

The Trumpet of Warning

Rick Railston

Recorded on September 7, 2021

Paul Harvey was America's most beloved newscaster. He was born in 1918 and by 1951 he became the most listened to radio personality in the United States. He daily, reached 24 million Americans when the population of the United States was half of what it is today. He did so by being on 1600 radio stations every day and sometimes three times a day. He did so for seventy-six consecutive years, broadcasting over the radio until his last broadcast was the year in which he died in 2009. Paul Harvey, for those of you who remember him, was a master at using his voice to portray and get across a message. It's sad to say though that many Americans today have never heard of him. Particularly younger Americans—they've never heard of Paul Harvey.

In 1965—keep that date in mind—he broadcast a radio program title, "If I Were the Devil". I found a transcript of that and I'd like to read it for you. When you hear this, remember it was 1965 and contrast that with the way things are today. Quoting Paul Harvey:

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness [so you can tell he reads his Bible], I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. [Meaning each person that was listening.] So, I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve, "Do as you please."

To the young, I would whisper "The Bible is a myth". I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square. 'And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door. [1965]

“Within a decade I’d have prisons overflowing, I’d have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil, I’d make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

“If I were the devil I’d take from those who have, and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. What do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil, I’d just keep right on doing what he’s doing. Paul Harvey.

Good day!”

Today, some fifty-six years later, we see how prescient and accurate Paul Harvey was. It’s just amazing. With Paul Harvey’s message in mind, we come today to the Feast of Trumpets and there are some unique things about this Holy Day that are present in no other. Unique because it’s the central Holy Day. We have three Holy Days before and then three Holy Days afterward. We know that Satan’s rule on this earth exists during the first three Holy Days. Passover, first and last day of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. What Trumpets does—what this day does—is identify the beginning of the removal of man’s, and hence Satan’s, government and rule on this earth. The removal of the evil spoken of by Paul Harvey that we see all around us today.

“Trumpets” marks the establishment of our Father’s rule over the earth, from this Day of Trumpets on. During Atonement, during the Feast of Tabernacles and certainly during the Last Great Day. We are going to see also, that the use of a Trumpet is unique today and plays a critical function on this critical day. This leads to our title.

The Trumpet of Warning

We will have five points.

1. The Trumpet is a way that our Father communicates with His children.

For this first point, we need to get some background on the use of a trumpet. Numbers 9 is about the dedication of the Tabernacle which occurred a year after crossing the Red Sea. We’re going to begin at Numbers 10:1.

Numbers 10:1 And the LORD spoke to 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)

We have to remember that there were over a million people there, so obviously there were no PA systems, no cell phones, no emails, no texts. So there needed to be a way to alert the people to either assemble together or to move. They were headed to the Promised Land.

The Hebrew word for *trumpets* here is Strong's #2689 and it means “a trumpet from its quavering note”, meaning that these trumpets had a musical tone. Jameson, Faucet and Brown, in their commentary say that these trumpets were made from solid silver. They were straight trumpets—not like the curved trumpets that were used in Egypt to worship Osiris. God told Moses to make them straight.

3) When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

4) But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.

5) When you sound the advance [that was a different sound; we don't know exactly what it was], the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey.

6) When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys.

7) And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance. (KJV)

So obviously there was a different sound to gather together versus a sound to begin moving.

8) The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations.

9) When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.

10) Also in the day of your gladness [referring to Holy Days], in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God.” (KJV)

So, there were different sounds depending on whether they were going to war or it was a day of celebration. In this first point, we see that the trumpet had several important functions for Ancient Israel.

Now we come to the present day, point two.

2. Today, the Feast of Trumpets, is a day of blowing a different kind of trumpet.

Leviticus 23:24, talks about this very day, today.

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 Hebrew word for *blowing* is Strong's #8643 and Baker and Carpenter in their Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament says this: "It can refer to a noise or signal put out by an instrument." and then they quote Leviticus 23:24.

What that tells us is that this was not a musical note. The point is, there is no Hebrew word here for *trumpets*; it was added by the translators. There is just the word *blowing*. A memorial of blowing, a holy convocation. The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 2, page 953 says: "The blowing of the trumpet on this feast is the blowing of the shofar—a ram's horn" rather than the silver trumpets of Numbers 10, which we just read.

Tim was kind enough to bring us a ram's horn and this was what was blown—it's not a musical instrument. It does not make a musical tone; it makes a blast. I'm not going to embarrass myself today and try to blow it for you, but as you can imagine, you don't play a melody on this ram's horn.

The Talmud tells us that the sound was like a blast or a shout. It was definitely not musical. That's why the Revised Standard Version translates Leviticus 23:24 as:

A memorial proclaimed with a blast. (RSV)

We have to ask the question, why would God command that the shofar be blown on this day rather than one of the silver trumpets that he instructed Aaron to make? Why is that? That leads us to the third point.

3. On this day, our Father and His Son are going to bring war.

With that point in mind, we will go to Jeremiah 4:19. If you heard an alarm for war, the human response would be for your stomach to tighten up, and as we used to say in the Air Force, "Your pucker factor would go up a little bit."

Jeremiah 4:19 *My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me [probably because it's beating very hard and fast]; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the [the Hebrew word is *shofar*, the sound of the shofar, the blast of the shofar] trumpet, the alarm of war.* (KJV)

Verse 20 from the NIV.

20) Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment. (KJV)

When I read this, I can't help but think of what Christ said in Matthew.

"If you're out in the fields, don't go back home and try to get your stuff, if you're on the rooftop, don't go downstairs and try to gather your stuff—get out."

21) How long must I see the battle standard and hear the sound of the trumpet? (KJV)

This is an alarm of war. Back to Isaiah 11:1. We could spend hours going over all the scriptures that are applicable. But we'll look at a second scripture in the Old Testament,

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:
2) And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; (KJV)*

All accounts acknowledge the fact that this refers to Jesus Christ of course.

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

Some people think that Christ is just love and sweetness and kindness. No matter what you do, He'll just embrace you as long as you love Him and everything is fine. This tells a different story. With the breath of his lips, He is going to slay the wicked.

In the New Testament, Revelation 16:12 is talking about this time and about war coming.

Revelation 16:12 *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.
13) And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
14) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. (KJV)*

This is a huge battle. We see that the world is going to fight the return of the Father and His Son. They aren't going to welcome it; they are going to fight it. Growing up in the '40's and in the '50's, there were a lot of movies, television shows, early TV and certainly science fiction books about aliens attacking from outer space. Knowing what we know, you just wonder if Satan didn't start planting these seeds decades ago so that there is a possibility of aliens coming from outer space. Could it be that Satan the devil will convince the world that that is what is happening and we have to arm ourselves and fight against this alien invasion? It is just a possibility.

Now let's go to Revelation 17:14.

Revelation 17:14 *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings [Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings of this earth; He's not Lord of lords and King of kings over His Father]: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (KJV)*

Who could that be? It has to be the Firstfruits. So, we see here that we have a part to play in this day. We don't know how it's all going to come to pass and what instructions are going to be given and exactly what we're going to be doing, but the Firstfruits have a definite part to play in this day.

Revelation 19:11 is talking about the Father and His Son bringing war to this earth.

Revelation 19:11 *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 [King of kings, Lord of lords]; 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)

Seems to me that's a description of the saints in verse 8.

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 see that where rebellion exists, rule by a rod exists. During the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, we are going to talk about us and if we rule with a rod of iron or might we rule with something else. But here we see, Christ rules with a rod of iron when He finds rebellion. There is coming a time when the Almighty has finally had enough—He says “enough is enough”. It reminds me that in 2 Chronicles 36, there was a time for Judah as the Old Testament describes it, “there was no remedy”. The Temple was

destroyed and we know all of that—there was no remedy. In this case, today, in the future, there is a coming a time when there is just no remedy. You can't preach the gospel, you can't beg, you can't plead, you can't encourage—there is a time when our Father says to the Son, "It's time!" Remember in Matthew 24 where Christ said

"Of that day and that hour knows no man, not
even the angels in heaven, but My Father only."

There is coming a time when world conditions get to a point, just like there was a time in Noah's day when conditions got to a certain point and the Father let loose the rain. There is going to be a time in the future (the way the world is going, it seems like it's not that far off) when the Father tells His Son, it's time for us to go and these events start.

One day, probably soon, the Father and His Son will bring war and that is why the shofar is necessary. It's not to play a melody, it is a blast of warning.

That leads us to the fourth point.

4. Why is it necessary for the Father and the Son to bring war?

That's a question we should be able to ask and answer. Why is it necessary for the Father and the Son to bring war to the earth that the Father created in the first place? Why is that? For an answer, let's go to Jeremiah 4:22, just one verse. Jeremiah is quoting Yehovah directly. The Bible is the only book I know of that quotes the Creator of the universe, the Almighty God, directly. This is one of those instances. Notice what God Almighty says in the New King James Version.

Jeremiah 4:22 *For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge.*" (NKJV)

Just as Paul Harvey predicted what would happen. Hosea 8:1 is also talking about this very time. Hosea is telling us of a time when the shofar will be blown.

Hosea 8:1 *Set the shofar to your mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.*

2) *Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know You.*

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

Ancient Israel turned to idols—we know that—over and over. Today, *casting off* the things that are good. What have we done? We have removed prayer in schools, we've removed the Ten Commandments from State houses and from Congress and we are building, very rapidly, a secular society—a Godless society—where any reference to the Father or the Son is looked at with scorn. It is sad to say that anybody who says otherwise, is old fashioned or out of touch and not educated.

3 continued) ... the enemy shall pursue him. (KJV)

Guess who just retreated from Afghanistan after twenty years?

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, that they may be cut off.* (KJV)

The Father allows us to choose our own leaders and we suffer the consequences. Money and power are indeed the gods of this world. When a country rejects the Almighty and this country has, look what happens. Let me just list a very short catalogue of sins of the United States—Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and the Western world is not far behind us; the rest of the world is not far behind us—but let's focus on the United States which was once a beacon of freedom and a beacon for people who could start a new life and make their own way.

The United States has:

The highest divorce rate in the world by a considerable margin.

We have the highest percentage of one person households—most of them being women, but some men—but the highest percentage in the world.

We have the highest teen pregnancy rate in the world, by a huge margin.

We have the highest rate of sexually transmitted diseases in the industrial world.

America produces more pornography than any other nation in the world; remember what Paul Harvey said.

We have more people with mental disorders than any nation in the world.

We have the most car thefts of any nation in the world.

We have the most reported rapes than anywhere in the world.

We have the most reported murders than any nation in the world.

We have the highest rate of drug use per capita of any nation on this planet. There are more total crimes reported in the United States than any other place in the world.

As a result of that—most reported crimes—we have the highest incarceration rate by population, of any nation in the world.

We have the largest prison population by a wide margin of any nation in the world.

Then, the thing that gets to me the most of all the catalog of the sins of this country is, we kill over one million little babies every year through abortion; totally legal. We kill over a million human lives a year and we call it good.

We have the largest national debt in the history of the world. Last time I checked was September 3 and as of that date our national debt is in excess of \$28 trillion and we are adding a million dollars in national debt every twenty seconds; think about that.

We have the highest mortgage and credit card debt of any nation in the world.

Then just recently, we have had this embarrassing, inept pull out, out of Afghanistan.

I could spend the rest of the time frothing over this—it just rankles me. Leaving behind those who committed their lives to the U.S. Also, leaving behind the names and addresses of those very people, even their finger prints, even their retinal scans—we left those behind. Who would do that?

Let me ask the question: Does this sound like a nation following God Almighty? Of course not. As a result of the direction of this country, we're suffering the consequences. It's no secret right now, certainly in the West, but of the lower forty-eight States, 47% of the lower forty-eight States are in an unprecedented drought. In part, based on that, we have unprecedented wild fires. In 2018-2020, over 23 million acres were burned. This year, we are 50% ahead of last year. When we left the house today, a beautiful fall day, sun out with clear skies but we had 1/4-mile visibility because of the smoke from the wildfires. It got better coming down this way but it's ruined our fall, if you like clear, crisp fall days, but you can't take a deep breath without starting to cough. Then we have hurricanes, as we know, floods, as we know, tornadoes, as we know, unprecedented damage in the South—Louisiana and up the East coast, New Jersey. The blessings of the Almighty have been removed; they have simply been removed. The fact is, the trumpet is being blown today, warning America and the world but they are not listening. They just aren't listening. God is shaking this world with all of these troubles and allowing the U.S. to dive into the cesspool of our own making and we just don't get it. Give me my football, give me my good food and let me watch TV and I'll be okay. The trumpet is being blown but we are not listening.

The fact is, this country and the world cannot be repaired, it must be destroyed and then completely rebuilt. That is what we are looking at this day, because the Father and the Son are going to begin that process on this very day.

That brings us to the fifth and last point.

5. The trumpets are a warning from the Almighty to His people.

Not just to the world, but to us. Trumpets are a warning from Almighty God to His children, to His people. In Exodus 19 we see His Old Testament children and what

happened. We are breaking into the story; Israel is at the base of Mount Sinai and there is going to be a shofar sounding this day—described in Exodus 19:16.

Exodus 19:16 *And it came to pass on the third day in the morning [put yourself at the foot of Mount Sinai], that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and [the King James says] the voice [the Hebrew can be translated “the sound”] of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. (KJV)*

The Hebrew for *trumpet* is Strong's #7782, it is “shofar” and what we are describing here is a “spiritual shofar”. A physical trumpet couldn't do what is going to be described.

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.

18) And mount Sinai [picture this] was altogether on a smoke [just smoke boiling like Mount Saint Helens was boiling when it blew], 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)

Earthquakes, shaking the ground—you can imagine what it was like to be an Israelite then.

19) And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long

[this was a spiritual trumpet; can you imagine you're out in the plains around Mount Sinai and it gets louder and louder and the earth is shaking and the mountain is on fire and smoking?],

and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. (KJV)

Now let's stop here and let me read from Clark's Commentary.

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.

Clark's commentary mentioned Hebrews 12:21, quoting Moses saying,

“I feared and quaked as a human being standing in front of the power of God Almighty.”

We see that the shofar definitely got Israel's attention that day.

Then Yehovah gave them the Ten Commandments. Now to the next chapter, 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)*

Because they were scared to death. The noise of the shofar was the warning to Ancient Israel, of Yehovah's power and might and the fact that that power should be respected and that might should be honored. We should do so as His people today.

Now let's jump from that time to the present day and notice there is a trumpet being blown for God's people right now—a trumpet of warning. Let's notice Christ's warning for the last four eras of the church in Revelation 2. These last four eras tell us that the last four eras will be extant at the time of the Father and the Son's return. Otherwise, why mention it? This is to the church at Thyatira or the Thyatiran era of the church.

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

So, He will come during this era of the church. The other three eras are not mentioned in this manner. Now look at chapter 3, talking about the Sardis era—Revelation 3:3.

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

That's the Sardis era of the church. Now let's look at the Philadelphia era in verse 11, again a warning.

11) Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man takes thy crown. (KJV)

A warning to the Philadelphia era of the church. Then, finally, Laodicea in verse 20.

20) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock [that tells us this is the last era of the church, Christ is standing at our door and is knocking right now]: if any man hear my voice, and open the door [if we allow Jesus Christ and His Father to come into our lives], I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21) To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (KJV)

Now comes the warning in verse 22.

22) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
(KJV)

In all cases, we are warned that Christ and His Father are going to come quickly when we least expect it. We have to remember that. Therefore, we have to be ready now because we don't know when it's going to be. With that in mind let's go to Isaiah 58:1. This is an Old Testament scripture that looks forward to our day. It applies to God's children at all times.

Isaiah 58:1 *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.* (KJV)

That's what Isaiah did in his day. But who are God's people today? It says, "My people"; who are "My people" today? Let's go to 2 Corinthians 6:16, just as a reminder—we know who God's people are. Paul is writing to tell us this fact. Paul had to remind them in his day—certainly the church at Corinth—who God's people are.

2 Corinthians 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? [Idol worship was all through Corinth] for ye are the temple of the living God;* (KJV)

We know, and we have sermons and transcripts, Who the living God is and it's the Father.

16 continued) ... 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)

Just as Isaiah said in Chapter 58:1. This principle applies to us today. We are our Father's people and our Father's Word cries out to us and the lesson there, is we have to get close to our Father and we have to be right with our Father and His Son. We can't be at cross purposes with God Almighty—that just doesn't work. We have to be in harmony with God and His Son. The problem is, Satan has an agenda to stop that from happening. As Paul Harvey pointed out, he has been very successful in the world, in the nation, apart from those God is directly dealing with. Let's go to Isaiah 59:1 now. This tells us what Satan's agenda is. This is a fact and Satan will play on this fact.

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

Our Father is a Spirit, He can hear and know all things.

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

Here's Satan's agenda; if Satan can provoke us to sin, then he can separate us from our Father. We just read that sin separates us. So, if he can work on us—work on our

mind, work on our emotions—and get us to sin, even thinking we are doing something right, then over time he will separate us from God Almighty, our Father. He does it slowly, he does it imperceptibly over time. It's like the famous study that Dr. John Court who is a psychologist—you're all aware of it—he placed a frog in cold water and gradually increased the heat so slowly that it was beyond the threshold of the frog to perceive that the heat was being increased. So, it was imperceptibly increased over time and eventually the water temperature reached the boiling point and the frog just sat there and made no effort at all to escape. Because the change occurred so slowly, there was no recognition on the frog's part of the danger involved. The frog died, making no attempt at all of self-preservation.

Satan is attempting to do the same thing with us. Look back at what the United States was like in the '40's, '30's, '50's, compared to the way it is today. It didn't happen overnight, it happened in bite sized chunks, day after day, week after week, year after year. What we tolerate today, you would have had riots in the streets, sixty, seventy, eighty years ago. If you put on the radio or in movies, back in the '20's and '30's what we put in movies today, people would be demanding the heads of the owner of the movie theaters. It would be unthinkable; it would be intolerable. But little bite sized chunks over a period of time and look where we are today. We are in the midst of it and we can't allow it to come in contact with us.

In the past—I came into the church in the mid '60's—you could say, even though it was taught at the time it would all be over in the mid '70's, you think, “I have ten years to repent and change my ways” Then when we found out it wasn't coming in the 1970's (I never thought it would, but that was just me), the fact is, when it didn't come in the '70's it was easy to relax and say “It's not bad enough yet, so we have time. We can do our thing.” I remember several people saying, “I'll just repent as it gets closer to the end”. It doesn't work that way. We think, “I've got time to turn things around, turn my life around”. But today, given what's going on today, how much time do we have left? Can any of us say that it's going to be a long time; a decade, two or three? I don't think we can say that anymore.

The warnings to the last four eras of the church indicate that there is going to be a time to come when it will be too late; you won't have time to repent and change. Look at Revelation 10:5.

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 [referring to the Father] 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 coming a time when that angel lifts its hands to heaven and the Father pronounces there is no more time.

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 hath declared to his servants the prophets. (KJV)

The trumpet message for us today is that we must come to know our Father and fully and completely and carefully keep His law. We have to demonstrate to our Father, by our thoughts, deeds and words, that we want to keep His law perfectly. Let's go to Matthew 23:23; as you know, in Matthew 23, Christ is on a rampage against the religious leaders of His day—the Pharisees and the Scribes. Notice what He said; it applies to us very much today.

Matthew 23:23 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin [they were very careful about that], 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)*

Today, what is our mint, anise and cumin? It's keeping the Sabbath, keeping the holy days, accurately tithing, not eating unclean foods. But today, what are our weightier matters of the law? Always putting the Father first. Always loving the Father and His Son with all our being. Not just mouthing the words but loving them with all our being. Then, always loving our neighbor; even our enemies. Even those who hate us. Loving our neighbor. Getting our minds off of ourselves and serving other people. Our brothers and sisters in the church and our next-door neighbors. Then, practising with them, justice, mercy and faith. As we get closer to the end, faith—simple trust in God—is going to be increasingly important as the world falls down around our knees.

We don't want to be like those described in the book of Hebrews. We'll begin in Hebrews 5:12. There's debate about who the author really is, but we won't get into that. The author of Hebrews is talking about Israelite Christians. This is out of the NLT.

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 about God's word. [He's talking to Jews; He's talking to Hebrews] 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)

At this time in our lives, we should be well beyond the basics and looking at ourselves, comparing ourselves to the life Christ led, noticing the difference and start making some changes. Today, time is running out. There is a time—we don't know when it is, some think it's already happened, nobody knows for sure, but time is running out and a trumpet is being blown.

Revelation 12:12 [It's a Holy Day] *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)

When Satan has a short time, by definition we have a short time. Not much time left. Has Satan come down? No one knows for a certainty but if you look back over the last few years, there has been a definite change. I'm not saying Satan has come down but it's very clear, God Almighty has reduced the bands of restraint upon Satan and look at the world today compared to two or three years ago. It's accelerating in a downward slide much more quickly. Our Father is allowing Satan greater freedom to turn the world into chaos and allowing him greater freedom to negatively influence us—the minds of the Firstfruits—as a test for each one of us. Will we give in or will we fight? Will we do what Christ did after the forty days in the wilderness where Satan tempted him and He said, "Get behind Me Satan, I don't want to have anything to do with you." Will we do that or will we cuddle up to it. Satan's "coming down" will come quickly and when that happens, not much time left for him and for us.

So, the trumpet blast is a warning for us that this day symbolizes a time and we can look around us now and see the time is upon us, that the trumpet blast is telling us that time is short; time is running out.

Let's conclude now and summarize. As Paul Harvey so aptly predicted fifty-six years ago, the state of this country and frankly the state of the world, all of us here in God's church earnestly yearn to see all forms of evil eradicated. We can't wait for the day when the table will be swept clean and evil will be eradicated. Our Father's Government replaces man's government which is Satan's government. We yearn for the time when love is going to replace hate. Where our Father will be worshipped in spirit and truth. Today symbolizes the start of that period of time. The trumpet message for us, as we've seen, is we are going to have a part to play in this day; spirit beings will have a part to play; the Firstfruits will have a part to play. If we want to be there as spirit beings and play our part then we have to change now and become like the Father and His Son. Ephesians 4:22 tells us what we must be doing and proving to our Father that we will indeed do this and overcome the human nature that lies in us and overcome the provocations of Satan, the evil one.

Ephesians 4:22 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation [which we had on before conversion and frankly, that we had yesterday] the old man, 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)

Righteousness and holiness—that's what we want to be.

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

The church used to look down on unconverted people. No; we are all brothers and sisters; we are all part of the commonwealth of the people created by God Almighty; we are members one of another. I just grieve for those in Afghanistan, the ones who were hanging on to the airplane as it left the ground. Or the ones today, if you look at the news reels and the pictures on television of those little children—four, five, six years old—and they are scared to death. You just grieve over that and want it to stop.

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

Get it solved, get it worked out.

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

Isaiah told us, sin separates and if he can get us to sin, if we give him a place, he will separate us from God Almighty.

28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs.

29) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, [we've all seen that and we've all allowed it to happen to us] but that which is good to the use of edifying, 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.

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 behind all that; it means to do evil to another person.

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

We all need to heed our Father's trumpet warning blast to His people today. We need to use this day, because it pictures that things are wrapping up and we don't want to be on the receiving end of what is going to take place today. This should cause us to renew our commitment to know the Father and His Son and to develop the mind of His Son—the mind of Christ—so we can be present as spirit beings on this day. So, let's take the time we have remaining—we don't know how long it is, but it's looking to be shorter than before—to prepare ourselves for that glorious day.