to the church by the ministries so that God's people may remember the "times and seasons" of the Lord's calendar (Eccl. 3:1, 17; 8:6; Daniel 2:21; Lev 23:4; Acts 1:7, I Thess. 5:10).

I. For the Offerings and Sacrifices – Numbers 10:10

As the sacrifices were being offered upon the altar, the trumpets were also blown. As the Lord heard the silvery note of redemption ascending over the sacrifices, so He would remember his promise to accept his people through blood atonement (Numbers 28:11-15; 29:1-6; II Chronicles 29:287-28).

So the Lord accepts the church in her priestly ministrations through Christ. The believer offers spiritual sacrifices of joy and praise acceptable to God in Him (Hebrews 13:15-16; Revelation 1:6; 5:9-10; I Peter 2:5-9).

The Lord Jesus Christ, with trumpet voice, called to the churches to "hear what the Spirit" was saying to them (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 27; 3:6, 22; 1:10).

- a. Trumpets were used in the anointing of kings (II Kings 9:13; 11:14; II Samuel 15:10; II Chron. 23:13).
- b. Trumpets were used at the dedication of Solomon's Temple (II Chron. 5:11-14).
- c. Trumpets were used in the great Year of Jubilee, which was every fiftieth year in Israel. It was a year of release, restoration and reunion (Lev. 25; Isa. 6:1-3; Luke 4:18-19).
- d. Trumpets are associated with the final judgments of God and also at the second coming of Christ for his own (Revelation 8:1-9; 11:15; I Thess. 4:16; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Matthew 24:31; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Zechariah 9:14).

III. THE FEAST DAY OF TRUMPETS – LEVITICUS 23:23-25; NUMBERS 29:1

A. New Year's Day – Numbers 29:1

The Feast Day of Trumpets was New Year's Day in Israel. Remember, the Hebrews had a two-sided calendar year: the Sacred and the Civil. The sacred year began in Abib or Nisan, the first month, with the Feast of Passover and concluded in Tishri or Ethanim, the seventh month, in the Feast of Tabernacles.

The civil year begin in the seventh month with the Day of Trumpets and finished twelve months later in the month Ebul. Hence the first month of the sacred year became the seventh month of the civil year, while the first month of the civil was also the seventh month of the sacred year. Thus it was both an end and a new beginning; closing off the old and bringing in the new. This helps us to understand Joel 2:23 concerning the former and latter rains coming down "in the first month."

The spiritual truth conveyed here is that God's endings are also new beginnings. He himself is "the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending" and the Finisher of our faith (Revelation 1:8; Isaiah 41:4; Hebrews 12:1-4).

B. A Sabbath Rest – Leviticus 23:23-25

As were all other Feast Days, so the Day of Trumpets was a Sabbath Rest. It was to be a day of rest in the finished work of the High Priest in the atonement. Leviticus 23 emphasizes this. The same also applied to the Feast of Unleavened Bread (vs. 7, 8); the Feast Day of Atonement, (vs. 28-31).

The New Testament answers this for the believer, for the believer must "cease from his own works" and "enter into rest" (Hebrews 4:1-11; Matthew 11:28-30).

C. The Seventh Month – Leviticus 23:24

Passover took place in the **first** month. One is the number of beginning, of commencement. Israel began their experience with the Lord in the first month (Matt. 6:33; Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-2). In the Feast, the believer comes to the Lord Jesus and puts first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Pentecost took place in the **third** month. Three is the number of complete testimony, the number of Divine witness. Associated with the Pentecostal Feast is the Holy Spirit who is the third Person in the eternal Godhead. In this Feast the believer knows the blessedness of the indwelling and infilling Holy Spirit.

Tabernacles took place in the **seventh** month. Seven is the number of perfection and fullness. In this Feast, the believer is brought to the fullness of the Godhead. Number seven is distinctly the number of the Book of Revelation. The number is used over 600 times in the Bible.

In concluding then the Feast of Trumpets, we see that this Feast finds fulfillment in the destruction of the Temple (AD 70) and the present Gospel age of trumpeting truth.