

MESSIAH IN THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS - Lev 23:23-25

OUTLINE**I. The Feast of Trumpets in the Old Testament**

A. Scripture Texts: Lev 23:23-25; Num 29:1; Psa 47:1-9, Psa 81:1-7; Ezr 3:1-3 + 6; Neh 8:1-12

B. Various Names for the Feast:

1. "*Zicaron Truah*" (Memorial of Trumpets) - Lev 23:23-25
2. "*Yom Truah*" (Day of Trumpets) - Num 29:1
3. "*Rosh Hashanah*" is the unofficial, yet more common name for this celebration ("Rosh Hashanah" lit. "*The Head of the Year*" = the New Year)

II. The Ancient & The Modern Day Celebration

A. Celebration Traditions:

1. Three Books Opened in Heaven. In the Babylonian Talmud in states:

"R. Kruspedai said in the name of R. Johanan: Three books are opened [in heaven] on New Year, one for the thoroughly wicked, one for the thoroughly righteous, and one for the intermediate. The thoroughly righteous are forthwith inscribed definitively in the book of life; the thoroughly wicked are forthwith inscribed definitively in the book of death; the doom of the intermediate is suspended from New Year till the Day of Atonement; if they deserve well, they are inscribed in the book of life; if they do not deserve well, they are inscribed in the book of death.¹

- Starting on Rosh Hashanah and for the next 10 days (called "The Days of Awe") the people whose names are recorded in the book of the "In-Betweens" can have their names moved into the Book of the Righteous if they are found worthy.

2. Tashlikh: As the day is a reminder to call the Jewish people to repentance, during the afternoon of the first day of the festival (or the second day if it coincides with the Sabbath) it is customary to go to the banks of a river or any body of water, turn one's pockets inside out with the recitation of certain prayers and the reading of the last three verses of Micah.

Micah 7:18-20 ¹⁸ Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. ¹⁹ He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

3. The Sounding of the Shofar: A Holy day set aside to recall no one particular event in Jewish history; but rather, a "*Zicharon Truah*" = a "*memorial of trumpets*". A day to remember the sound of the trumpet. Following the interval of time after the 4 feasts in the spring, Jewish people gather together in their various places of worship & from morning until evening sound trumpet blasts over 100 times². The Scripture Readings include opening the Shofar service with Psalm 47 and concluding with Psa 89.

The 3 basic reasons suggested in Rabbinical literature for this remembrance:

- (1) To recall the anniversary of the day of creation (Job 38:7)
- (2) To recall the bond made at Mt. Sinai between God & Israel with the trumpet sounding (Exo 19:16)
- (3) To call to mind that there is a coming day of judgment (Zep 1:14-16)

¹ Rosh Hashanah 16b

² Isaac Klein, A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice (New York: The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1979), 196..

The Type of Trumpet: "The Shofar" {Ram's Horn}

According to Rabbi Saadiah Gaon³, there are 10 basic reasons for using the Shofar:

1. Remember the day of creation (Psa 98:6).
2. Introduce the 10 days of repentance before the day of atonement.
3. The Exo 19:19 sounding of the shofar at Mt. Sinai.
4. Recall the message of the prophets who sounded for God (Eze 33:4-5).
5. The destruction of the temple and the battle alarms of the foe (Jer 4:19).
6. **Remember the sacrifice of the ram in place of Isaac** (Rosh Hashanah 16a, Lev. Rab 29.10)
7. Arouse the fear and shaking taking place on the day of judgment (Amo 3:6)
8. Remind us of the Great Day of judgment (Zeph 1:14-16)
9. Remind us of the day of the final regathering of Israel (Isa 27:13)
10. **Remind us of the resurrection of the dead** (Isa 18:3)

The Three Distinct Types of Trumpet Sounds:

1Cor 14:7-8 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, **except they give a distinction in the sounds**, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? ⁸For **if the trumpet give an uncertain sound**, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

1. "**Tekiah**" ("Sound/Blow") = A single note sounded for assemblies

Jer 4:5a Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, blow (Heb. "Tekiah") ye the trumpet ("Shofar") in the land: cry, gather together, and say: **assemble yourselves**. . ."

2. "**Shevarim**" ("Breakings") = 3 broken notes [in a lower tone] recalling times of mourning.

Jer 4:6 Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great **destruction** ("Shevarim").

3. "**Teruah**" ("Alarm, Shout") = 9 Short Staccato notes [equaling a "Tekiah"] sounded for alarm

"Teruah" is not just translated as an "alarm" for war. It can also be translated as a word of surprise such as "shout"! e.g. Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God **shouted** for joy?

Jer 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet ("Shofar"), the **alarm** ("Teruah") of war.

B. Celebration Customs:

1. Wishing each other a "Happy New Year" with the words: "*L'Shanna Tova TikatAvu*" ("May you be inscribed for a good year!")
2. Serving apples dipped in honey in the hope for a good or "sweet" year - Neh 8:10-12
3. Eating a round crowned-shaped loaf of Hallah bread to remember that the King-of-All-Creation created the universe on Rosh Hashanah, and that the New Year is the "Head" or "Crown" of the Jewish year

³ Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Days of Awe (New York: Schocken Books, 1948), 71.

III. The Feast of Trumpets in the New Testament

A. Messianic Significance: The Rapture of the Church - 1Cor 15:50-57, 1Th 4:13-18

B. Applications for the Believer: Living in the Hope of Our Resurrection

1. Having a "Holy" walk with the Lord means one characterized by joy over His making us "Holy" (set apart/sanctified) from the destiny of the unsaved (Neh 8:2-10).

Neh 8:2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, **upon the first day of the seventh month.**

Neh 8:9-12 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, **This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep.** For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said unto them, Go your way, **eat the fat, and drink the sweet,** and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: **for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for (because) THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH.** ¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. ¹² And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

2. The Mature Believer is: "The Friend of God"

Texts: Gen 22:1-14, Heb 11:17-19, James 2:21-23 & Joh 15:8-16

Heb 11:17-19 ¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸**Of whom it was said, 'That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:'** (in Gen 21:12) ¹⁹**accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead;** from whence also he received him in a figure.

Jam 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Jam 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Jam 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by work was **faith made perfect (mature)?**

Jam 2:23a And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: (Gen 15:6 His salvation cf. Rom 4:2-3, 4-25 Esp 23-25; Gal 3:1-9)

Jam 2:23b **AND** ("and" when he offered up Isaac in Gen 22) **he was called: "The Friend of God"** (2 Chr 20:7; Isa 41:8) (Gen 22:1-14 cf. Gen 21:12 cf. Heb 11:17-19)

John 15:15 ¹⁵ Henceforth **I call you not servants;** for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: **but I have called you friends;** for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

So, in addition to just being saved back in Gen 15:6 when he believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness, he later demonstrated his "mature" or "perfect" faith by his work of witnessing beforehand, both to the men who came with him of his confidence in Isaac's resurrection and to Isaac himself, when he told Isaac that God would provide another victim (believing that a substitute would be needed for Isaac after he's raised).

Thus, James is showing how the New Testament believer is likewise God's friend by demonstrating his maturity or the perfect work of a faith that under all trials displays a patient (Jam 1:3-4) hope for the coming of the Lord (Jam 5:7-11). A mature faith is one that also sounds forth a noise of the confident hope of our resurrection. A mature faith is one like a ram that can reproduce children for the king and isn't like a male lamb which has no horn to make a noise because of immaturity nor the ability to reproduce. It's a step of spiritual maturity from servanthood to friendship:

C. The Call to Resurrection:

The "last trump" of Rosh Hashanah = "*Tekiah Gedulah*"!

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 ⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump:** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- A "*Tekiah*" is the sound for an assembly and "*Gedulah*" means "Large", "Long", "Magnanimous"! Thus we read of that type of assembly some day in the air in:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, **to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.