

Trumpets – A Day Of Joy And An Alarm Of War

Rick Railston

September 17, 2012

Well this day is unique among the holy days for a couple of reasons, because there are things that go on this day that are different than the other holy days.

One reason is that today is the central holy day.

There are three holy days prior that we have already kept. There are three more coming that we will keep or have yet to keep.

And the first three, Satan's rule over all the earth is present in the first three--Passover, First and Last Day of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. And [the day of] Trumpets marks the beginning of the removal of Satan's way and man's rule (Satan's rule) on this earth. It marks the beginning of God's intervention to restore His government with Christ at its head.

So, after Trumpets, then the next holy days come under God's government and God's rule. On Atonement, Satan is put away—thankfully! Then the Feast of Tabernacles, as we know, pictures this thousand year period of idyllic time on the world—the healing of the world and then this idyllic time that could have been if Adam and Eve had made the right decisions. Then, of course, the biggest event of all is the Last Great Day when billions, hundreds of billions will be resurrected.

So, it is the central holy day. It marks a turning point. That's the first reason.

The second reason is the blowing of trumpets.

This is unique in that regard. And I say "trumpets" because it's plural. It's not just one.

Now, with that in mind, still by way of introduction, let's notice that God instructed Israel to make and use trumpets. He did so one year after crossing the Red Sea. Let's turn to Numbers. We're going to go to chapter 10. But to give the context, in Numbers chapter 9, it talks about the dedication of the Tabernacle. So, this is the context and we arrive now at Numbers chapter 10.

Note God's instruction regarding the making of trumpets. There were two. Numbers 10:1:

Numbers 10:1. *And the Lord [spoke] unto Moses, saying,
2) Make [you] two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece [you shall] make them: ...
(KJV)*

Solid silver, one piece! Can you imagine the skill necessary to hammer out a sheet of silver and then form it into the shape of a trumpet?

Going on:

Numbers 10:2b. ...that [you may] use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

3) And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to [you] (meaning Moses) at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. (KJV)

If you blow two trumpets; and then in verse 4:

Numbers 10:4. And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves [together].

5) When [you] blow [the] alarm, ... (KJV)

Now, this is a different sound.

Numbers 10:5b. ...then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward.

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

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

So, obviously, from this, you could make different sounds from those two trumpets.

Verse 8:

Numbers 10:8. And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; ... (KJV)

They were the only ones that were allowed to do so.

Numbers 10:8b. ...and they shall be to you for an ordinance forever throughout your generations.

9) And if [you] go to war in your land against the enemy that [oppresses] you, then [you] shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and [you] shall be remembered before the [Eternal] your God, and [you] shall be saved from your enemies. (KJV)

If you blow these trumpets as an alarm. Verse 10:

Numbers 10:10. Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, [you] 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)

Now the commentaries—I'll just mention what Jamieson Faucett and Brown said—but

they're pretty unanimous in their description.

It is well-known those trumpets were made of solid silver. We read in verse 2 of a whole piece. And these trumpets, by all accounts, were straight. They had no curve in them at all. They just went straight out. (They were not curved like the trumpets in Egypt that were used or sounded when it worshipped Osiris. Those were curved trumpets.) These two trumpets had a musical note. They were very similar to trumpets today in that you could sound harmonious notes.

Now, there were two reasons that we just read for the blowing of these trumpets. First was the alarm for war. We read that in verse 5 and verse 9. And they gave a different sound. They would blow them with a different sound. And my suspicion (It's just speculation on my part, but I think it's fairly logical.) is that if it was an alarm, they would not sound a harmonious note. There would be a discordant sound between the two trumpets to signal an alarm. So that's the first reason they were used.

The second, we just read in verse 10—joy and gladness. So there was a different sound for a celebration, to celebrate joy and gladness. And, again, I'm speculating but it seems logical that, if they were sounding for joy and gladness, the two trumpets would be in harmony with each other rather than a discordant sound for the alarm of war.

So, that leads us into the title of the sermon, if you like titles.

The Day of Trumpets: It is a Day of Joy and an Alarm for War

And we're going to talk about those two facets of the Day of Trumpets.

1. Today is the day of two different emotions that we can have.

Now, let's go to Numbers 29 and verse 1 to see the instructions about this day. There are two differing emotions that we should have on this day. Obviously, we have joy just because it's a holy day and we're all together. That is one of them, but, as we have already read, there is a different emotion. Numbers 29 verse 1, it says:

Numbers 29:1. *And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, [you] shall have a holy convocation [a holy gathering]; [you] shall do no servile work: ... (KJV)*

Notice this!

Numbers 29:1b. *...it is a day of blowing the trumpets [plural] unto you. (KJV)*

It's the first day of the seventh month. And you know the seventh month, we all realize is a symbol of the seventh one thousand year day. It's the start of a new era after man's six thousand years up to this point on the face of the earth.

Now, the Hebrew word for “blowing” is Strong’s #8643 and it has two meanings. The first one is *an acclamation of joy* and that is one of the emotions that we should have today. And then the second meaning of that word means *a battle-cry especially a clangor of trumpets, as an alarm*. So therefore, as we’ve already read, the blowing of trumpets can be done for two reasons. One to announce celebrations of joy and gladness and the other is an alarm for war.

We’re going to spend some time now looking at those two. Let’s take the good one first, the day of joy. So, if you like to outline this would be:

1. A. The Day of Joy

Let’s go to Psalm 81 and read the first four verses. David was very familiar with the blowing of trumpets. He obviously kept God’s holy days and it talks about this day in Psalm 81. David enjoyed dancing and enjoyed music, if you read the Psalms and read the account of his life. And he indicates that many places in his writings. Psalm 81 verse 1:

Psalms 81:1. *Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. (KJV)*

And one of our hymns that we sing regularly talks about making a joyful noise. Verse 2:

Psalms 81:2. *Take a psalm, and bring [here] the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. (KJV)*

Notice this!

Psalms 81:3. *Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, [and] on our solemn feast day [which is today].*
4) For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. (KJV)

So, it was a day of joy and a solemn feast day to blow those trumpets.

The Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge says regarding the Feast of Trumpets:

A memorial of triumph or a shouting for joy with trumpets...

Just to announce joy and happiness and peace with the congregation that they can be there to celebrate this day in the presence of God.

So, let’s ask: This day, as we look forward now to its fulfillment, why should it be a day of joy? What about it should we be taking note of that would allow us to have joy in our hearts on this very day?

The first is: the saints, God’s saints, are resurrected or changed and are gathered

at the last trumpet; are gathered together at the last trumpet.

1 Corinthians 15 and verse 52—I know these are familiar scriptures, but it's good to remind ourselves of these scriptures. Why this is a day of joy because God's saints are going to be resurrected with the seventh trumpet. 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 52, it tells us, this very familiar scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:52. *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last [trumpet]: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we [those who are alive at that time]... (KJV)*

The apostles thought when they wrote this, many of them thought that they would see Christ return in their own days. He said,

1 Corinthians 15:52. *...and we shall be changed. (KJV)*

The last trump, the twinkling of an eye, our change will occur.

Now, let's jump over to 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and read verses 16 and 17. This is talking about the return of Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, notice what it says. It says:

1 Thessalonians 4:16. *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, ... (KJV)*

And we'll talk about that a little later.

1 Thessalonians 4:16b. *...with the voice of the archangel, and with the [trumpet] of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the [Eternal] in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (KJV)*

Now, remember the Feast of Trumpets looks forward, because it's plural, it looks forward to all seven trumpets being blown. Although all of us know that all seven trumpets are not blown at the same time, there is a sequence of the seven trumpets being blown. We all know that they're not going to be blown on the same day. Again, [there is] a sequence of time of the blowing of the physical trumpets. So, there is not a physical day where all seven will be blown all at once.

And we all realize that it is very possible for the seventh trump to be blown on the day of Pentecost, which is roughly five months later than this day, which Revelation 9 talks about. I'm not saying that this is going to happen or not happen. Only God knows. None of us know.

But the fact is this day is plural because it is looking forward to the blowing of all seven

[trumpets] and that whole sequence of events that plays out over a considerable space of time.

Now, let's go to Matthew 24 and look at verse 31. Christ is looking forward in Matthew 24, as we all know, and He's talking about this very time. Matthew 24 and verse 31:

Matthew 24:31. *And he shall send his angels... (KJV)*

When?

Matthew 24:31b. *...with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (KJV)*

What a day that will be! What joy that will be when you can heave a sigh of relief and the battle is over! The struggle is over! The change is occurring for those who are alive. And those coming out of their graves are looking around and, then, waking up, so to speak, in the sense of shaking their heads and looking around and seeing that it is finally here. It is worth it. It is finally here!

Then Revelation 20 and verse 6 talks about the first resurrection. Let's go there and just read that verse, Revelation 20:6. This is a day of joy because it refers to God's saints, God's children, the firstfruits having their reward. And the end of the struggle is over. Revelation 20:6.

Revelation 20:6. *Blessed and holy is he that [has] part in the first resurrection: on such the second death [has] no power, ... (KJV)*

Eternal death from that point forward has no power over us. What a joy! Today the specter of the second death, if we fall away, if we do not make it, if we reject God, the power of the second death is over all of us right now. But when this occurs, the power of the second death is gone. [There is] no more threat of the second death [for] those who have part in the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6b. *...but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (KJV)*

Looking forward to being priests of God—what a joy! What a day of joy for the saints of God.

A second reason for this day being a day of joy is the re-establishment of God's government on this earth.

Christ is going to rule and not Satan! And we have had a bellyful of Satan, a bellyful of men trying to—they're deceived, yes—but following Satan, following their own way as Adam and Eve did.

Look at Jude 14, the fourteenth verse of Jude. We covered this in the sermon on Clouds without Water, but notice Jude 14. This tells us that during the change of government, we're not going to be spectators. We're going to be participants. Think of that. Jude 14.

Jude 1:14. *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord [comes] with ten thousands of his saints, (KJV)*

We will be changed. We will be with Jesus Christ. We will then be able to participate in the government of God to bring that to the remnants of people. Obviously, initially God's going to punish and that gets into the second big point we're making. But we will be participants and not spectators. What a joy for Satan's government finally to be put away and God's government to be on this earth!

I watch these political ads. You can't turn on the television without some ad for this candidate or that candidate, or this party or that party. It's in the newspapers. I just refuse to read any of that. It just turns my stomach because of the lies and the accusations back and forth. We can't feed our poor. We can't help our disabled children. We can't fix our highways or build schools, but boy they can spend a billion dollars trying to get somebody elected. What a misuse of money and funds just to perpetuate man's government on this earth.

And the joy is that all of that is going to come down. And this day is the start of that.

Let's go to Revelation 11 and read verses 15 through 17. The seventh angel sounds and announces this change. Boy what joy we can take from this event! Revelation 11 beginning in verse 15:

Revelation 11:15. *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine hearing this from...? Who knows? It could be all the angels—millions of voices—saying:

Revelation 11:15b. *... The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (KJV)*

No more satanic rule! No more of men doing whatever seems right to them. But the whole world will be under Christ's rule, God's rule. What a joy that will be. It's not just for four years and then somebody gets re-elected or a new person comes in. It's forever and ever.

Verse 16:

Revelation 11:16. *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*

17) Saying, We give [You] thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which [is], and [was], and [is] to come; because [You have] taken to [You Your] great power, and [have] reigned. (KJV)

God has taken over control. After six thousand years of watching men screw it up and prove to themselves that their way does not work, God steps in and takes control.

And what a joy this day to see the beginning (It's just the beginning.) of the restoration of all things. Christ's enemies have to be put down today in a great battle and all of that, but it is the beginning of the restoration of all things.

A third reason to take joy today is the beginning of world peace.

It won't happen all at once, but it begins now.

And it just sickens your stomach when you think of that ambassador that was killed this last week. By all accounts, this man—he was highly educated. He was a very sharp individual. He could speak Arabic. He put himself in danger, repeatedly, in his career as an ambassador. He volunteered—and was asked, but he volunteered—to go to Libya to help out there (this was before Kadafi was killed) to try to establish a democracy there and to help the rebels overthrow this horrible dictator. He made many, many friends. He tried to help the people. And the very people that he was trying to help killed him and killed three others. And this happens.

Not only are they killing the “infidels” (which are us), but they're killing each other! The Sunni's and the Shiites can't agree. They fight and [there is] blood all over. It is true back in Christendom that the Protestants and the Catholics killed each other. There has never been much of peace on the face of the earth. Just a few years in six thousand has there not been some huge conflict going on in the world. And even there has never been a day where there has not been conflict among people—Individuals, within families, within tribes, within clans, within nations.

And this marks the beginning of a total change. Now it's coming with a trumpet. It's coming with an army. And God is going to enforce peace. At first, He is going to have to force peace, but then when people's minds are changed, His spirit is available, eyes will be opened and people will want peace. They will never want war anymore.

Let's go to Isaiah chapter 11.

Not only will there be peace between human beings, the animals are going to be at peace! Think of that. Animals!

I find it difficult to watch the National Geographic Channel. They will do a show on lions or sharks or something like that. You see some little gazelle peacefully eating grass. And all of a sudden a lion comes out of the higher grass or out of the trees and jumps on it and just chews it to pieces. Sometimes they'll even eat them alive, if it's a bigger

animal like a hippo or a rhinoceros. And this animal is just screaming while a pack of lions eat it alive until it finally bleeds to death and dies.

It's the same way with sharks. You see these... I watched the other night. There were some seals. And this shark comes right out of the water and grabs a seal and just thrashes it around and blood everywhere.

That's going to stop. What a joy for that to stop.

Verse 1 of Isaiah 11:

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: (KJV)*

He's referring to Jesus Christ, obviously.

Isaiah 11:2. *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 [Eternal];
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: (KJV)*

Because He knows the hearts of all of us and all of those who will be alive.

Isaiah 11:4. *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: ... (KJV)*

Everybody will get a fair shake. There will be no prejudice. There will be no respecter of persons. There will be no "good ol' boys" network. There will be no more insider dealing.

Isaiah 11:4b. *...and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (NKJ)*

[The *wicked* refers to] those who oppose Him during His coming back to earth that we celebrate [and] look forward to this day. Verse 5:

Isaiah 11:5. *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness [shall] girdle his reins. (KJV)*

Now it shifts to what happens to the animal kingdom.

Isaiah 11:6. *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. (KJV)*

That couldn't happen today. Can't happen today!

But can you imagine in a pasture, the little toddler (we have a bunch of toddlers here today—little kids running around, slipping, falling; some of them a little older and can run around) run around with lions and snakes and giraffes and all of that? And all of the animals are playing together. None are eating each other. They're all friends. And they're friends with the young child.

Verse 7:

Isaiah 11:7. And the cow and the [great] bear shall feed [together]; their young ones shall lie down together: ... (KJV)

These little baby cubs lying around, rolling in the grass just having a wonderful time!

Isaiah 11:7b. ...and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (KJV)

Which tells us that their nature is changed but also, physical changes occur in what they eat and how they digest what they eat. Miracles from God Almighty! The world looks at us and snorts and laughs, "How could that occur?" If the Creator of the universe decides that a lion is going to eat grass, guess what is going to happen? The lion is going to eat grass. But they scoff.

Verse 8:

Isaiah 11:8. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand [down into the viper's] den. (KJV)

And grab the snake (the viper) and pull it out and play with it. And have fun with it. [There will] be no worry about being bitten or poisoned.

Isaiah 11:9. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the [Eternal], as the waters cover the sea. (KJV)

What a time of joy! Not just for humans but for animals too! They don't necessarily have that concept. Their minds are different, but at least they're not being torn apart. And they will play one with another.

The fourth reason to have joy today is that the former enemies of God will come to worship Him and Jesus Christ.

And guess what will bring them to worship Jesus Christ? A trumpet.

Let's go to Isaiah 27; look at verse 13. This will happen starting on the day when this great trumpet is blown. Isaiah 27:13:

Isaiah 27:13. *And it shall come to pass in that day, (KJV)*

In this very day, that we... It's not going to all happen, as I said before, on this one day, but we celebrate it and look forward to it on this day.

Isaiah 27:13. *And it shall come to pass in that day, the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, (KJV)*

A nation that has opposed God at every step, killed God's people, killed Israelites, ancient Israelites (untold thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, maybe even in the millions).

Isaiah 27:13b. *...and the outcasts in the land of Egypt [they shall come, and [they] shall worship the [Eternal] in the holy mount at Jerusalem. (KJV)*

So, all of those who oppose God (the Muslims, the Hindus, the pagan religions down through history) starting with this day are going to come to worship God Almighty. And they will do it with joy and gladness as we do it with joy and gladness today. What a joy!

For a final scripture under the two emotions and things that will happen this day is Revelation 21 and verse 4. This is the beginning of a time when God is going to do something that I can't wait to happen and want to see with my whole heart. Revelation 21:4, we want to be there when this happens and watch it!

Revelation 21:4. *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; ... (KJV)*

I remember I saw it as a young kid. I was born during World War II, but there was a famous picture. LIFE Magazine was the most popular magazine in the fifties. And on the cover of that magazine (this was a year or two after the bombing of Hiroshima), they had a picture of a little Japanese baby sitting all by itself on a street. There was just rubble everywhere. And the baby had burns on it. The baby was filthy and it was just wailing—this little baby. Nobody [was] around to help. You don't know the future of that baby. Whether the baby died from radiation burns, you just don't know. And that baby was crying for all it was worth and tears were running down its face.

And this day begins the start of a change where there will be no more tears. Think about that! How many tears are shed today? That ambassador's family? And all the others? And then all the people that are killed in war and fighting? All the tears are going to go away this day. They are going to go away from their eyes.

Revelation 21:4b. *...and there shall be no more death, ... (KJV)*

That's down the road, but there's not going to be, at some point in the future, any more death. And this is the start of that process.

Revelation 21:4 continued. ...neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (KJV)

And in this transition holy day, this process is now starting. We know Atonement is putting away Satan. That's another niche in the process. The Millennium comes and all that occurs there—the teaching and the training and the rebuilding of the earth, all that occurs—and then the big event—the Last Great Day. But the fact is that this day begins to usher in that process. What a day of joy!

Now that leads us to the second big emotion that occurs on this day, point B is you like to outline.

1.B. It's a day of being solemn, or a day of being sober.

Now to establish some background, let's go back now and look at the fact that in ancient Israel, when they came out of Egypt, God spoke. His voice was heard by ancient Israel at the base of Mount Sinai. And the Bible likens His voice to a trumpet, but a different kind of trumpet.

Let's go to Exodus chapter 19. Israel is camped out at the base of Mount Sinai. We're going to read verses 16 through 19 and then jump to chapter 20 for one verse. So, Israel is camped around Sinai and in verse 16:

Exodus 19:16. And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were [thunderings] and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the [mountain], ... (KJV)

This mountain is shaking. The earth quakes. The ground is shaking. We've all seen mountains here in the northwest where there were thick clouds, dense clouds over the mountain with storm and snow in the winter and all of that. This was like that, but in addition it says:

Exodus 19:16b. ...and the voice of the trumpet... (KJV)

Now this is a different Hebrew word. It is Strong's #7782. And it's the Hebrew word *showphar* (*sho-far'*). And it means a trumpet made from a ram's horn.

And it says:

Exodus 19:16b. ...the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that [were] in the camp trembled [from this noise]. (KJV)

Verse 17:

Exodus 19:17. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet

with God;

That was their purpose.

Exodus 19:17. *and they stood at the [far] part of the [mountain]. (KJV)*

Verse 18:

Exodus 19:18. *And mount [of] Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, ... (KJV)*

We might say today, “As a mushroom cloud from an atomic bomb.”

Exodus 19:18b. *...and the whole mount quaked greatly. (KJV)*

And, obviously, if the mountain was quaking, the ground under the Israelites was shaking.

Exodus 19:19. *And when the voice of the [shofar] sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine the sensation of this blast going out and it gets louder and louder and there is no interruption? It just goes on and on and on.

Exodus 19:19b. *... Moses [spoke], and God answered him by a voice. (KJV)*

So, the people could hear God’s voice which is likened unto the sound of a blast from a ram’s horn. God spoke and answered him by a voice.

Now jump to chapter 20, the next chapter, and look at verse 18. Notice their reaction.

Exodus 20:18. *And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the [shofar], and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, ... (KJV)*

Meaning, they backed off!

Exodus 20:18b. *...and [they] stood afar off. (KJV)*

Now, the Talmud tells us... If you were to look in the Talmud under Rosh Hashanah in Mishna 26B, it says that on this day, in addition to the two silver trumpets that we’ve already read about, a shofar was blown. It goes on to say that the shofar made a noise which was really a blast. It was described, it was called a “shout” in the Bible, but it’s like a blast. We’ve all shouted at our children—maybe when they were in danger and you had to get their attention real quickly. But this was like that only, as we just read, it

went on and on and louder and louder and louder. It's obvious that the sound from the shofar is not musical.

Now we have a little teaching aid here. This is a shofar. In fact, Les King was able to get it to blast. We're not going to call Les up and have him do an encore here—and I'm not going to attempt it—but obviously, there are ones that are bigger than this. It just is a big blat. It's not musical. It's not harmonious. It gets your attention really quickly.

We see here that in addition to the silver horns that were blown on this day, this ram's horn was blown. And let's understand Israel didn't want to hear it. They backed off. Then, of course, they asked Moses later, "Uh, would you mind... Why don't you go up and talk to God and then you come back and tell us what God said," because they didn't want to hear it directly from God. That's man for six thousand years. [Man] says, "I don't want to hear you. I don't want to talk to you. I don't want you talking to me. I want to do my own thing."

So, let's understand that this is a day of solemnity because the trumpet announced war. And Christ on this day is going to bring war.

Let's go to Jeremiah chapter 4 and read verses 19 through 21. Now, put yourself on the receiving end of Christ coming to this earth with the trumpets being blown and all that portends and all that means. Jeremiah 4 beginning in verse 19, notice; we've all been there. We've had this experience. He says:

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

And we've all been, at times, worried, nervous, upset, apprehensive, fearful even. And it goes right to your bowels, pain in your lower bowels.

Jeremiah 4:19b. *I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because [you have] heard, O my soul, the sound of the [shofar], ... (KJV)*

Not the silver trumpets, but the shofar.

Jeremiah 4:19 continued. *...the alarm of war. (KJV)*

And this is the reaction of hearing that blast. Now, it's not going to be the blast of a shofar when Christ returns. It's going to be a spiritual blast that is heard around the earth. Verse 20:

Jeremiah 4:20. *Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.
21) How long will I see the standard, and [how long I] hear the sound of the [shofar]? (KJV)*

How long is this going to go on? But you see mankind is going to have to pay for mankind's sins.

Isaiah 11:4. The reason we should be solemn on this day, too, when we think about this, is that this is going to be the biggest blood bath in the history of the world. This is going to be the biggest reckoning—day of reckoning—in the history of the world. Isaiah 11 and verse 4, notice:

Isaiah 11:4. *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek ... (KJV)*

He's going to stand up for the meek. He's not going to prejudice Himself in favor of the rich over the poor or the haughty and the ambitious over the meek.

Isaiah 11:4b. *...and he [referring to Christ] shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, ...(KJV)*

And notice:

Isaiah 11:4 continued. *...with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (NKJ)*

And you can draw a clear analogy with “the breath of his lips” with the sound of the shofar and that blast. It's going to set people back on their fannies, I'll tell you.

Let's jump now to Revelation 19 and verses 11 through 15. Christ is going to bring war on this earth on a scale that cannot be even imagined. Revelation 19, beginning in verse 11. John was looking toward heaven and he said:

Revelation 19:11. *And I saw heaven opened [in this vision], and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness [he does] judge and... (KJV)*

What?

Revelation 19:11b. *...make war. (KJV)*

Announced by the shofar—an alarm.

Revelation 19:12. *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. (KJV)*

[There is] no doubt about who this is. Verse 14:

Revelation 19:14. *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (KJV)*

Now who could that be? Who are going to be resurrected white and clean with no sin? And who will be eternal? The Saints of God.

Verse 15:

Revelation 19:15. *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)*

So, this trumpet is a solemn warning that Christ is going to bring war on a scale unheard of on this earth this day.

Now, why will Christ bring war? Let's go back to Jeremiah chapter 4. We stopped at verse 21. Look at the next verse, verse 22, Jeremiah 4:22. This is why Christ has to bring war. It's sad.

Jeremiah 4:22. *For my people is foolish, they have not known me; (KJV)*

Boy is that ever true! In fact, in the Democratic Convention here a few days ago, somebody woke up and noticed that in their platform there was no mention of God. So, they scrambled around at the last minute and inserted an amendment to mention God.

When they put it before the vote in that convention (and they had a voice vote), the guy behind the podium was surprised to hear that the nays were as powerful as the yeas.

So, then he did it a second time and the same thing happened. Then he looked behind over there for guidance from somebody behind the scenes and walked over there. He didn't know what to do. Somebody whispered in his ear.

He walked back and held a third vote. It was the same—about even between the yeas of putting God into their platform and God not being in their platform. Then, he just unilaterally declared that the yeas won and they put God in the platform.

Then the people that were yelling “nay” were screaming about putting God in that platform. They were angry. They were shaking their fists about putting God in their platform.

It says here, “They have not known me.” They don't care to know God. Most of them don't even believe He exists.

Then the King James says:

Jeremiah 4:22b. *...they are sottish... (KJV)*

The Hebrew word means *silly*. They're like little silly kids. They don't know the right from the left. They don't understand.

Jeremiah 4:22 continued. ...and they have [no] understanding: they are wise to do evil, (KJV)

Boy isn't that true today? People are very smart about committing murder, incest, rape, torture. Oh, they're smart. They've got all that down pat.

Jeremiah 4:22 continued. ...but to do good they have no knowledge. (KJV)

And this is why Christ has to come and He's going to wipe out millions of people on this day.

Look at Hosea chapter 8 and the first four verses. It talks about the shofar today. Hosea 8 and the first four verses, notice what it says—the first three words. It says:

Hosea 8:1. Set the trumpet [shofar; set it] to [your] mouth. ... (KJV)

Get blowing on this trumpet!

Hosea 8:1b. ... He shall come as an eagle against the house of the [Eternal], because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. (KJV)

The whole world has. Verse 2:

Hosea 8:2. Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know [you]. (KJV)

Even the Jews today when Christ returns, they think "We know You. You're our God." No, they don't. They don't know God. Verse 3:

Hosea 8:3. Israel [has] cast off the thing that is good: ... (KJV)

They refuse to acknowledge Jesus Christ.

Hosea 8:3b. ...the enemy shall pursue him.
4) They have set up kings, but not by me: ... (KJV)

They are not righteous rulers.

Hosea 8:4b. ...they have made princes, and I [didn't know it]: ...

Because they did it all on their own! He says:

Hosea 8:4 continued. ...of their silver and their gold have they made them

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

The whole world has made an idol out of money and materialism and possessions. Look at any downtown. Look at downtown New York or Chicago or Dubai or Tokyo. It's all a monument to the grandeur of man. "Look what we've built, these skyscrapers. And look at all the construction of men and how glorious it is."

As with Adam and Eve, man has not chosen the revealed way of God, but has chosen to do what is right in their own eyes. And, as a result, after six thousand years, they hate God. Some do not even acknowledge God—don't even acknowledge that He exists. And there is going to be a day of reckoning. It is going to be a terrible, terrible time.

Let's go to Matthew 24. [This is] a very familiar scripture. We'll read verses 21 and 22, [which are] talking about a time to come that has not existed up to this time in terribleness. Matthew 24 verse 21, it says:

Matthew 24:21. *For then...* (KJV)

Christ is referring to the very days right ahead of us that we celebrate today.

Matthew 24:21. *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (KJV)*

We are on the brink of a time that is a one time event. Nothing has happened like this up to this time and nothing will happen again after this time—this tribulation.

Verse 22:

Matthew 24:22. *And except those days should be shortened, (KJV)*

It's going to be so bad that:

Matthew 24:22b. *... [there's] no flesh [could] be saved: [except God shortens it] for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (KJV)*

For our sake! You see dad... dad/God. He's our daddy. And His children would be fried to a crisp, would be poisoned, would be maimed if He didn't step in and stop it. And, as a loving Dad, He's going to step in and do that on this day.

Much tribulation has happened since the beginning of time. Estimates of over a hundred billion people have lived and died in this first six thousand years. And I would venture to say probably over half of them have died violent deaths in some form or fashion, painful deaths.

But imagine all that horror and this puts into insignificance all that has happened up to this time. It will be far greater. So, that is why we, as God's people, have to have a

degree of soberness on this day because Christ is going to come. And there is going to be a time that will thankfully never be repeated, but man is going to be taught a lesson.

So, there are two emotions on the Day of Trumpets: Joy, gladness tempered with soberness because of what is going to happen to mankind.

So, the second big thing (we talked about the two emotions today), the second big thing that we will conclude with is that there are two great lessons that we need to take away from this day, the Day of Trumpets.

2. Two Great Lessons from the Day of Trumpets

The first, A if you like:

2. A. Mankind is ultimately going to pay the price for his sins.

God doesn't wink at sin. God doesn't sweep sin under the rug. God doesn't just ignore sin—our sins, mankind's sins.

Let's go to Numbers chapter 32.

We're breaking into a context that Israel is about ready to enter into the Promised Land. They are on the east side of the Jordan River. And Gad and Reuben have come because their inheritance is on the east side of the Jordan River, but Moses is asking them to go on the west side and fight to drive the pagans out of the land. Gad and Reuben say, "Well, we don't live over there. We're on the east side. And we're standing here on the east side. Why can't we just go and occupy the land and start farming and husbandry and all of that?"

Moses said, "No, you're part of the children of Israel. You need to leave off, stop thinking about doing it. And you need to go fight and then come back. Then you can have your land. You have to fight with your brothers, brothers together against the pagans of the land."

Verse 20 and this is the context.

Numbers 32:20. *And Moses said unto them [meaning Gad and Reuben], If [you] will do this thing, (KJV)*

Meaning: If you will leave your wives and children on the east side, go across Jordan and fight to rid the land of the people that are there.

Numbers 32:20b. *...if [you] will go armed before the Lord to war,
21) And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the [Eternal], until he [has] driven out his enemies from before him,
22) And the land be subdued before the [Eternal]: then afterward [you can come*

back across Jordan], and be guiltless before the [Eternal], and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the [Eternal].
23) *But if [you] will not do so, ... (KJV)*

Now, he is establishing a principle that holds to this very day.

Numbers 32:23. *But if [you] will not do so, behold, [you] have sinned against the [Eternal]: and be sure your sin will find you out. (KJV)*

God is saying, “Look, you sin against Me. That sin doesn’t go unnoticed. That sin needs to be repented of. And if you choose to disobey Me and not repent, that sin, those sins if you don’t deal with them, they are going to find you out. You are going to have to pay the penalty.” What God is telling us today [is] that we are going to have to pay a price for our sins. We cannot hide from God. We cannot hide our sins from God. He knows. Mankind can’t hide their sins, and they’re going to pay for it on this day, but also neither can we.

Sometimes people get in a pattern of sin and they think somehow that God doesn’t see. They can live two separate lives—a “church life” and then this “other” life. This other life is filled with sin. And, then, somehow they can put that in a box, shut it up, put in on a shelf, ignore it, and then come to church and live a righteous life in the church, “allegedly.” Then, once church is over or the Sabbath is over with or the holy day is over with, go back and open this other box.

God says, “You can’t do that. I’m not that foolish. I know your heart. I see your mind.” And so, therefore, the lesson is that we, above all people, should be open and honest with God in our prayers, in our thoughts, because He knows.

We can’t hide anything from God. You can hide something from a mate or a friend or a minister. Yes, we’re all human. But the fact is you can’t hide anything from God. It’s all out there. And because of that fact, when we pray and when we meditate about God, we need as they say, just let it all hang out, acknowledge it, repent, deal with it, and resolve it. Have no unresolved issues with God.

We cannot play games with God. Too many people—I dealt with a few of them this past week! People play games with God and think they can get away with it. And this day tells us that mankind has played games with God for six thousand years. And mankind says, “There is no God. We’re not going to have to pay. We can do what we want!” Well, this day represents a day of reckoning for mankind.

And the lesson we in the Church learn is yes, there is a day of reckoning for us too. (We’re no better than them.)

If we don’t repent of our sins, if we’re not honest before God, there will be a price to pay. That’s the first lesson we can learn: mankind and God’s people will ultimately pay a price for our sins.

The second, B, if you want to outline.

2.B. God always warns His people in advance of trouble.

Let's go to the very familiar scripture, Ezekiel 33. We'll read the first six verses. God does warn His people. We applied this scripture to radio and TV and The Plain Truth Magazine. Warning was certainly given. But we, today, have to heed the warning of the trouble to come. And it is coming right out of God's Word. It's always been there. We, above all people, know it, acknowledge it, read it, and we have to heed it. Ezekiel 33 verse 1:

Ezekiel 33:1. *Again the word of the [Eternal] came unto me, saying,
2) Son of man, speak to the children of [your] people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon [the] land, ... (KJV)*

And that day is not that far off!

Ezekiel 33:2b. *...if the people of the land [will] take a man of their coasts, and set him for [a] watchman: (KJV)*

So he can look and see when the enemy is coming and:

Ezekiel 33:3. *If he [sees] the sword come upon the land, he [blows] the [shofar], ... (KJV)*

Very appropriate for today.

Ezekiel 33:3b. *...and [warns] the people;
4) Then whosoever [hears] the sound of the [shofar], ... (KJV)*

And they don't take any warning. They don't listen. They don't heed.

Ezekiel 33:4b. *...if the sword [comes], and [takes] him away, [the] blood shall be upon his own head. (KJV)*

We read the Bible. We read Christ's words. We read the apostles' words. We read the prophets' words. And it's all a warning about us and our conduct and our deeds before Jesus Christ. If we don't heed that warning, it says we're going to be taken away and our blood is going to be on our own head. We have no excuses. None at all.

Verse 5:

Ezekiel 33:5. *He heard the sound of the trumpet [the shofar], and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that [takes] warning shall deliver his [life]. (KJV)*

And that is the meaning today. God gives us plenty of warning in advance. And if we don't take heed, we will forfeit not only our physical life, but our eternal life.

Ezekiel 33:6. *But if the watchman [sees] the sword come, and [the watchman doesn't] blow not the trumpet [the shofar], ... (KJV)*

That could be directly aimed at the ministry today, if the ministry doesn't warn and blow the trumpet, so to speak, metaphorically.

Ezekiel 33:6b. *...and the people be not warned; (KJV)*

The people are just given pabulum, just easy words and all of that. If the people aren't warned and:

Ezekiel 33:6 continued. *...the sword come, and take [away a] person ... among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the [one who should have done the warning]. (KJV)*

And we don't always like to preach gloom and doom. You don't like to talk negatively, but the fact is that on this day, the greatest catastrophe is going to occur that has ever faced mankind on this earth. And that is, the wrath of Jesus Christ. Man is going to have to pay for his sins and God is warning mankind and also warning us—God's firstfruits, God's chosen people, His little kids. He's warning us, the time is short. We better take heed. We better get our act together.

God expects us to heed the warning. Look at Luke chapter 21. We're going to read verses 32 through 36. [This is] our last scripture. Luke 21 verses 32 through 36. God expects us to heed His warnings that are scattered throughout the Bible—replete in the Bible. Luke 21 verse 32, Christ is saying:

Luke 21:32. *Verily I say unto you, [Truly, I say unto you,] This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. (KJV)*

In other words, the generation present at the time of the end, where all of these things have come to pass, that generation is not going to go until Christ returns. Verse 33:

Luke 21:33. *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. (KJV)*

Now, notice this!

Luke 21:34. *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with... (KJV)*

The King James says, "surfeiting, and drunkenness." Partying, just not thinking of the

serious sober things of God and just get involved in whatever is going on around you.

Luke 21:34b. ...the cares of this life, ...(KJV)

The cares of this life can so easily dominate our time. The pulls of the flesh can so easily pull us away from God and Jesus Christ and what the focus of our lives should be. He says, “Don’t let your hearts be involved in all of this:

Luke 21:34 continued. ...so that day [comes on] you unawares. (KJV)

He says, “Don’t let that happen!”

Luke 21:35. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. (KJV)

We’re told like in the days of [Noah] people are going to be marrying and eating and drinking and carrying on, trading and doing all that stuff. Just like it’s always been. It’s going to come as a “thief in the night.”

He says:

Luke 21:36. Watch [you] therefore, and pray always, that [you] may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that [are going to] come to pass, ... (KJV)

It’s a promise! Then, if you are, you can:

Luke 21:36b. ...stand before the Son of [God in white raiment]. (KJV)

And jump on a horse with Jesus Christ and follow Him back down to this earth.

Now is the time, short as it is, to heed and act upon God’s Word and God’s warnings. I can’t say that strong enough!

It’s just before the Feast. I can’t tell you the number of trials and troubles (some of them self-inflicted) that come upon God’s people.

In the last two weeks maybe, twenty days, I’ve had more requests for kids getting out of school for the Feast because the school systems are getting hard-nose about it; people getting off from work for the Feast because workers... They don’t care about God. They don’t care about holy days. They don’t care about that. They just want their workers to have their nose to the grindstone.

I can’t tell you the number of people that are going through personal trials. As I said, some are of their own making. There are conduct problems, marriage problems, child rearing problems. All of that just come to a heap right before the Feast—more so than

even the Passover!

And God is warning His people, “Hey it’s time to wake-up! You can be accounted worthy to escape all of this.”

Let’s understand that this day is unique among all the holy days because it’s right in the middle—the juncture between six thousand years of man’s rule and that overthrow and the beginning of God’s rule. It is the central holy day, dividing the time of man from the time of God.

It’s a day of blowing of trumpets. And as we learned, those trumpets are blown for two reasons—[a day of] joy and gladness and a day of solemnity over what is going to happen.

But what joy! We need to take away from this, at the end when it is all over with, God and Christ are going to begin the restoration of all things! And this day is the start of it. And what joy!

But at the same time, we have to soberly look at ourselves, heed the warning and get our spiritual lives back on track.

The way we do that is to put God at the center of our lives. God must be:

- at the center of our everyday life;
- at the center of our marriages;
- at the center of our child rearing; and
- at the center of our thoughts and deeds and words.

And we must love Him with all our being. And we must fervently love one another and love our neighbor and our community. We must do that.

So, this year we have three more holy days left after today—three more. And we have three more holy days to practice God’s way of life among God’s people.

Let’s make sure when we go to the Feast of Tabernacles, when we come for Atonement that we practice God’s way of life. God’s people come together—we have 122 signed up for Kellogg. And my guess is we’ll probably have a few more before it’s all over with—a very small number of people.

But boy, we should be able to practice love, and kindness, and gentleness, and goodness, and faith and mercy, and forbearance, and long-suffering among each other at the Feast, wherever you’re going for the Feast.

So, let’s make sure we use this dwindling time we have left on earth. It could be tomorrow for any of us. Let’s make sure we use this dwindling time to demonstrate to God that we will seek His kingdom, seek His way of life above all else.