

The Trumpet of Warning—Feast of Trumpets

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This is a special holy day because there are some unique aspects to this day that are present in no other. It's unique because it's the central holy day. There are three holy days before and three holy days after. Satan rules the earth during the first three—Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost—and the Feast of Trumpets marks the beginning of the removal of man's government and the establishment of God's government on this earth. God and Christ rule the earth from Trumpets onward: Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, Last Day. We're going to see today that the blast of the trumpet was used in Ancient Israel as a command and also as a warning. We're also going to see that that trumpet is a warning for us today, not just anciently for Israel but for us today. So the title of the sermon is:

The Trumpet of Warning

Point number one we'd like to make is:

1. The use of trumpets with Ancient Israel starts back one year after Israel crossed the Red Sea.

Israel used trumpets for the first time just one year after crossing the Red Sea. Let's go to Numbers chapter 9, verse 1. The context is the dedication of the tabernacle. Just to set the context we'll read verse 1 and then jump to verse 15, out of the King James.

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,*

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 [at evening time] there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.*

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

We've seen previously that God was in the cloud and this showed the very visual example of God being with Israel always. They could look at the cloud or look at the fire and know that God was there. Now let's go to the next chapter, Numbers 10, verse 1.

Numbers 10:1 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

2) *Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps. (KJV)*

Here the Hebrew word for trumpet is Strong's #2689, and the definition in Strong's is *a trumpet from its quavering note; the sound unique to a trumpet*. So these trumpets had a musical tone. Jamieson, Fausset & Brown's Commentary says that they were made of solid silver, they were straight trumpets, not curved as the ones used to worship Osiris in Egypt, and we see here in verses 1 and 2 that they're used to assemble the Israelites together or as a command to travel. It's hard for us to visualize this in our modern day but we have to remember that there were well over a million Israelites and there was no public address system, there were no cell phones, there was no social media, there was no e-mail, and they had to have a way to communicate to the whole camp, spread over a very large area. They needed a way to alert them to assemble or to cause them to move. Verse 3, from the New International Version.

- 3) *When both are sounded [both trumpets], the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting.*
- 4) *If only one is sounded, the leaders—the heads of the clans of Israel—are to assemble before you.*
- 5) *When a trumpet blast [this is different] is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out.*
- 6) *At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out.*
- 7) *To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the signal for setting out. (NIV)*

It's obvious here that there was a different sound blown through the trumpets to indicate either to move or to assemble so that everyone could know. Going on in verse 8, back to the King James.

- 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 [now this is not a time of war but on the feast days], 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)*

We see here that there was a different sound blown through the trumpet for war versus the one that was blown to indicate a celebration. The trumpet had several important communication functions to the nation of Israel. That leads to the second point.

2. Today is a day of blowing a different kind of trumpet, not a silver trumpet.

The Feast of Trumpets is unique in that it's a holy day, yes, but it is also a new moon. Beginning in the seventh month, the first day of the seventh month is also the beginning

of the fall holy days. So a lot of things are happening today. Israel was to blow a trumpet at every new moon. Let's go to Psalm 81:3. The whole camp, the whole nation would know that a new month had started when this trumpet was blown.

Psalm 81:3 *Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. (KJV)*

Here, the word *trumpet* is a different word. It is Strong's #7782 and it is *shophar*, which means *a horn for blowing*. Keep that thought in mind and let's go back to Leviticus 23 where we learn about this holy day. You can use as a reference Numbers 29:1; it says exactly the same thing, talking about keeping this very day. Our song leader has a shophar and I was hoping he was going to bring it today; I would like to show it to you. He will occasionally blow the thing—it will hurt your eardrums.

Leviticus 23:24 *Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. (KJV)*

The Revised Standard Version doesn't use the word *blowing*, it uses the word *blast*. "A blast of trumpets". If you look at an Interlinear Translation, there is no Hebrew word for trumpets. It's added by translators; it's not there. The word for that is translated "blowing" in the King James or "blast" in the Revised Standard; that is Strong's #8643, and in Hebrew it means *clamor, especially clanger of a trumpet, as an alarm*. The Expositor's Bible Commentary, volume 2, page 953 says:

The blowing of the trumpet on this feast is the blowing of the shophar, the ram's horn, rather than the silver trumpet of Numbers 10.

Then the Talmud talks about the fact that the sound from the shophar was like a blast or a shout; it was definitely not musical—not musical at all. So you have to ask the question, why did God command the shophar to be blown today rather than the silver trumpets? God has a reason, God doesn't do anything without a reason, so what is the reason? That leads to the third point we want to make today.

3. On this day, God and Christ are going to bring war.

This is a day of alarm, this is a day of warning. Let's go to Isaiah 11, verse 1. This is a prophecy about Jesus Christ and a prophecy about this day also. God and Christ are going to bring war this day.

Isaiah 11:1 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots [referring to Jesus Christ]:
2) And the spirit of the LORD [Jehovah, YHVH, God] shall rest upon him [referring to Christ], the spirit of wisdom [God's spirit is a spirit of wisdom] and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might [we know the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of power], the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

3) *And shall make him [referring to Jesus 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: (KJV)*

The clear implication is He will judge and reprove according to what His Father wants Him to do because Christ—remember—is here to do the will of His Father.

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)*

Let's see a prophecy talking directly about this day. Let's go to Revelation 19, verse 11. What a day this will be. Sometimes it seems far off yet it could be right around the corner, and what a time.

Revelation 19:11 [John says] *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge 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. [We know who that is.]*

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

Who are those armies? Let's go back to verse 7.

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.*

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)*

Think about that and the implication of that. Now let's go to 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)*

Christ is there to do the will of His Father. God instructs Him in what to do and sends Him, and He fulfills His Father's will as He always has. There is coming a time, this tells us, when God has finally had enough. Enough is enough, God is kind and patient and gentle, and forbearing and long suffering, but there comes a time as happened with Ancient Israel (we talked about that a while back), where God finally said, your abominations in My temple are so great, I'm going to leave, and He left. Here, the abominations are so great, God has to step in and say, enough is enough. Let's go to

Matthew 24:3 because when God has enough, He tells His Son, Jesus Christ, now is the time—it's time to go! To set the context we'll start in verse 3 of Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:3 *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (KJV)*

Christ goes on to a lengthy explanation but notice the timing, verse 36.

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

What Christ is saying: I don't know. The angels don't know. No man knows. The funny thing is, how many sermons have we heard over the years when somebody stands up and says, I've got it figured out, this is when it's going to happen. I've heard maybe a dozen, two dozen, over the years, where it was down to a specific date, day, year, and what does the Bible say? Christ says, I don't know, I'm waiting for word from My Father and once He gives Me that word, I'm getting on the horse and the army is with me and we're going to go do battle, but not until My Father tells me. The joyous thing is, on this day God is going to send Christ to make war and we're going to accompany Him. If you like cowboy movies and you see the calvary riding and everybody galloping along and all of that, this is something will make that pale in comparison—can you imagine the excitement of being with Christ at this time when the word goes out? That leads to the fourth point.

4. Why will Christ bring war?

We've hinted at it already in saying that God has had enough, but why will Christ bring war? Let's go to Jeremiah 4, verse 22. This is a direct quote from God. Jeremiah is just passing along what God says. God is condemning His people and yes, it applied back then but it also applies today.

Jeremiah 4:22 *For my people is foolish [or are foolish, notice this], they have not known me; (KJV)*

We're going to talk about that a little more as we go on. Israel said they worship God but God is saying, by your conduct, by your thoughts, by your actions, you don't know Me, you don't have a clue who I am. Reading out of the King James.

22 continued) ... *they are sottish* [that's a word not used commonly and the Hebrew means "silly" or "foolish"] *children, and they have none understanding: [notice this] they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. (KJV)*

They have gone so far from God, they have been taken by Satan, provoked by Satan, and moved so far away from God through their sins that they don't know God. They

don't know who He is. Today, they don't know who Christ is, don't know the relationship of God and Christ, don't know what They've done in the Old and New Testaments. Going on, it says they are wise and skilled—at what?—breaking God's law. They are very skilled at breaking God's law and do so in an intelligent manner, a knowing manner, and they are very wise and skilled both in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament—we talked about that last time—very skilled at turning from God to idols. Now let's go to Hosea 8, verse 1. We're going to see God speaking again. This applies directly to this day, of the blowing, the blast of the shophar.

Hosea 8:1 [God speaking] *Set the trumpet [the Hebrew word for trumpet is shophar] to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, [and who made the covenant with Ancient Israel? Acts 3 tells us it was God Almighty] and trespassed against my law [God's law].*

2) *Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. (KJV)*

And we have just found out that they don't know God at all—they think that they know God, but they don't.

3) *Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: (KJV)*

Let's stop here and apply it today. What are modern-day examples of Israel casting off what is good? How about banning prayer in schools? How about the Ten Commandments—any reference to the Ten Commandments—being removed from government offices, from state capitols in the name of separation of church and state? Remember that football coach who wanted to kneel on the field after the game was over? He wanted to thank God that everybody was safe, that nobody got hurt, and they fired him—typical. So we see here, Israel has cast off the thing that is good.

3 continued) *...the enemy shall pursue him.*

4) *They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, [again, idols to bow down to, but in this day and age, it's what money—silver and gold—can buy] that they may be cut off. (KJV)*

The fact is, today, the United States, the developed nations, and frankly all the world have rejected God. The Eastern religions, the Muslim religion, the Protestant and Catholic sects, the Orthodox sects—they all reject God and they worship a bunch of other things, but not God. Just to show you how bad it is, let me give you a short catalog of the sins of the United States. It's true for Canada, the UK, Australia, they're not far behind. I did this a number of years ago so I went back and brought it up to date, looking at new statistics.

This is the state of this country and the western world. The United States has more people with mental disorders than any other country in the world. Think about that. It has the highest divorce rate per capita in the world. America has the highest

percentage of one-person households in the world. Think about that and what that does to our children. America has the most car thefts in the world by a huge margin. America has the highest incarceration rate—people in jail per capita of population—and the largest prison population of the entire world by a large margin, far exceeding any other country and even taking population, as a percentage of population, it is the worst by far. There are more reported rapes in the United States each year than anywhere else in the world. There are more murders in the United States than anywhere else in the world. There are more total crimes of all kinds in the United States than anywhere else in the world. America has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the world by a huge margin—a huge margin. You would think we would know better.

You'd think with all the education available that we would know better but obviously the education is wrong education and it's not doing what it should. We also have the highest sexually transmitted disease rate in the industrialized world, by far. America produces more pornography than any other nation in the world—what a shame. By a far margin we do. This is the one that gets me the worst, is every year in the United States, we kill over a million babies through abortion—every year, a million babies. America leads the world in percentage of women taking antidepressants. Life is not fulfilling. That probably leads to this next statistic. There are more plastic surgeries performed in the United States than any place in the world by a huge amount. People are not happy, they're not satisfied. We have the highest rate of illegal drug use of any nation on the planet.

Then going to making war in the military, the United States spends seven times more on our military than any other nation. Compared to the next highest nation, we're seven times more. We wouldn't have to do that if we trusted in God but we trust in what we can manufacture. We spend more money on our military than China, Russia, Japan, India, and the rest of NATO combined. You put all those together and we, still—one country—spend more on the military and on making war than any other nation. We export more arms than any other country. So we're not just defending ourselves, you see. The U.S. has conducted more nuclear tests than the rest of the planet combined.

We spend more money on elections than anyone else does in the world by a huge margin. America has the most laws of any nation on the planet. We have more laws—we choke on our laws. Many of them are utterly ridiculous and there are a whole list of humorous things that are against the law but many of them also are ungodly. They are against God. America has the most lawyers per capita than any nation in the world.

Getting now to money, we have the largest mortgage debt and credit card debt in the world. China has billions of people but our mortgage debt and credit card debt exceeds all of China and all those billions. This is the scary thing that's going to bring us down: America has the largest national debt in the history of the world. We have a larger national debt today than when we financed World War II. Our national debt is in excess of 21 trillion dollars. That just boggles the mind. If you divide the total population of the United States into 21 trillion, each one of us owes over \$64,000 in debt. If you have a family of four, did you realize you're a quarter of a million dollars in debt—just your

family—in what is owed in this country. Now putting all this together, does this sound like a nation that's following God, that's relying on God, looking to God, asking God for help? Absolutely not.

The rest of the world sadly follows in America's steps. The trumpet is being blown as a warning to America. But America and the rest of the world are not listening. It has gotten so bad (and this is why there's going to come a time when God says enough is enough) that this world cannot be repaired. It can't be refurbished. It can't be like you'd repair an old car or make over an old car. It's way beyond that. This world must be destroyed completely and then rebuilt—that's the only way it can be changed. Christ, on this day, is going to begin that process. We will accompany Him in that process. Now let's bring it closer to home, the fifth point.

5. Trumpets were used as a warning from God to His people.

Not just a warning to the world, but trumpets were used as a warning from God to His people. Let's go to Exodus 19, verse 16. The context is Israel is now camped out at the base of Mount Sinai. I think you know what's going to happen. We're getting very close to the Ten Commandments here. Reading out of the King James as usual.

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)

The Hebrew word for *trumpet* here is shophar. I'm just speculating, but it must have been a spiritual shophar; it wasn't a physical blast coming out of that mountain, it was the blast of a shophar that God generated. [Clark's Commentary](#) says this:

The thunders, lightnings, etc., announced the coming, as they proclaimed the majesty, of God. Of the thunders and lightnings, and the deep, dark, dismal, electric cloud from which the thunders and lightnings proceeded, we can form a tolerable apprehension; but of the loud, long-sounding trumpet, we can scarcely form a conjecture. Such were the appearances and the noise that all the people in the camp trembled, and Moses himself was constrained to say, "I exceedingly fear and quake."

Paul quoted Moses as saying that in Hebrews 12:21; even Moses himself, his knees were shaking, his body was trembling, along with all of Israel.

17) And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. (KJV)

Yes, people can meet with God; yes, people can be in the presence of God. If you have any questions about that, we have a study paper on our website, [Who Was the God at Mount Sinai?](#) Going on in verse 18.

18) *And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: (KJV)*

Can you imagine? It would be something to see that, God's power and might and glory.

18 continued) *... and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. (KJV)*

An earthquake, because of God's presence.

19) *And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder ... (KJV)*

Imagine if you were an Israelite at the foot of the mountain, and you see this smoke coming out, and you see lightning and hear thunderings and the whole ground is shaking, and then all of a sudden you hear this shophar; it says it went on a very long time, and it got louder and louder and louder, and people started getting more scared and were quaking because God was showing them, don't mess around with Me—I've got more power than you can possibly imagine.

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

God can be heard, yes. The spiritual shophar got the people's attention in a big hurry and then God gave the Ten Commandments. God set the stage by this dramatic display of His power, and then He said, if you will do and keep these commandments, all will go well with you, I will bless you. But if you disobey Me, you're going to be cursed. This was emphasized by the shophar and the sound that was unimaginable. The Ten Commandments were given; now let's go to the next chapter, Exodus 20, and pick it up in verse 18 after the giving of the commandments.

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

They were so impressed with God's power and might, they didn't want to get too close. They didn't have the heart, we understand that. They went to Moses eventually and said, we don't want to hear God, it's too much. Why don't you talk to Him and then you bring us word and you can tell us what God says. The noise of the shophar was a warning to Ancient Israel about God's power and His might. It put the fear in them that they dare not disobey. As I said, they didn't have the heart.

As we know, they disobeyed, but they could never say, we weren't warned and we didn't see God's power. They could never say that after this day. That leads us to the sixth point.

6. God's people have a history of ignoring the trumpet warning.

We talked about that in a sermon not long ago. They have a history of rejecting God. They also have a history of ignoring God's warnings. God warned Ancient Israel over and over and over again. We could sit here for several hours and read scripture after scripture to that effect. Let's just go to Psalm 81; we were there earlier, we read verse 3 earlier, but this time we're just going to read verses 10 and 11. God is talking, just stating the facts about Israel, and the fact that they do not, have not, will not heed the trumpet warning.

Psalm 81:10 *I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt [God did it, Christ was there, they did it together, but God was always in the lead]: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. (KJV)*

In other words, I'll make life good for you, you'll have plenty to eat. But notice what Israel did in verse 11.

11) *But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. (KJV)*

They heard His voice, the people who were there at the base of Mount Sinai, and they wound up disobeying, they wound up falling down before idols made with their own hands. Now let's jump forward to the present day and let's be turning to Revelation 2 because Christ gives warning to three churches that are contemporary with all of us. These three churches exist at the time of the end. Revelation 2, verse 25; this is the letter to Thyatira.

Revelation 2:25 *But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. (KJV)*

So who knows, maybe there are remnants of Thyatira somewhere in the world today. Sardis—look at chapter 3, verse 3.

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)*

Remember Christ doesn't know the hour. He says, you're not going to know because I don't know, but if you don't watch, you're going to be in trouble. Then to Philadelphia, in verse 11 of chapter 3. Another warning:

Revelation 3:11 [Christ says] *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (KJV)*

He says it's going to happen fast, when you think not, we're told; that's when it's going to happen. Then finally, Laodicea—Revelation 3:20.

20) *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:* (KJV)

If we're part of the Laodicean era—we don't have to be Laodicean—but if we're part of the era, we have to ask ourselves, how is He knocking today? How is He banging on the door? How is He trying to get our attention?

20 continued) ... *if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him [the marriage supper], and he with me.* (KJV)

The fact is, we are in the Laodicean era. Christ says to the Laodicean era, I am knocking at the door, and it's up to us to figure out what the knock is and what He's trying to tell us. That's what we have to do, because we're not told specifically here. In all cases, Christ is saying, I am warning you, I will come quickly. I am going to come when you least expect it, and the fact is that the trumpet is being blown right now, for God's people. Think of the parable of the ten virgins—everybody was asleep; five woke up, but everybody was asleep. The fact is, we need to prepare now and we need to wake up now—all of us. I'm speaking of myself. Let's go to Isaiah 58, verse 1—God is speaking here, and yes, it applies during Isaiah's day but it applies to God's people down through all time.

Isaiah 58:1 *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet [the Hebrew word is shophar], and shew my people [God is saying, show the people I have called] their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.* (KJV)

We're spiritual Israel and Christ is knocking, God is lifting up His voice, and God is trying to show us our sins through His word. Who are God's people today? Just as a reminder—I know that we know—let's go to 2 Corinthians 6, verse 16. It's amazing that God's people down through the millennia have had a relationship with idols when they should have had a relationship with God Almighty. They just want to fall down and worship idols in some form or fashion. Notice what verse 16 says. Verse 16 could still be in the Old Testament.

2 Corinthians 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?* (KJV)

We know for a fact the ancient prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel—said that idols were erected and worshipped in the temple of God, and that's one reason why God had to leave. So here in the New Testament, we're being told the same thing.

16 continued) ... *for ye are the temple of the living God; [the living God is God Almighty; the church of God is God's church] as God hath said, I will dwell in them ...* (KJV)

Remember, Christ on His last evening, said, we will come and make our abode in you, referring to God and Himself.

16 continued) ... *and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* (KJV)

In the previous verse, Paul is asking the Corinthians, and by extension us today, what agreement do you have with idols? God is dwelling in you, so how on earth can you put something in front of God? How on earth can you set up an idol in your heart (which we talked about last time) in the center of your being—how can you do that? So this warning applies to us today, and all of the examples in the Old Testament of idolatry can be for our learning today. God's word cries out to us that we'd better get right with Him, we'd better put Him first in our lives and avoid any form of idolatry whatsoever.

The seventh and last point:

7. What is the specific trumpet warning for God's people today?

Let's look at a principle first in the Old Testament that tells us what we need to be worried about and concerned about. Let's go to Isaiah 59, verse 1. God is telling us, you're adversary, Satan, has an agenda for you, and I'm going to let you know what it is in advance so you can be on guard. So in essence, Isaiah 59 is a trumpet warning about Satan and his desires, his agenda, his motives, and his tactics.

Isaiah 59:1 *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.* (KJV)

You can't outrun God, you can't separate yourself totally from God, because God is always there and God will always hear you. There's only one way you could separate yourself from God; verse 2.

2) But your iniquities have separated between you [meaning God's people back then and God's people today] and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (KJV)

We've just read there's a time limit, and God says, I don't care how bad you cry to me, how you get on your knees and wail to me, oh save us; there comes a time when God will not hear—it's enough, it's over, it's finished. If Satan can provoke us to sin, then what that does is it builds a separation between us and God.

The longer we sin, the more deeply we sin, that chasm gets greater and greater between us and God, to the point God will say, okay, you've had time, you've read my word, you understand but you love sin more than you love Me. You love the pleasures of sin more than you love Me, so I'm just going to let you go your own way and then when you get in trouble and cry to Me, it's too late, sorry—I'm not going to hear you.

If Satan can provoke us to sin, then he separates us from God, but Satan is so smart and so cunning and so skillful, he doesn't do it all at once. He does it in little, bite-sized chunks over a period of time.

I went to graduate school to study psychology back in the '60s and there was a famous psychologist, Dr. John Court, who conducted a famous experiment that is often quoted today. Let me read from his writings. He says:

A frog was placed in cold water, then the temperature was slowly and imperceptibly increased. Eventually the temperature reached the boiling point, yet the frog made no effort to escape because the change occurred so slowly; there was no recognition of danger and the frog died making no attempt at self-preservation.

Because it happened so slowly and so gradually. That's exactly the way Satan operates. Let me give you an example. I remember back, I think it was 1951 or 1952, my parents bought our first television set. It was a console, a three by four screen—it was exciting for us kids, we were just thrilled. We finally set it up and we got excited just looking at the test pattern on the tube. The early shows were of cowboys and Indians, which we as kids liked, living in west Texas. You take that day—early '50s and the first TV programming—and compare it to today, to what we have today: extreme violence, sex of any type you can imagine, filthy language, evil of all kinds.

If you had taken that programming and shown it on a television set of 1951 or 1952 and you had broadcast that for fifteen or twenty minutes, what would be the reaction of the viewers? You would have a revolt in this country. The television sets would be out in the street, and people would be calling the networks and saying, how dare you put this stuff on for my children to watch. But since 1950 to today, little by little, inch by inch, bite by bite, look at where we are today. That is exactly how Satan operates in our lives. Get them to sin a little, just a touch, and then tomorrow, another touch, and then get them to think that this is okay, this isn't so bad, and then some more and some more, and over the years, over the decades, Satan can turn us from God.

Here's the situation though; in the past we've had time to repent. I came in the church in the '60s and was told Christ was going to return in '72—okay, we've got a few years—then we found out Christ didn't come in the '70s, didn't come in the '80s, okay, maybe I'll live out my life so I've got plenty of time. The urgency isn't there to change. We have time—we thought we'd have time to turn things around, so to speak, spiritually. Let me ask the question, are we sure that we have enough time today? Are we sure? Is it for a certainty that we have another five years or ten years or whatever? You see, the warnings to the last four eras of the church indicate there will be a time when it will be too late—just too late. Let's go to Revelation 10, verse 5. There's going to come a time when it's just too late, all over with—sorry, you had your chance.

Revelation 10:5 [John sees an angel] *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 [that's God Almighty], 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, [what did he say?] that there should be time no longer: (KJV)*

That is God's call, Christ said so. That's God's prerogative, Christ said so. Christ said, I don't know, My Father is the only one who knows, so that obviously refers to God in heaven, and for God in heaven, there comes a point in time when He says, there's no more time. Verse 7.

7) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he [God] hath declared to his servants the prophets. (KJV)

Hebrews 1:1, God in times past has spoken to us by the prophets. Today He speaks to us by Jesus Christ. So it tells us that God has been declaring this by the prophets for millennia and people don't listen. God has been blowing a trumpet to Ancient Israel, to the church today, and we don't want to follow in the footsteps of Ancient Israel because look where they wound up. Where we wind up will be eternal death. They will have their chance, most of them. This is our chance. We are having our chance right now. God warned Ancient Israel over and over and over and they refused to hear. He is warning the church right now and it's up to us whether we hear or whether we don't hear. What is the trumpet message? Let's go to John 17, verse 3. The trumpet message is, if you want eternal life you have to do certain things. You want eternal life, here's where you start.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (KJV)*

If this is life eternal, then we need to be spending our time knowing God and knowing Christ, knowing Their relationship, knowing Their roles, knowing Their titles, knowing what They've done, what the record of scripture shows about Them—that's where we start. In these last days, I firmly believe God is revealing a deeper understanding of who He is and who Christ is and it's like a shophar being blown. Do you want to listen or do you not want to listen? Do you want to learn more about Me or do you not? Are you comfortable where you are and don't want any waves made or anything like that? Don't want to look into the scripture to see that maybe we're wrong here or there? Do you just want to have a comfortable life or do you want to learn more about Me and My Son, Jesus Christ, so that you can have eternal life?

I believe God is revealing that to us, weak human beings that we are, in these end days. I believe God is saying to the church, I want you to know who I am, I want you to know what I am doing, I want you to know who My Son is, and I want you to know what He is doing and what We have done. And most importantly, God is saying, I want you to put Me first—nothing before Me. That's the litmus test.

If we want eternal life, we have to know God and we have to know Jesus Christ, and nothing comes before God. We've talked about that over and over and over. An additional trumpet message—that's the foundation, the core—we find in Matthew 23, verse 23. This is the additional trumpet message. Christ is here railing on the religious

leaders of His day. His message here, as we're going to see, is we must carefully, fully, keep God's law. Christ did not hold back.

Matthew 23:23 [Christ is speaking] *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, [tiny little herbs] and have omitted the weightier matters of the law [the King James says judgment; it's really justice, fairness, equity], judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.* (KJV)

So today what is our mint, anise and cummin? It's keeping the Sabbath and the holy days, what we're doing right now. It's accurately tithing, it's not eating unclean foods and all of that. It is studying and praying and fasting on a regular basis so we have direct contact with God. What are our weightier matters? Talked about that last time. What is the first commandment? Christ was asked directly, what's the first commandment? Always love God with all our being. Never put anything in front of Him. Then always love our neighbor. To the extent that we love ourselves, we should love our neighbors, getting our minds off of ourselves and on to serving others. Serving others with justice, mercy and faith, as Christ just said. What we want to avoid is becoming like those described by Paul in Hebrews, chapter 5; let's turn over there. Hebrews 5, verse 12; I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation. Paul is chiding them. He's saying, you're playing games here. You ought to be farther down the road than you are.

Hebrews 5:12 *You have been believers so long now [Paul says] that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. [A beginner must learn about the scriptures.] You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.*

13) *For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.*

14) *Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.* (NLT)

What Paul is saying is most of us have been in the church for decades, and all of us should be far beyond the basics. As I've said before, it took me only about thirty-five years to understand what love was in God's church. I always thought it was about obedience and discipline and ruling with a rod of iron, and finally I woke up one day and read what the Apostle John said, that if you want to live forever you should love the brethren—what a concept! It took only thirty, thirty-five years to realize that; it was there all the time. Sometimes we just get in a rut and we just can't or won't get out of it. We're happy with it. Time is running out, the trumpet is being blown. Let's go to Revelation 12, verse 12. We should be far beyond the basics. We should be delving into a greater, deeper, more extensive knowledge of who God is and who Christ is, what Their relationship is and what They've done, what Their titles are, why God scribed those titles to Himself and to His Son.

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)*

I'm not aware of any evidence at this moment in time that Satan has been cast down. You would think it would be a fairly dramatic thing. I don't know of any evidence, but that being said, I believe in these last days (and have plenty of evidence to support it) that God is allowing Satan greater freedoms to pressure and influence the minds of the firstfruits. I don't think there's any question about that. If we look in our own life, the pressure is greater. The influence is greater than it was a decade or two ago because Satan knows that time is getting short. No, he may not be cast down, but God, as a test for the firstfruits, I believe, has removed some bands of restraint around Satan and is letting him have greater freedom to start messing with us—messing with our minds, our emotions, our thoughts, our dreams and all of that. His goal, as Isaiah tells us, is to get us to sin, to get us to doubt God, to lack faith, to get us to get back in the world and to move us farther and farther away from God. Satan is going to be cast down. Is it tomorrow? We don't know. We're told right here that when he is cast down, it's going to happen quickly and if he has a short time, so do we. If Satan knows he has a short time until he is restrained, then we have a short time, too, to prove to God that we will put Him first. The trumpet blast is warning us that time is running out.

Now let's conclude. The trumpet message is that if we want to marry Christ and we want to accompany Him on this day, then we have to change ourselves to become like Him so He will marry us, and then we can accompany Him on this day. But Christ is not going to marry somebody who is different than He is. We understand that even in a physical marriage—you don't marry somebody who is nothing like you, with nothing in common. Christ is going to marry somebody who has His mind, and it's up to us to show God and Christ that we have Their minds through the Holy Spirit. We have to change to become like Them. One final scripture, Ephesians 4:22. This is what took me thirty-five years to learn—that we have to pay attention to the weightier matters of the law.

Ephesians 4:22 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (KJV)*

Meaning people think that they can lust and God winks at it, that God doesn't keep a record of it. That somehow God is off busy doing other things.

23) *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind [have a new mind];*

24) *And that ye put on the new man, [what is the new man?] which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)*

The new man is like God—thinks like God, acts like God, has the instincts like God.

25) *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. (KJV)*

All of us are going to be brothers and sisters in God's Kingdom.

26) *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

27) [Here's the big one] *Neither give place to the devil.* (KJV)

The Greek means "a foothold". Don't give him even a foothold.

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* [slander, lies, repeating of gossip—that goes on in the church today, it's just unbelievable], *but that which is good to the use of edifying* [it's uplifting], *that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

30) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption* [don't quench God's spirit].

31) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:* (KJV)

You see, malice is the motivation behind evil speaking. Malice is you want to do something bad to somebody, to bring somebody down, to make their life miserable. That's the malice part of evil speaking.

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

If we want God to forgive us, we have to forgive our brothers and sisters. Real simple concept but when the rubber meets the road, we either do it or we don't. God judges us and watches us to see if we are going to do what Paul is saying to us today through the church at Ephesus.

So let's take heed, today, God's trumpet warning blast to His people. Let's use this day to renew our commitment to develop the mind of God and the mind of Christ so that we can ride with Christ on this very day.