

Trumpets, A Day of War, A Day of Joy

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Gordon turned to Leviticus 23:23; let's do that together. Yehovah is speaking directly to Moses and we can take comfort that these words come directly from the mouth of God Almighty.

Leviticus 23:23 *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 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)*

This is the first day of the seventh month. Normally, each month was announced by the blowing of a long silver trumpet. You can find that in Numbers 10. This day was different. Let me read from The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 2, page 953:

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

The Talmud tells us—if you've ever heard a shofar blown—the sound was a like a blast or a shout. In other words, it was not a musical note. The Jewish Publication Societies translation of verse 24—a 1917 edition—says:

A memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation.

As Gordon pointed out, the word for, *of blowing of trumpets* in the King James, is just one Hebrew word. It's Strong's #8643, *teruah*. It means "a shout, a blast of war, an alarm" but then it also means "joy". Two very different meanings and two polar opposite meanings.

What is Yehovah trying to tell us about this time, when the word He used for *the blowing of trumpets* is something scary—an alarm or a blast for war? Yet at the same time it can mean "joy". What is He trying to get across to us when He commanded a shofar to be blown and not a silver trumpet? What is He trying to get us to understand when the Hebrew word has two totally different meanings. One is a "battle cry" and the other is a "cry of joy". Why does that occur on the same day? Let's remember what has happened on this day, on this Feast of Trumpets and look into that and see why it's an "alarm of war" and yet a "time of joy". Remember the events of Trumpets do not occur on one day. It happens over an extended period of time in its real fulfillment.

The title of the sermon is:

Trumpets, A Day of War, A Day of Joy

I'm going to cover this with four different points.

1, Why is the Feast of Trumpets a time of war?

The fact is, establishing our Father's rule on earth will result in war because the people on the earth will rebel and will blaspheme the return of the Father and His Son. The only way for mankind to come to the knowledge of the Father and His Son, the only way for our Father to establish His rule on this earth is through war. They will not repent and they will not take to His return kindly. They will be inspired by Satan, inspired by the beast, to rebel against the Father and His Son when They come to this earth. Let's go to Revelation 16:1. Everything will be out of the King James unless otherwise noted. I'm going to read this between the New King James and the King James.

Revelation 16:1 *And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2) And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. (KJV)*

We see that some kind of disease—a sore—is coming on those who worship the beast and are rebelling against our Father and His Son's return.

3) And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. 4) And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. (KJV)

We have to ask the question, why blood? Why would our Father choose that this day?

6) for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." (NIV)

I would assume that coming out of the faucets of the most advanced nations or the rivers of the third world countries, is blood. This is a reminder of what they and their rebellion down through the centuries have done to God's people and the prophets. They have shed their blood. By their conduct, they deserve Yehovah's vengeance for what they have done to His children over the years. The Almighty God is rubbing their nose in their own blood. I remember we got a little puppy when I was six years old and it wasn't house broken. One of the ways you trained it was when it urinated on the floor you would take it and rub its nose in the urine. Pretty quickly the little dog learns not to do that. Our Father is doing the same thing. You shed the blood of the prophets; I'm going to rub your noses in your own blood. I'm going to rub your nose in the blood that comes out of your faucets. I'm going to rub your nose in your rivers, lakes, and ponds because they are blood now and I want you to understand what you've done to my children.

7) And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

8) Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. (NKJV)

Think about that; *scorch men with fire*. If you can imagine somebody lost in the desert, crossing the wilderness, coming across on wagon trains, getting separated and being lost in the desert—scorching men with fire has happened in the history of the United States. But this is different—much, much worse.

9) And men were scorched with great heat [and did they repent and change? No], and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. (NKJV)

They were so perverted that even though they were suffering the pain of being scorched—think about that—yet what was their reaction? They blasphemed the name of God. They would not give Him glory. It shows you how embedded the resentment and the bitterness of mankind is. Going on in Revelation 16:8.

8) Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

9) And men were scorched with great heat and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; [If they had repented our Father would have ratcheted the heat but they wouldn't repent] and they did not repent and give Him glory. (NKJV)

10) And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain ... (KJV)

This is obviously more than just darkness. There is something associated with the darkness that would cause mankind pain.

11) And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. (KJV)

So were there more sores added during the time of darkness? We don't know. They were in pain; they were in blackness and you'd think they would get the message but they don't; they don't repent. They just will not worship, they will not fall down before the Almighty, they will not recognize His supremacy. Going on in verse 13.

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)

Not only the rulers, but the people are provoked to gather together to oppose the Father and His Son coming to rule on the earth on this day. We see it is the battle of God Almighty. It's the Father's battle. We're going to see that His Son is right beside Him but it's the Father's battle and He is here taking the lead. It is the great day of the Lord God Almighty. Jesus will be right beside Him doing His Father's will. Let's go to Isaiah 11:1. We'll skip through the first several verses. Referring to Jesus Christ in prophecy.

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;

3) And shall make him 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 shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (KJV)

The NLT says, *one breath from His mouth will destroy the wicked*—the power of the very Son of God. We see this prophecy; Jesus is fully involved in this day. He is saying, you mess with My Father, you mess with Me. You rebel against My Father, you're messing with Me and I'm going to take care of you by doing My Father's will.

Now let's go to Revelation 19:11-15.

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; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. (KJV)

It could only be Jesus Christ who has a crown on His head—many crowns, meaning a crown of many nations, He's the head of many nations, the King of many nations.

13) And he was clothed with a vesture [the Greek means a garment or a robe] dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. (KJV)

So we know who this is.

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

Wonder who that could be? I don't want to take that tangent off, but it's obviously the Firstfruits.

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

Jesus Christ is a servant of His Father. He is executing His Father's judgment and wrath on those who oppose His Father. When humans rebel against Almighty God, when they blaspheme Almighty God, He spans very hard. Of course, it's a lesson for us today, as His children, we need to be very careful about that. We need to show Him reverence and awe. We need to submit to Him. The Father and the Son are here together on this very day. Let's go back to Revelation 6:14-17.

Revelation 6:14 *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

15) And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; (KJV)

Pretty bad times when you think about that.

16) And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: (KJV)

We just read that the Lamb is executing the wrath of the Father. The Father is on the throne but man will not submit. They want to hide from God Almighty, they don't want to fall down and worship Him; they want to hide, they don't want anything to do with Him.

17) For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (KJV)

Nobody will be able to stand. We see here that the Father and the Son are working together during this time. Why will Yehovah bring war? Let's go back to Jeremiah 4. Gordon quoted this, but in this context let's go back there. Jeremiah 4:22, Yehovah is speaking.

Jeremiah 4:22 *For my people is foolish, they have not known me; [they claim to know the Father but they really don't understand Him] they are sottish children [the New King James says they are silly children], and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. (KJV)*

This is the legacy of Ancient Israel. This is what they leave. They ran to do evil, they were wise to do evil but to follow Yehovah in a consistent manner, they didn't have the heart to do that. That sounds exactly like the world today.

With that in mind let's go to Hosea 8:1-4.

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

This is what Israel continually did.

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

Sure, in times of trouble they say, “We know you.” and “Please help us.” but when they weren’t under pressure, they were wise to do evil as we just read.

3) Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him. (KJV)

This is the legacy of Ancient Israel, as we said before. In verse 3 we see that they have cast off what is good. What have they done today? We’ve cast off the Ten Commandments in our chambers of government, we have cast off school prayer—can’t do that anymore—what we read in the announcements about the coach; he dared kneel down on the 50-yard line and say a private prayer and he loses his job over that? Think about that.

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)

Today in the United States, what do people worship? Money and the things that money can buy. That is their idol. We see here that the world is deceived by Satan. They are following Ancient Israel; they are following on the footpath of Ancient Israel. Humans who are blaspheming the Almighty when He comes back, will not repent and the only way that our Father can establish His rule on the earth—the only way—is by overwhelming, terrifying force. That’s the only way mankind will understand. The world is so deceived by Satan, so programmed by Satan that they will not repent. The present world needs to be destroyed. It can’t be rebuilt, it can’t be remodeled, it can’t be refurbished, it has to be destroyed through war and that is the only way our Father’s rule will come to this earth. That ends the first point.

2. Why is the Feast of Trumpets a time of joy?

The world needs an alarm of war but also a time of joy. Of course, the answer is simple, as God has revealed the truth to us. It’s the fact that it’s a time of joy because at long last our Father and His Son will come to rule the earth? The earth will be controlled by a loving, kind, gentle, merciful Father who is perfect in judgment, perfect in justice. Our Father and His Son will rule and not Satan. That is a wonderful time of joy. Let’s go to Revelation 15:15-17.

Revelation 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our*

Lord, and of his Christ [both ruling together, the Father being supreme of course]; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (KJV)

The Son is at His right hand, the Father is going to rule this earth at along last.

*16) And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,
17) Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.
(KJV)*

Since Adam and Eve made their fateful decision, Satan has been allowed to rule this world until this day. This day symbolizes God Almighty kicking Satan to the curb and taking His rightful rule over the earth and over mankind. God Almighty, the Most High God, God the Father, now rules the earth. If that doesn't bring joy—the prospect of that happening—not much will. That is why this day is a day of joy. Now let's go to chapter 14:6-10.

Revelation 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people ... (KJV)*

The entire world will be preached to at this point; nobody is excluded. Along with the two witnesses preaching the truth to the entire world—we're told the entire world hears the two witnesses—this angel is going to preach the truth to the entire world. This is an additional way that Matthew 24:14 will be fulfilled, where the gospel will be preached to all the nations and the end comes. Preached by the two witnesses and preached by this angel circling the earth. The Bible doesn't require some great work by human beings to be done before the coming of the Father and the Son. In my opinion, we should not flatter ourselves to somehow think that God Almighty needs us to do some great work prior to the coming of the Father and His Son. Humans have, today—in the last twenty years—flattered themselves with,

“I'm going to lead this great work to be done, and we have to do this, you look to us and give us money to do this.”

That's not required in scripture. Two witnesses and this angel—our Father doesn't need any human being. He can raise up stones to replace human beings—Matthew 3:9.

7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God [that can mean “being afraid” but also can mean “revere”], and give glory to him; (KJV)

Just worship your Creator for crying out loud. Why don't you do that instead of worshipping stone, wood, and money and the things that money can buy. The Greek word for *fear* is *Strong's* #5299, the familiar word *phobio*, from which we get our English word *phobia*. It can mean “absolute fear”, but it can also mean “to revere”. Both

meanings apply because our Father wants humanity to honor and revere Him—absolutely. Because they want to, because they realize who He is and they want to honor Him as a result of who He is—the Almighty, the Most High, the Supreme Ruler of all, the Creator of all that is. For those who won't do that, who refuse to do that, they are going to painfully learn to absolutely fear Him. To be in bone shaking fear of God Almighty; they will learn that.

7 continued) ... for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. [Fear God rather than rebel]

8) And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (KJV)

We see the Father and the Son are together, the Father is taking the lead and the Son is executing the wrath of Almighty God. They are waiting patiently for humanity to repent and worship the Creator. The One True God—John 17:9,

This is life eternal that they know the One True God and His Son.

So, the Father and the Son pour out their wrath—the Father's wrath—on mankind, waiting for mankind to repent. They keep refusing, they keep blaspheming, they keep trying to hide, because the Father wants humans to know profoundly, who their Creator is, who is the real Boss—not Satan, not the beast, but God Almighty. We see here, closing out the second point, that at long last, the Father and the Son are here to rule the earth. As the Feast of Trumpets, this day marks the beginning of that process. As with creation and the Garden of Eden and the Exodus, the Father and the Son are there together. The Son is there to perform His Father's will. Power and control are removed from Satan and from mankind. At last, the Father and the Son are on this earth and rule together and the laws of the land are our Father's laws and not mankind's laws. If that isn't a time of joy, I don't know what else could be. Today, we wait for Yehovah to rule this earth and correct all things. It begins this very day. At long last, God Almighty and His Son will come to this earth to dwell with the Father's children. If that isn't a day for joy, I don't know what is.

That leads to the third point and this applies to us today; it's important for us today.

3. Before our Father comes to rule the earth, we must allow Him to rule over us.

We must allow Him to rule over us as His children. This has to happen before He can come—before He will come. He wants His children to show Him that we will allow Him to rule over us. We want Him, willingly, to rule over us. He has warned us, and this day represents that—warning us today—that He wants the world to repent or face the consequences. We know that applies to us today. We must repent or face the consequences. He wants the church—the ecclesia—to do the same thing that He is forcing on this earth on this day of Trumpets. He warns us in His word, that we, as individuals, must come to put Him first, we must come to repent of our sins, we must come to submit to Him.

The beautiful thing about this is, our Father understands that forming us from the old person to the new person—forming us from what we were when He called us to what He wants us to be, takes time. For us to transform ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit into the image of His Son as individuals—that takes time. Let's go to Ephesians 4:6 and then verses 11-15.

Ephesians 4:6 *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (KJV)*

One God, totally supreme; now let's go to verse 11.

*11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, [why He came, the plan of God, and why He had to die for us] unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (KJV)*

That is our goal, to be Christlike in every way. It takes time. In my case, from the time I was called, most of a lifetime—over 60 years now.

*14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (KJV)*

Our job is to become like Jesus Christ. Our Father understands that it takes time to go from what we were to the image of His Son. He is patient, He is kind, He is gentle, He is forbearing—all the fruits of His very own Spirit. The Son has shown us the way—how to live a perfect life. Let's go to Hebrews 4:15.

Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (KJV)*

He lived a perfect life and that is our goal, to live that perfect life. His example shows us the way that we must walk. Notice now what we read in Colossians 3:9. I'll read this out of the New King James.

Colossians 3:9 *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds ... (NKJV)*

That was the person that we were prior to our baptism.

*10) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him [Jesus] who created him [the new man],
11) where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.
12) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
13) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
(NKJV)*

This is one of the hardest things to do, to forgive somebody in our own mind, who does us wrong. We're told that if we don't do this, if we don't forgive everybody that has done anything to us, if we don't forgive that then we aren't going to be in the Kingdom of God.

14) But above all these things put on love, Love allows us to forgive. (NKJV)

If we love our fellow man as much as we love ourselves, it's much easier to forgive.

*14 continued) ... which is the bond of perfection.
15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
17) And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, [because He has set us the example, He has shown us the way] giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (NKJV)*

If we do this, then we will be exhibiting the mind of Christ—Philippians 2:5, *let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus*. All of this takes time. Thankfully our Father is patient with us, He is forbearing with us, He is kind and gentle with us, but the fact is there is an end to it all. We have time, but not infinite time. We have time to change and repent and grow to be like Jesus Christ, but there is a limit to that time. Sometimes people have brought up this question, and I don't have an answer, only the Father knows, could our Father be delaying the end until we individually and the church collectively get our act together? Waiting for us to put Him first and to recognize His

name, recognize who He is, what He has done, what His Son has done, what His titles are, what His Son's titles are and understand just who God is? Could He be waiting on the church and on us to come to that realization before pulling the trigger to the end of this age? I can't answer that, but it's something to think about. Is God giving us every day, a little more time to start acting like His Son, in our words, deeds, and thoughts? Maybe we should have a greater sense of urgency in doing so—in becoming like His Son. We have to allow the Father to rule us; willingly allow it. Want Him to rule us—not want our own way but want His way. We must come to that point before He comes to rule this earth or we won't be there.

The fourth point and last point. We end this with the good news.

4. Until this day of Trumpets actually comes, our Father will be with us.

He promises to be there to correct us, to protect us, and to provide for us—correct, protect, provide for us. If we have the faith that He is going to come this earth and correct all things in the future, as this day symbolizes, then we can have the faith that if He can correct the world and what this day symbolizes, then we have to have the faith that He can correct us. The world is becoming more and more dangerous with each passing day—no question about that, I think we all understand that. Just as one measure of how dangerous this world has become—I'm not talking about the hurricanes and the floods and what we see with the floods in Libya and the hurricanes in various parts of the world, or the earthquakes that happen in Afghanistan and other parts of the world. Just in a modern nation like the United States, it's becoming more dangerous day by day. Look at the mass shootings in our country. Shootings that are not occurring in some remote part of the country, where people don't normally go. Mass shootings occur in malls, schools, and sporting events where people gather. As of September 1st, this year, which is the 244th day of the year, guess how many mass shootings have occurred in this year. That means four or more people killed or wounded in a single event. In 244 days, there have been 480 mass shootings in the United States. That is according to the nonprofit gun violence archive.

Yehovah is allowing Satan to create a world where no one is safe. Third world countries, first world countries—nobody is safe. Ukraine is sending drones over Moscow—who would have thought? Then, if you live in a place like Libya and Morocco, where earthquakes occur that haven't occurred in 100 years. This flood in Libya wiped out a whole town just about. God is allowing Satan to create a world where no one feels safe. Whether it be war, or fire, or flood, or earthquake, or hurricane, or drought, or mass shootings. Our Father is allowing Satan to take the world to that point for a reason. He is teaching us—the church—and all of mankind that apart from Him, apart from His rule, His government, His protection, no one is safe. He is teaching us by the events that happen on this day. It happens not on a single day but over an extended period of time. He's teaching us to look to Him for safety and protection; not to the government for men. You think in Libya, the big thing is, where is the government? There is no government, it's in chaos. In the United States, where is a southern border? We don't have a border. Why isn't the government protecting us from these mass

shootings that are killing our kids in school. They are incapable of doing so. They are just incapable and we are being shown that day by day. The government is not here to protect us and even if they wanted to, they cannot protect us. Let's go to Proverbs 20:22. Solomon is talking and he's talking about people who want to return evil with evil, but the principle applies to what we are talking about today.

Proverbs 20:22 *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee. (KJV)*

The church is learning today—should be learning today—that if we wait patiently on our Father, He will rescue us no matter what the calamity or catastrophe that falls upon us. He promises never to give us anything more than what we can bear—what we can handle. Let's go to 1 Corinthians 10:13, I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation. Paul is writing here.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. (NLT)*

The Greek word for *temptations* is Strong's #3986 and The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates says this:

A state of trial in which God brings His people through adversity and affliction in order to encourage and prove their faith and confidence in Him.

He brings trials on us to encourage us, to prove our faith and our confidence in Him. Will we trust Him? Just like Abraham with the knife over the throat of his son, will we trust Him that it will all turn out in the end? Will we obey and follow Him?

13 continued) ... And God is faithful. [We will pick that up and amplify it in a moment] He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. (NLT)

God is faithful. We think of faith as one of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit. So our Father is faithful. We don't often think of the Father being faithful. Faithful to what? He's faithful to us. What I mean by that is, how many times have we gotten off track in our lives? I've been in church almost 60 years now. How many months, days, weeks, years, have I been wayward and got off track for a period of time? My Father didn't kick me to the curb. I look back and some of the things I thought, said and did, and I marvel at the fact that He didn't just zap me out of existence. He didn't just reject me. What we're being told is that God is faithful. He is faithful to us because He gives us time to work things out, to learn lessons, yes to have trials come to teach us lessons, and come out the other end closer to Him. When we go rogue and go wayward, we can be so thankful that He is faithful and He will hang in there with us. Like the Prodigal Son. The Father waited and waited on the Prodigal Son and finally when the Prodigal Son started running back home, the Father welcomed Him with open arms. Our Father doesn't slam the door on us; God is faithful. He will give us a way out of any trial that comes our way.

In addition to correcting us, our Father always, always promises to provide for us. In this country, we haven't had to face some of the privations in the third world country but there is coming a day when that will happen. Let's go to Matthew 6, the sermon on the mount and we'll read verses 25-34. I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation. These words are so comforting. He was talking to the disciples as well as to the crowd that was around Him.

Matthew 6:25 *That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?*

26) *Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?*

27) *Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?*

28) *And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing,*

29) *yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.*

30) *And if [the Greek word "ho", the English word "the" is not translated here] God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?*

31) *So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'*

32) *These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.*

33) *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. [That is our job]*

34) *"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. (NLT)*

I have counseled so many people over the years who spend so much time and energy worrying—the colloquialism we have, “Waiting for the shoe to drop.”—they are waiting for the next bad things to happen. “Waiting for the other shoe to drop.” was coined in the 1800's in New York because of the housing situation and rooming situation. The houses back then didn't have insulation between the floors and families would cram into small spaces. The term “Waiting for the other shoe to drop.” is when your neighbor who lives above you comes home from work and unties his boots and bam, the first shoe hits the floor and while waiting for the other shoe to drop you knew it was only a matter of a few seconds and bam, the other shoe would hit the floor. That term became a term that carries through to this day. People are saying, I know this happened and tomorrow that's going to happen—I just know it's going to happen—and they worry and fret. That's what Jesus is talking about—there's enough trouble today, don't worry about tomorrow's trouble. I will provide for you just like I provide for the birds and flowers and you're more valuable than they are.

Today, our Father is testing us to see if we will have faith that He will truly, truly provide for us. He's testing us today. Will we simply obey Him and trust Him and put Him first? Those are the tests that we are going through today. He's also testing us to see if we will allow Him to rule us, to rule our lives, as we want Him to rule the earth. We can't wait for Him to rule the earth but then sometimes we prevent Him from ruling in our lives because we want our own way. We want to do it our way. We must have the faith that our Father will always be with us, to correct us so that we can be in the image of His Son. To provide for us and to protect us during the evil times that we're facing right now. We are trying our very best to change ourselves into the image of His Son, but we know this day symbolizes a change—from the world's rule and Satan's rule—to our Father's rule. There is a demarcation on the day of Trumpets because the Father and the Son are coming and we had better have our act together before they come. That's the message to the church today.

Let's conclude now. Today we've seen why the Feast of Trumpets is a time of war. Because man will not learn and the only way he will learn is through war and overpowering, fear inducing circumstances, so they know who the real God is—who is boss. We also have seen why the Trumpets is a time of joy because at long last, the earth will be ruled by God Almighty and by His law. We've also seen that before the Father comes to rule this earth, we must allow Him to do so in our lives. The encouraging thing is, until this day comes, our Father will always be with us to help correct us, pat us on the fanny, steer us in the right direction and protect us and provide for us.

God's people have waited for millennia for this day to occur. Think about that. Let's go to Revelation 6:9-10.

Revelation 6:9 *And when he [refers to the Lamb in verse 1] had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
10) And they cried with a loud voice [metaphorically speaking], saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (KJV)*

Those who have given their blood, who've given their lives for the truth, are symbolically in death being patient and faithful, waiting for their Father to rescue them. This is the day that that occurs. They are resurrected and their rescue happens. God Almighty warns us what lies just ahead before this very day. Let's go to Matthew 24:24, this is something we have to be aware of and be on watch for.

Matthew 24:24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (KJV)*

Miraculous signs and wonders. If we aren't close to God Almighty, we can be deceived. Paul picks up this same theme in 2 Thessalonians 2. This out of the New Living Translation. Paul picks up the theme that Christ told us in Matthew 24:24.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 *Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. [Just by being there]*

9) *This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. [Something we need to be prepared for]*

10) *He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. (NLT)*

They refuse to love the truth. They refuse to accept the truth. So, do we get the idea from this scripture that the love of the truth might be important and might make a difference between whether we are saved or have to go through some horrible, horrible times ahead?

11) *So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies.*

12) *Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth. (NLT)*

There is the choice—*enjoying evil or believing the truth*. We see it everywhere today, that people are enjoying evil. They take joy in doing evil, they take joy at thumbing their nose at God Almighty, they take joy in trying to convince people that God Almighty doesn't even exist. We see it everywhere, taking joy to do evil rather than seeking the truth out of God's word.

As this time of fulfillment of Trumpets approaches us, let's remember why our Father will bring war on this day. It is the only way for mankind to learn. Mankind has proven that short of war, he will not turn, he will not repent, he will not learn. A horrible time of war will come and yet on this same day, this Hebrew word that has a double meaning of calamity and joy, we look forward with joy that at long last, our Father is going to rule this earth. His eternal presence will be among His children and if we endure to the end, we can be eternally in His presence. Think about that—no tears, no sorrow, no crying, eternally in His presence. Let's have a greater sense of urgency of our Father ruling over us, allowing our Father to rule over us and at the same time, trusting He will protect us and always He will protect and provide for us. Let's learn the lessons of this great day of Trumpets.