

The Trumpet Of Warning

Feast of Trumpets

Rick Railston

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There are some things that are unique about this holy day and there are things about this holy day that are present in no other holy day. It's unique because it's the central holy day. We have three holy days before that we've already memorialized and three holy days after. Trumpets marks the beginning of the removal of Satan's government on this earth, man's government on this earth and the establishment of God's government on this earth. So, this holy day is an enormous transition from what has happened for the last six thousand years into what will happen. After the dust settles on what will happen, it will be a great, great time of joy. You see, God and Christ have a plan and they're executing that plan. Let's go to Exodus 23:14-16 and see an overview of this plan that we're right in the middle of as far as the holy days are concerned. Moses is telling the Israelites and telling us today:

Exodus 23:14. *Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. (KJV)*

Moses is repeating what God told him.

15) Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: ...

16) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. (KJV)

That is what this starts in the fall. We know the longer we keep the holy days the more we realize that each holy day has multiple meanings. When talking about the holy days, you can go in this direction or you can go in that direction. What we're going to talk about today is that the blast of the trumpet that was a warning was for Ancient Israel is also a warning for us today. The title of the sermon is

The Trumpet of Warning

Point 1: The use of trumpets began about a year after Israel came through the Red Sea.

Let's go to Numbers 9:1. The context is the dedication of the tabernacle. Notice what it says.

Numbers 9:1. *And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, (KJV)*

Continue in verses 15-17.

15) And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. (KJV)

We have discussed in previous sermons that God came to reside in the holy of holies in the tabernacle. His presence was there.

16) So it was alway: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

17) And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. (KJV)

God was showing them no matter what that He was with them. Whether the cloud was in the holy of holies and over the holy of holies or whether the cloud was moving or whether the cloud stopped, they know God was right there with them. Now let's go to Numbers 10:1-10.

Numbers 10:1. *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,
2) Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece ... (KJV)*

They must have some excellent craftsmen to hammer out a trumpet out of one sheet of silver.

2b) ... shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps. (KJV)

The various tribes had their own camps. The Hebrew word here for "trumpets" is Strong's number 2689 and it means *a trumpet as noted from its quavering tone*. If you've heard a trumpet, whether it's a military trumpet or a trumpet in a big band or something like that, it can have a tone that quavers, that goes up and down in pitch. These trumpets have a musical tone. We're going to get to a trumpet shortly that doesn't. The Jameson, Faussett and Brown Commentary says that they were made of solid silver. These trumpets were straight. They weren't curved like the ones used in Egypt to worship Osiris. God did not want a copy of that. We have to remember back then there were obviously over a million, maybe two million people. There were no cell phones. There were no P.A. systems. There was no social media or emails. The trumpet was used to communicate with that vast mass of people. God needed a way for them to either assemble or to move or to stop. The trumpet was paramount in that instruction, the ability to communicate with this vast mass of people.

3) And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

4) And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee. (KJV)

If Moses had some instruction he wanted to give them, they would just blow with one trumpet and the leaders knew to assemble.

5) When ye blow an alarm ... (KJV)

The Hebrew root for “alarm” means *to split the ears with sound*. When you blow the alarm probably means that more than one trumpet was blowing. In fact all that they had were blown as an alarm.

5b) ... then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward.

6) When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.

7) But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm. (KJV)

So there obviously were different tones or notes to either gather or to move. The people understood that. It was their way of communicating with what they had.

8) And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations.

9) And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

10) Also in the day of your gladness [celebration, joy], and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the Lord your God. (KJV)

There were different sounds for celebrations. There were different sounds from the trumpet for war. There were different sounds for gathering. It had several important functions. We see that they were blown to mark every new moon so the people knew. The trumpets marked the beginnings of the holy days and then the offerings during the holy days. So, trumpets had multiple uses in communicating with Israel.

Point 2: The Feast of Trumpets today is a day of blowing a different kind of trumpet, not a silver trumpet.

Let's go to Numbers 29:1. This is parallel to Leviticus 23.

Numbers 29:1. *And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you. (KJV)*

It is interesting that the word “the trumpets” is not in the Hebrew. In my studies I’ve found that this happens more often than you would think. We understand that when a word is in italics, that means it’s not in the Hebrew. What you find is there are a bunch of other words that aren’t in the Hebrew and are not in italics. The only way you can discern that is to go to an interlinear translation and read from right to left. Look word for word and see if those words in the Hebrew are actually translated into English properly. Here it says “it is a day of blowing”. The word trumpets isn’t there. We know that this seventh month is a symbol of the seventh one thousand year period. The beginning of this month, the first day of the month today is special because it starts the culmination of God’s plan, the beginning of the end as we would say. The Hebrew word for “blowing” here is Strong’s number 8643 and it means *clamor, especially clangor of trumpets as an alarm*. Most of us never use the word clangor or maybe don’t even know what it is. If you go to Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language, which gets us closer to the King James Version, it says *sharp, shrill, harsh sound*. So, the Hebrew word for blowing means clamor, sharp, shrill, harsh sound as an alarm.

If you’ve ever heard a ram’s horn blown, it isn’t sweet. It isn’t something you’re going to entertain your wife with or your kids with. The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, volume 2, page 564 says, “The blowing of the trumpet on this feast is the blowing of a shofar, the ram’s horn rather than the silver trumpet of Numbers 10”. It’s a different trumpet blown on this day. The Talmud tells us that on this day it was like a blast or a shout. It is most definitely not musical. When you hear it, it gets your attention because all of the other days you hear the musical note of these long silver trumpets, but on this day it was a totally different sound and it got the Israelites’ attention. There is a message there. If it got the Israelites’ attention, maybe it should get our attention too.

The question is why did God command the shofar to be blown on this day? What was He thinking about? Why not just blow the silver trumpets, maybe make a different sound? Why the shofar? That leads us to the third point.

Point 3: Trumpets were used as a warning to God’s people, to the Israelites then and to us now.

We don’t have a literal trumpet, but we’re going to see we do have a spiritual trumpet that blows this day. Let’s go to Exodus 19:16-19. The context is Israel is encamped at the base of Mount Sinai. Something very, very piercing is going to happen, something to the Israelites that was actually very scary.

Exodus 19:16. *And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. (KJV)*

What was the sound that could cause the people to tremble? Here the Hebrew word for “trumpet” is Strong’s number 7782 and it’s “shofar”. This isn’t a ram’s horn being blown. This is a spiritual shofar that is being blown from the top of the mountain with Israel down below.

Adam Clarke’s Commentary says this, “the thunders, lightnings, etc. announced the coming as they proclaimed the majesty of God. Of the thunderings and lightnings and the deep, dark dismal electric cloud from which the thunders and lightnings proceeded, we can form a tolerable apprehension.” This means there is a cloud over the top of the mountain and lightning is going on and thunder is coming from it. The cloud is lit up by the power of God. We can kind of get that. He goes on to say “but the loud, long-sounding trumpet we can scarcely form a conjecture. Such were the appearances and the noise that all of the people in the camp trembled and Moses himself was constrained to say ‘I exceedingly fear and quake.’” Paul quotes that in Hebrews 12:21. He said Moses said at the base of the mountain when he heard that spiritual shofar “I exceedingly fear and quake”. Moses knew God and yet it caused him to have that reaction.

17) And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; ... (KJV)

Think about that. They were there to meet with God Almighty.

*17b) ... and they stood at the nether part of the mount.
18) And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke ... (KJV)*

There was smoke pouring off of that mountain almost like you’d think of a volcano.

18b) ... because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. (KJV)

You have smoke. You have fire. You have an earthquake and that gets the people’s attention.

19) And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long ... (KJV)

It just went on and on and on far more than the breath of a human being could provide.

19b) ... and waxed louder and louder ... (KJV)

Think about that. You are at the bottom of the mountain. There are earthquakes going on. There is lightning coming out of the cloud. The cloud is glowing and this sound starts and it builds and it builds and it builds and it builds and you are expecting you don't know what. Is God just going to wipe us off of the face of the earth or what's going on here?

19 continued) ... Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. (KJV)

It was not a shofar, a voice. Can you imagine being in the camp and hearing the voice of God at the end of that trumpet blast by the shofar? All of a sudden this voice comes out of that mountain. As we saw last time, the Bible tells us very clearly God can be heard. You can't see His face and live, but He can be heard. That is exactly what was happening at the base of the mountain. So, this shofar got people's attention immediately and it impressed upon them that God Almighty was talking to them. Then guess what happened? God gave them the Ten Commandments. So, God was setting the stage to give them the Ten Commandments so they would be impressed by the power of God that this is serious stuff. These commandments I am giving you I expect you to obey them. Now let's go to Exodus 20:18.

Exodus 20:18. *And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. (KJV)*

In other words it was so impressive, so loud it shakes you to your boots. They started backing up because of God's power and God's might.

So, the noise of the shofar we see was a warning to Ancient Israel of God's power and God's might as we see here in this example. Let's go to the fourth point.

Point 4: On this day Christ is going to bring war.

It's going to be the most horrible time the world has ever seen or experienced, but as we're going to see, it's necessary. Let's go to Jeremiah 4:19-21. Jeremiah here pictures what the human reaction will be to the events of this day. Notice what he says.

Jeremiah 4:19. *My bowels, my bowels! ... (KJV)*

Have you ever been in a dangerous, scary, horrible situation maybe even as a young kid and you get an ache in your stomach? It just paralyzes you. That's what has happened.

19b) ... I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise [pounding] in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul ... (KJV)

In other words when that spiritual shofar sounds, it is going to scare the daylight out of humanity.

19 continued) ... the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

20) Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.

21) How long shall I see the standard ... (KJV)

A standard is a pole with a flag on it. In the military it's called a guidon. If you are marching troops, you have the guidon at the front of a company or a platoon or a squadron so that the marchers follow the guidon. It's used to identify military formations.

21b) ... and hear the sound of the trumpet? (KJV)

The trumpet or shofar initiates war. Now let's go to Isaiah 11:1-4. Notice who is going to be leading the charge so to speak.

Isaiah 11:1. *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch ... (KJV)*

In just about every translation the translator capitalizes Branch.

1b) ... shall grow out of his roots:

2) And the spirit of the Lord [God Almighty] shall rest upon him ... (KJV)

We know that's Jesus Christ.

2b) ... the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;

3) And shall make him [Christ] of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4) But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he [Christ] shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (KJV)

Christ is going to be leading this and doing this. Now let's go to Revelation 19:11-14 looking forward from this day and see the fulfillment of this in a vision obviously because it hasn't happened yet. Notice the first thing. John says:

Revelation 19:11. *And I saw heaven opened ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine all of a sudden, whether it's in a vision or God just drew the curtain of this physical life away and all of a sudden you could see heaven above? Don't know exactly how that happened.

11b) ... and behold a white horse; and he [Christ] that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge (KJV)

It's the first time in the history or world that we're going to have righteous judgment, true judgment.

11 continued) ... and make war

12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (KJV)

Verse 8 identifies who they are, the saints that come with Jesus Christ.

8) And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (KJV)

He is in the lead with his eyes on fire and multiple crowns and God's people are riding on horses behind him. Can you imagine that, sitting on a horse following Jesus Christ? The horse is going where Christ is going and we're just kind of along for the ride I guess. What a time it's going to be. Continue in verse 15.

15) And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (KJV)

We have to understand this is not the way God wants to rule. This is not the way Christ wants to rule, but it is necessary. Christ is coming when God finally says okay, enough is enough. Evil has filled everything and now it's time to call a halt to this. He tells Christ now is the time. Christ gets on his horse and the saints get on their horses and watch out, as we say, Katie bar the door. Remember, Christ says nobody knows the time except my Father. We find that in Matthew 24:36.

Matthew 24:36. *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (KJV)*

Christ waits until the Father makes the decision; okay enough is enough. We've seen it for six thousand years. We need to bring this to a halt. Then He nods and guess what?

The sound of the shofar blows and Christ will bring war to this earth on a scale that has never happened before. That leads to the fifth point.

Point 5: Why will Christ bring war?

Christ talked about loving your neighbor as yourself, loving God with all of your heart, turning the other cheek, not returning evil for evil, forgiving your neighbor. Here we see Christ is on a horse with the saints and they're taking no prisoners. This is war on the grandest scale that has ever occurred. Why? Let's go to Jeremiah 4:1 and see why it has to happen. This is quoted out of the New King James Version, as it flows easier and makes more sense in that regard. God is speaking. Notice what He says. Look at what God wants.

Jeremiah 4:1. *"If you will return, O Israel," says the Lord, "Return to Me; and if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, then you shall not be moved. (NKJV)*

You won't be taken captive. You won't go into other lands and be slaves. Continue in verse 22.

22) "For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. ... (NKJV)

Do you remember what Christ said to the Jews? We talked about that last time from John 5:37.

John 5:37. *And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. (KJV)*

He was telling the Jews who were plotting to kill him. He said you don't have a clue about me. You don't know who I am. You've never heard God. You've never seen God. You don't know anything about God. Otherwise you wouldn't be planning to kill me. So, God is saying here, you don't know me folks. At the end of this age not many are going to know God.

Jeremiah 4:22b. *"They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." (NKJV)*

This tells us prior to Christ's return people will be wise and skilled at lying, deceiving and cheating. Look at almost any world leader today and you will see a liar, a cheater and somebody that takes things; money, property that does not belong to that leader. Look at any politician. To get where a politician is today in this country they have to lie. They have to cheat and they have to deceive. God has just had enough. Let's go to Hosea 8:1-4 out of the New International Version. God says they just don't have any knowledge of how to do good.

Hosea 8:1. *"Put the trumpet [shofar] to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law.*

2) Israel cries out to me, 'O our God, we acknowledge you!'" (NIV)

Yes, we put on our coins "one nation under God". We acknowledge God.

3) But Israel has rejected what is good; ... (NIV)

That is God's way, God's commandments. We see here that when Israel says Oh God, we acknowledge you and then they turn around and eliminate prayers to God in schools. Then they turn around and take plaques of the Ten Commandments off of state building, federal buildings and all of that. They pass laws that separate God from government. God has no place in our government. God has no authority in our government. God has no say in our government. The Ten Commandments don't lead us and guide us anymore. Notice the result.

3b) ... an enemy will pursue him. (NIV)

That happened to Israel and Judah over and over and over.

4) They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. ... (NIV)

Of course, when you reject God, God is not going to guide your choice of leaders. When you reject God and refuse to acknowledge Him and don't consult God in prayer and in fasting, He is not going to get involved. He is just going to say, okay you want this guy then you're going to have to reap the fruits of what you have done, whether it's an election or whatever.

4b) ... With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction. (NIV)

We know today that money, materialism and the things money can buy are the gods of the people today. Worship money, worship things, don't worship God.

Let me give you a short list of the sins of the United States and Canada and Australia and the United Kingdom are not far behind, also the rest of the world, because they follow sadly in our footsteps. There are more total crimes committed in the United States than any other nation in the world. You'd think that there would be some lawless nation somewhere that would have more crimes. That is not true. That is a fact. It is well documented. There are more reported murders in the United States than any other nation in the world. We have by far the most car thefts in the world, a magnitude of order. We have the highest rate of illegal drug use in the world. We have the highest

incarceration rate of any nation in the world. We have a greater prison population than any other nation; China, Russia, India. It boggles the mind. It is by a wide, wide margin. It isn't even close.

The U.S.A. has more people with mental disorders than any other nation. You could say well, we can identify mental disorders better than before, but it's by a wide margin. We have the highest percentage of women taking antidepressants. It's a percentage of population. We have more plastic surgeries performed in the United States by a huge margin than any other place in the world. I'm not saying somebody had an accident and needs plastic surgery. This is elective surgery to change somebody's appearance one way or another

We have the highest divorce rate in the world and the highest percent of single parent households. This is a percentage of the population. We produce more pornography than any nation in the world by far. We have more recorded rapes than any nation in the world by far. We have the highest pregnancy rate in the world as a percent of population. It is higher than any other nation. We have the highest sexually transmitted disease infections of any nation in the world. This is the one that gets me. I just grieve over this. America legally kills over a million babies a year. We've passed laws to say its okay. You can kill a living, breathing baby as it just comes out of the womb and get away with it.

America spends seven times more on the military than any other single nation. That number means that we spend more as one country than the combination of China and Russia and India and all of NATO put together. We export more weapons than any other nation in the world. We have conducted more nuclear tests than the rest of the world combined; more than Russia, France, England, and Israel combined. North Korea is trying to catch up, but they have a long, long way to go.

America also has more laws on the books than any nation on the planet. We have more lawyers per capita than any nation on the planet. America and Canada have legalized homosexuality. It's on the books to be voted on in Australia shortly. We have legalized what God says should not be done. America has the largest national debt in the history of the world. It is approaching nineteen trillion dollars. Think of that. We have the most mortgage debt in the world and the most credit card debt in the world.

Adding all of this up and I've just skimmed the cream off of the top does this sound like a nation that's following God, that has God's blessings, that God is smiling on this nation after all of this? You see, the trumpet is blowing and it is warning America. It is warning Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and the rest of the world, because the rest of the world follows in our footsteps. Look at the increasing rate of hurricanes, earthquakes, mass shootings, shootings in schools. Does this sound like a nation that has God's protection? People are going to find out real quick, if they haven't already that there's no place safe. You can go into a store. You can go into a school. You can

go into a library. You can go into a mall and you're not safe except for God looking after just a tiny few. The world is learning that.

You see, these are all warnings that all is not right. God is telling us if you open your eyes and look at it from His viewpoint that all is not right with the world. The point is this world cannot be repaired. It can't be remodeled. It can't be refurbished. You can't put a new coat of paint on it and have it work. It must be destroyed right down to the ground, to the foundation and rebuilt God's way. That is the only way. So, this day Christ is beginning that process of tearing it down and then later rebuilding it. Let's go to the sixth point. Now it comes home to us.

Point 6: There is a trumpet being blown today for God's people.

Let's look at the last three eras of God's church. These are the eras that are still alive at Christ's return. Let's go to Revelation 3:3, the Sardis era. Notice what it says. God is talking to the people of this era and we can learn from God's message to all of the eras.

***Revelation 3:3.** Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. (KJV)*

This is God talking to Christ's church. He said I am going to come upon you if you don't repent, if you don't turn. If you don't get serious about your calling, I'm going to come on you and you will be surprised. Look at verse 11 to the Philadelphia church.

11) Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast ... (KJV)

What is that? Well, we can understand that by the name. Philadelphia means love. He said you had better hold fast to your love.

11b) ... that no man take thy crown. (KJV)

If the love goes away, if the love diminishes from this era, then the crown can be gone. Christ says I am coming quickly. Verse 20 is to the Laodicean era.

20) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (KJV)

Remember the parable of the Ten Virgins. They all knew the bridegroom was coming. They all had their lamps lit. They all went out to meet him. Guess what happened? Five of them ran out of oil. The lamps were going out, but the other five went to the marriage supper. They went in and Christ shut the door. When the others who weren't paying attention, didn't plan, weren't exercising God's spirit, weren't studying as they should, weren't praying as they should finally woke up and maybe started to do what

they needed to do and maybe started exercising God's spirit a little bit. They went and tried to open the door and nothing happened. It wasn't moving. Then they started panicking and started pounding on the door. What did Christ say? He said, I never knew you. Go away. Get lost. We're having a marriage supper and you're not part of it. So, you see half didn't make it.

We should quake in our boots about that as Israel quaked before Mount Sinai when they heard the shofar, when we're told half don't make it. We have to make sure that we're the half that does make it. You see, in all cases the church was warned that Christ will come quickly and he will come when least expected. If we don't take that seriously, shame on us. That's what we're told. Therefore we need to prepare now. We can't wait until the last minute, because the five virgins that waited did not make it. Let's go to Isaiah 58:1. You see, God is doing this now. We don't hear a trumpet blast through the air, but if we read God's word, the warning is going out now.

Isaiah 58:1. Cry aloud, spare not ... (KJV)

God didn't spare the five that were knocking on the door.

1b) ... lift up thy voice like a trumpet [shofar], and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. (KJV)

We are told here that this warning is to show God's people. Who are God's people today? Let's go to 2 Corinthians 6:16. Who should be hearing the warning blast of the shofar? Normally we read this in a different context, but let's pay attention to the shofar and the warning blast.

2 Corinthians 6:16. And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God ... (KJV)

I am working on another sermon about who is the living God, that it is God Almighty.

16b) ... as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (KJV)

He is quoting here Ezekiel 37:27. So, the Old Testament and the New Testament are consistent. God says your body is the repository, the temple of where I am coming to dwell just like I came to dwell in the holy of holies back in the day. In the New Testament time there is no temple. There is no tabernacle. We are the temple and God and Jesus Christ come to live in us. God's people are those called by God and given to Jesus Christ today. Therefore, this warning that we read in Isaiah 58:1 applies to us today. The point I'm making is God's word cries out to us today. We don't hear an audible shofar, but the shofar is God's word. The shofar is God's mind coming into us and making us feel guilty when we've done something wrong or making us realize

that our mind is going in a place that is not right and we'd better shut it down and go in a different direction. The point is that God's word is telling us today that we'd better get right with Him or it will be too late.

Satan has an agenda for God's people. Let's go to Isaiah 59:1-2. This is Satan's agenda.

Isaiah 59:1. Behold, the Lord's [God Almighty's] hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
2) *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (KJV)*

Here's the deal. If Satan can provoke us to sin, then the result of that sin is a separation between us and God. That's exactly what Satan wants. He uses sin, thoughts of sin, emotions of sin, sin in front of our face to separate us from God Almighty. There has never been a time in the six thousand year history of this world where you can sin in just about any conceivable way by pressing a button on your computer and it is right there and you can see it. In some cases you can actually see it live while it's being played. It is just amazing. Satan uses all of this technology that man has built to have an instant access to sin and then the separation occurs. We, as God's people, have to be on high alert against that.

This happens slowly and imperceptibly over time. Satan is not stupid. If he threw that right in our face, we'd reject it, but it can happen very slowly in little bite sized chunks day after day, month after month, year after year.

Dr. John Court was a psychologist. I studied him years ago when I went to graduate school. I pulled out this quote from him. You've heard of this I know and it has been talked about before. "A frog was placed in cold water then the temperature was slowly and imperceptibly increased. Eventually the temperature reached the boiling yet the frog made no effort to escape. Because the change occurred so slowly, there was no recognition of the danger and the frog died making no attempt at self-preservation." That's a documentable fact. That's exactly what Satan does with us. You look back a hundred years and compare what is going on today. People would have been hung, run out of town, tarred and feathered by what is openly happening today in all facets of life, because our morals, the understanding of honesty and integrity and hard work, having an honest handshake agreement, all of that that was in place a hundred to a hundred and fifty years ago has just gone by the wayside. My point is it's taken year after year slowly, slowly, slowly and look what we have. We tolerate all manner of sin that should not be tolerated, even God's people.

It's a grievous error to believe that we have plenty of time left. Oh, I can change down the road or I can change next week or I can quit watching pornography tonight or I can quit lying at work to pad my resume or to get a promotion or whatever it might be. I'll

take care of it down the road. Look at the scriptures we've already read. Christ is going to come at a time when it is least expected. The warnings of the last three eras of the church tell us very clearly there is going to be a time when it's just too late. God says go and Christ goes. Those that aren't ready prior to that have not made the marriage supper, have not gone to the place of safety and look at the suffering. Let's go to Revelation 10:5-6. This tells us very plainly that there's going to be a time when it's too late. We don't know when that time is, because we could be dead tomorrow. We had better take seriously the blast of the shofar.

Revelation 10:5. *And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,
6) And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: (KJV)*

There is a time when God draws a line in the sand and says this is it. It's done. It's finished. The trumpet message is that we have to carefully, carefully keep God's law not just casually, not just when it feels good. Let's go to Matthew 23:23. We know the whole chapter is Christ railing on the Pharisees and on the Scribes. Christ is just nailing them.

Matthew 23:23. *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (KJV)*

What are our mint, anise and cumin, where they tithed on these little leaves of these herbs? Our mint, anise and cumin is keeping the Sabbath and keeping the holy days and their details. Our mint, anise and cumin is accurately tithing and doing so not casually, but accurately, not eating unclean foods and all of that. We all came out of that. That's in some ways the little herb leaves that the Scribes and Pharisees were counting.

What are our weightier matters of the law? We see here it is justice, mercy and faith. Our weightier matters of the law are always loving God with all of our heart, not some of the time, always loving our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, always forgiving and turning the other cheek, not returning evil for evil, not getting angry and trying to get back at people. Our weightier matters are getting our minds off of ourselves and turning our minds on others. How can I make my mate happy today? What can I do for him or her to show them that I love them in a way that they can perceive? What can I do to make God pleased and smile on me today? What can I learn in God's word that helps me be a better Christian? Those are our weightier matters and it comes every day and God is watching.

One of the big ones as we get closer to the end is always growing in the knowledge of God and Christ, getting to know them better, getting to understand who they are, getting to understand what is expected of us. Let's go to Hosea 6:6. Remember this scripture. When it's time to study, don't just read the Bible for five minutes and call it good, because it's not good.

Hosea 6:6. *For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; ... (KJV)*

Mercy is one of the weightier matters of the law. What is the other here, the big one?

6b) *... and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. (KJV)*

You think of all of the burnt offerings that were given by Israel over the millennia. God says you knowing me is more important than all of that. Now let's go to the New Testament in Ephesians 4:13. We're told we have to grow in the knowledge of God. Now here we're told that we have to grow in the knowledge of His son.

Ephesians 4:13. *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (KJV)*

Let me make this statement. If we don't study to increase our knowledge of who God is and who Christ is, how could we be like them if we don't know who they are. If we don't really study day by day, year by year so that our knowledge of who God is and who Christ is gets greater and greater, more accurate over time, how can we be like them if we don't know who they really are? We don't want to be like those described by Paul in Hebrews 5:12-14. Let's go there. I will quote this out of the New Living Translation. It makes more sense to us in this modern day. Paul is getting on the Hebrews and by extension us today.

Hebrews 5:12. *You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the scriptures. ... (NLT)*

So, there are things we have to learn about the scriptures. He's saying you're not doing that.

12b) *... You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food.*
13) *And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right. (KJV)*

That comes from studying God's word.

14) Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves ... (NLT)

Nobody does it for us. We have to train ourselves.

14b) ... to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right. (NLT)

Paul is saying look we need to be far beyond the basics. I find that when people call me and they're in trouble. You investigate it and ask a lot of questions; what's lead up to this. You find quite often that the trouble is caused by the fact that they're still on milk. They're still on the basics. Because of that they don't know God. They don't know Christ. They don't know God's word and the principals involved and they get themselves in trouble. They wonder what's going on. Where is God? The point is yes, where is God? God is not in your life. God is not in your mind. You're not exercising God's holy spirit.

You see, time is running out and God is blowing the trumpet for us. Let's go to Revelation 12:12. We see world conditions. There are flash points that could change our lives in a week, in a day.

***Revelation 12:12.** Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (KJV)*

There is no evidence today that Satan has been cast down, but there is plenty of evidence that God has loosened some restraint on Satan and allowed Satan to work in the minds of God's people as a test for us; attitudes, emotions, weird ideas, upsets, troubled marriages, all of that. It is a test for us to see if we will resist or we'll just go right along with Satan and separate us from God. If Satan being cast down is going to come quickly and if Satan's time is short, then our time is short and we have to realize that. The trumpet blast is a warning for us that time is running out.

What is the message of the Feast of Trumpets, this trumpet being blown? We know it's going to happen. Christ is coming.

Point 7: If we want to marry Him and we want to follow Him on those white horses someday, then we have to become like Him.

Christ is not going to marry a stranger. Christ is not going to marry somebody who has different values than he has. Christ is not going to marry somebody who behaves like Satan. Let's go to Ephesians 4:22-32 and see the process. The process is so simple in

concept. The problem is it's really hard, because it goes against our human nature and it goes against what Satan wants us to do.

Ephesians 4:22. *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man [our human flesh], which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*
23) *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*
24) *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)*

That is the goal. If this is your goal,

25) *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.*
26) *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (KJV)*

How many husbands and wives have gone to bed angry? This scripture says you can't do that, but it's done all too often.

27) *Neither give place to the devil. (KJV)*

When we go to bed angry or when we're doing these things in these verses, we are giving the devil a foothold, climbing the wall you get a foothold. That is exactly what's happening.

28) *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*
29) *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (KJV)*

Gossip doesn't administer grace to anybody. What it does is tears down. There is more gossip in the church today, I think, than at any time because the church is so divided and people are throwing rocks at each other.

30) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
31) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (KJV)*

Malice is the motivation to do somebody in. Here is what we have to do.

32) *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (KJV)*

We have to do this no matter what people do to us, no matter what is going on around us. We have to prepare ourselves to be the bride. That is the point of this seventh point. Turn to one closing scripture in Revelation 19:6-8. This is what we have to prepare for. We do so by becoming like the Father and like the Son.

Revelation 19:6. *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God [God Almighty] omnipotent reigneth.
7) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. (KJV)*

She did it. Each one of us must do it. Nobody's going to do it for us. Yes, the power of the holy spirit will help us, but it's up to us to do it.

8) And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (KJV)

We have to become righteous no matter what the world is doing, no matter what our neighbors are doing and even no matter what some of the people in God's church are doing. Let's heed the warning blast of the trumpet on this day. As a result of listening to this warning blast we need to renew our commitment to God that we made at baptism, to develop the mind of Christ, to develop the mind of God and be with Christ on this day. Then when we do that, we can have the joy of gladness at being spirit beings eternally with God and Christ.