

## OT Feasts: Part 6 of 8; Leviticus 23:23-25 ESV

# How Does the OT Feast of Trumpets Point Ahead to Jesus' *Second Coming*?

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2014  
 Sunday, Sept. 21 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, Sept. 22 at 7 PM

Join us for Bible Class this Wednesday, 9/24 at 7 PM

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: We return to the Seven OT Feasts – appointments made by God with His people; *all seven focus on Jesus!*

- The first three – Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits – pointed ahead to His death and resurrection, while the fourth – Pentecost – pointed ahead to the Holy Spirit, who has given us faith to trust in Jesus as our Savior.
- The three fall feasts include Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*, 9-25-14), Atonement (*Yom Kippur*, 10-4-14), and Tabernacles (*Sukkot*, 10-9-14). As the spring feasts pointed to Jesus' first coming, *so the fall feasts point to His second coming!*
- Today our focus is on Trumpets, a.k.a. Rosh Hashanah, which means **"the head of the year."** The Biblical name is Yom Teruah, which means **"The Day of the Blowing of the Trumpet."** (The Chosen People magazine, September, 2014)

Leviticus chapter 23 identifies all seven feasts; this is what it says about Trumpets: <sup>23</sup> **The LORD said to Moses,** <sup>24</sup> **"Say to the Israelites: 'On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts.** <sup>25</sup> **Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the LORD by fire.'"** (23-25 NIV) //

1. **"the first day of the seventh month"** –

- a. Tishri is the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the Hebrew calendar but it is also New Year's Day in a *civil* sense (Nisan, the 1<sup>st</sup> month, is New Year's Day in a *church* sense). Do you have a New Year's tradition? Jewish families slice apples and dip them in honey. **"They hope the year will be as sweet as the fruit they have eaten."** (Norten, 57)
  - b. Since the Hebrew calendar is based on the moon, *the appearance of each New Moon marks the first day of each month*. Years ago it was the responsibility of the rabbis to *watch for* and *mark* the appearance of the New Moon. We can parallel that watching with Jesus' return; He said: **"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time [of my return] will come.** [Then, after giving an example, Jesus said:] **What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"** (Mark 13:33, 37 NIV)
2. **"a day of rest, a sacred assembly"** – "rest" may cause us to think back to God's rest on day 7, *after His creating work on days 1-6*, but *here* there is much more meaning:
- a. **"day of rest"** is literally **"Sabbath observance,"** so it was a day for people *to do no regular work!* From *the time of Moses through Jesus' fulfillment of the Law*, a period of about 1,400 years, that was the weekly practice every Saturday – *no regular work!* So the Feast of Trumpets was an additional **"day of rest."** That **did** mean: *do no regular work*, but that **did NOT** mean: *do whatever you want!*
  - b. This God-appointed **"day of rest"** was for the *purpose* of having **"a sacred assembly,"** literally a **"remembrance."** So they looked back to *remember* ☺God's work of creation, ☹mankind's fall into sin, and ☺God's promise to send the Messiah!

- c. Let's think about Americans who work M-F: God has given them •life, •abilities, and •jobs; they go to work on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> days of each week, *thus M-F*. Then they are blessed with Saturday – the weekend, to do their work at home and prepare for Sunday – the week-beginning. But, **after six days of blessings**, *80% of Americans ignore the Almighty God* by NOT gathering to receive His blessings and NOT honoring Him with their wealth. *Excuses: sleep, work, sports, camping, breakfast, friends, family.* But *20% of Americans ♦acknowledge God's blessings and ♦receive spiritual nourishment!* All have sinned, but some *continue in sin* and some *are repentant!*
- d. Some, on the Feast of Trumpets, read this passage:  
<sup>NIV</sup> **Micah 7:18** “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. <sup>19</sup> You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”  
 (NIV) **Some Application**: Get some smooth stones, write your sins on them, and throw them into a body of water; *in Christ our sins have been removed!*
3. **“trumpet blasts”** – They *point to* and *will accompany* Jesus' promised return:
- Look up and read Genesis 22:7-13. As the ram pointed to Jesus' sacrificial death, so the blast of a ram's horn points to His glorious return!
  - <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalms 81:1** “Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob! <sup>2</sup> Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre. <sup>3</sup> Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon... on the day of our Feast...” So the Feast of Trumpets

always falls on a new moon and includes the sound of the ram's horn.

- c. <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:51** “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” The “last trumpet” will include ♦Jesus’ return, ♦the dead raised, and ♦the final verdict spoken: **Either** “I know you; come” in **or** “I don’t know you, depart.”
- d. <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Thessalonians 4:16** “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” So with the “trumpet call of God” ♦Jesus will come down, ♦the dead will be raised, and ♦believers will be with Him forevermore!

**Conclusion:** Think about this: As Jesus rose *on the Feast of Firstfruits*, so some believe He will return *on the Feast of Trumpets* (in 2014, that is this Thursday, September 25); such a statement can be made without identifying the year, the day, or the hour. Could *this* be the year of Jesus’ return? If so, are *you* ready?

Even though the falls feasts are celebrated during a period of 15 days, I believe they will all be fulfilled *on the day Jesus returns!* Therefore, *by His grace*, let us continue to be →sorry for our sins, →certain of God’s forgiveness through Jesus, and →doers of God’s Word ([James 1:22](#))! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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