

YOM TERUAH – BE READY!

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It is fairly traditional for me to start with, “Why are we here?”

A good question. Today is Thursday ... a working day for most people ... or out shopping ... or at school.

Why are we here? Why are we keeping a church service... on Thursday? Because God commands it? We are here to meet with Him at His appointed times (Hebrew: Moedim).

But why? Does God have some lessons or teachings that we can take from this day?

God specifies the date ... 1st Tishri ... but God also gives names to His Holy Days. Today is The Feast of Trumpets. What is the meaning of this day? Why is it significant? Let's find out.

Leviticus 23:1-2 (NKJV)

1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of Jehovah ... of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.”

What if the world believed just this one verse? How very different society would be. These are God's Feast Days!!! They belong to Him. These aren't feasts of Moses or feasts of the Jews ... they are God's Feasts. We ought to respect them.

Leviticus 23:4 (NKJV)

4 “These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.”

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NKJV)

23 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a

memorial of blowing of trumpets, (*“Blowing of Trumpets” = Hebrew: just one single word ... “Teruah” ... a shout or a blast of war, alarm or joy. Therefore ... on the 1st day ...you shall have a Memorial of Teruah*) **a holy convocation.**

25 **You shall do no customary work on it**; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.’ ”

Leviticus 23:24 (NET)

24 “Tell the Israelites, **‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you must have a complete rest, a memorial announced by loud horn blasts, a holy assembly.**”

Question: Is God just interested in our making a loud noise today? Or is there some great truth here ... something we need to be reminded of every year as we go round and round the cycle of Holy Days?

Traditionally: The sound of war/alarm or joy/rejoicing ... made with either a ram’s horn (shofar) or silver trumpets. What are we supposed to learn from making a noise today?

Numbers 29:1 (NKJV)

1 “And **in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets.** (*Only 2 words in Hebrew: Yom Teruah ... Day of the loud blasts... the day of shouting*)

NB The Jews more often call it “Rosh Hashanah” ... the Chief of The Year ... the start of the civil new year. Not a Biblical term. Typically when a new king would start his reign.

To understand: Let’s see how “Teruah” is used in the Bible.

There are 3 ways that God uses this word:

1. The alarm ... shout of war
2. The shout of joy and rejoicing
3. Warning to us ... today ... to wake up

Part 1 AN ALARM OF WAR AND TROUBLE

There have been plenty of wars. In the last 3,500 years of recorded history ... scholars have worked out that there have been only 270 entirely peaceful years. So war has been part of man's history for most of the time. Unfortunately, the news is ... there is much more ... trouble ... calamity and grief ... to come. Yom Teruah gives us advance warning of what is to come.

Jeremiah 4:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say:

"Blow the trumpet in the land; (shofar ... alarm) ...

Cry, 'Gather together,'

And say, 'Assemble yourselves,

And let us go into the fortified cities.'

6 Set up the standard toward Zion.

Take refuge! **(Hide)** Do not delay!

For I will bring disaster from the north,

And great destruction." *(horrible calamities coming on the people)*

7 The lion has come up from his thicket,

And the destroyer of nations is on his way.

He has gone forth from his place

To make your land desolate.

Your cities will be laid waste,

Without inhabitant.

8 **For this, clothe yourself with sackcloth,**

Lament and wail.

For the fierce anger of the Lord

Has not turned back from us.

Jeremiah 4:19-21 (NKJV)

19 O my soul, my soul!

I am pained in my very heart!

My heart makes a noise in me;

I cannot hold my peace,

Because you have heard, O my soul,

The sound of the trumpet, (shofar)

The alarm of war. (Teruah)

20 **Destruction upon destruction** is cried,

For the whole land is plundered.

Suddenly my tents are plundered,

And my curtains in a moment.

21 How long will I see the standard,

And **hear the sound of the trumpet?** (*Shofar*)

The watchman in ancient times would use trumpets to warn people of coming troubles.

Ezekiel 33:1-9 (NKJV)

1 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

2 “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them:

‘**When I bring the sword upon a land, (warfare)** and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,

3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, **if he blows the trumpet and warns the people,** (*a warning to escape ... destruction is coming*)

4 **then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning,** **if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.**

5 **He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself.** But he who takes warning will save his life.

6 But **if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet,** and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but **his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.** (*the watchman has a job to do*)

7 “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

If don't heed ...

Zephaniah 1:7 (NKJV)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God;

For **the day of the Lord is at hand,** (*soon?*)

For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice;

He has invited His guests.

Zephaniah 1:14-18 (NKJV)

14 **The great day of the Lord is near;**

It is near and hastens quickly.

The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter;

There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 **That day (the coming Day of The Lord) is a day of wrath,**

A day of trouble and distress,

A day of devastation and desolation,

A day of darkness and gloominess,

A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 **A day of trumpet (shofar) and alarm (Teruah)**

Against the fortified cities

And against the high towers.

17 "I will bring distress upon men,

And they shall walk like blind men,

Because they have sinned against the Lord;

Their blood shall be poured out like dust,

And their flesh like refuse."

18 Neither their silver nor their gold

Shall be able to deliver them

In the day of the Lord's wrath;

But the whole land shall be devoured

By the fire of His jealousy,

For He will make speedy riddance

Of all those who dwell in the land.

Let's look at The New Testament now. There are some very special trumpets ... but not Teruah. Trumpets in Greek = Salpigx

The Book of Revelation: We have 7 seals ... 7 trumpets ... 7 vials. Seven very special trumpets relevant to us today.

Revelation 8:1-2 (NKJV)

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 And **I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.**

Is it good news or bad news?

Revelation 8:6-13 (NKJV)

6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

First Trumpet:

7 The first angel sounded: And **hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**

Second Trumpet:

8 Then the second angel sounded: And **something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.**

9 And **a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

Third Trumpet:

10 Then the third angel sounded: And **a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.**

11 **The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.**

Fourth Trumpet:

12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And **a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.**

13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, **“Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”**

(Voice) Woe, woe, woe—horror, disaster, and calamity—to the earth dwellers!

There's worse coming.

Revelation 9:1-6 (NKJV)

Fifth Trumpet:

1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Revelation 9:10-12

10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Destroyer)

12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Revelation 9:13-21 (NKJV)

Sixth Trumpet:

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulphur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

18 **By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.**

19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

20 **But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands,** that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

21 **And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.** *(Even with this punishment and carnage ... you still can't get to these people ... they do not repent)*

So ... Trumpets are associated with massive destruction ... environment ... cities ... 100's of millions of people dead ... much of society in ruin. The world we know would be unrecognisable.

So. Yom Teruah ... a warning of troubles to come ... especially the trumpets that line up prior to Jesus' return.

Yet? Only bad news? No. There is another meaning of Teruah ... shouting for joy ... shouts of rejoicing.

Part 2 SHOUTING FOR JOY

Yom Teruah also pictures just about the best news ever for mankind! A great day for us!

Beginning with the 7th trumpet ... at long last ... a world of peace ... well-being ... of joy ... of abundance ... of long healthy lives ... of truth blanketing the earth. A time when there is no more war ... no more violence ... no more sickness ... no more politics.

Today pictures the day when Jesus becomes King of this world. King of Kings. Pictures the day when God's Kingdom is established.

We have seen 6 trumpets ... now on to the 7th trumpet ... the last one!!

Revelation 11:15-18 (NKJV)

Seventh Trumpet:

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: **And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”** (If you are a believer ... this is almost the best verse in the Bible)

16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

17 saying:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

18 **The nations were angry**, and Your wrath has come,
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
And **that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints**, (good news for us ... Jesus is back ... setting up the Father’s Kingdom)

And those who fear Your name, small and great,
And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (For the world ... even more judgment)

The blowing of the seventh trumpet brings in the fulfilment of many of the Old Testament prophecies. One day God’s Messiah would reign on earth and establish His Kingdom. Peace across the whole earth. Well ... this is it ... when the 7th Trumpet blows.

Daniel 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 **“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!**

He came to the Ancient of Days, (*Jesus coming to The Father*)
And they brought Him near before Him.

14 **Then to Him (the Lord Jesus) was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,**

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

This is Jesus ... taking over the governments of this world.

Daniel 7:27 (NKJV)

27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,**

And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,

Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

(The saints share in the administration of God's Government... at the 7th Trumpet)

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

When? When the 7th Trumpet blows!

Matthew 24:11-16 (NKJV)

11 **Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.** *(We had better be alert to that)*

12 **And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**

13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

14 And **this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

There will be a time when we will see this abomination set up.

Matthew 24:21-22 (NKJV)

21 **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

22 **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.** *(We are talking here about a time of trouble and calamity like never before in history ... the Great Tribulation)*

Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)

29 **"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** *(Heavenly signs)*

30 ***Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***

31 And ***He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*** (A real shout for joy!! At long last! The best news ever)

When we hear that trumpet! Fantastic! We will be gathered together.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For ***if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.***

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that ***we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.***

16 ***For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.***

17 ***Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.***

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (As Jesus returns ... a great shout of joy)

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Jesus will be pretty excited too? Jesus can meet up again with people whom he has known ... Abraham ... Moses ... Elijah ... John ... His mother ... Peter ... Paul. We'll be excited too!

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 (NKJV)

50 Now this I say, brethren, that ***flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.***

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: ***We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—***

52 in a moment, **in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** (Immortality!)

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "**Death is swallowed up in victory.**"

Once Jesus is King ... with resurrected saints (Jesus' brothers and sisters ... as fellow kings and priests) ... then the world can move forward ... into its time of peace ... prosperity ... good health. Great news! Pictured by the Day of Trumpets ... Yom Teruah.

So ... is it just academic knowledge for us? Do we just relax ... wait ... nothing for us to do?

PART 3 A WARNING TODAY FOR US TO BE AWAKE ... BE ALERT

Trumpets is also a shout to us now to awake now and be ready.

Too many at the end will slumber. Jesus frequently warned His disciples to be alert and ready for His return.

Mark 13:24-27 (NKJV)

24 "But **in those days, after that tribulation**, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 **Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.**

27 And **then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.**

Watch!

Mark 13:28-31 (NKJV)

28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 So you also, **when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors!** (*You and I should be able to see what is in the prophecies*)

30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Mark 13:32-37 (NKJV)

32 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 **Take heed, watch and pray; (Beware!! Be alert!) for you do not know when the time is.**

34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

35 **Watch therefore**, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—

36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

37 **And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!**” (*That means you and me!*)

It seems there is a potential problem here.

Luke 12:35-40 (NKJV)

35 “**Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; (be ready and alert ... at all times!!)**

36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, **that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.** (*That would mean you were alert and ready*)

37 **Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.** Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

40 **Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**"

(Voice) Verse 36 I'm not just talking theory. There is urgency in all this... ... You should be wide awake and on your toes...

There is a warning here ... we need to be awake and alert.

Luke 21:29-31 (NKJV)

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 So you also, **when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.** (*If we are not looking for them ... don't know what we are looking for ... then we will pass on by*)

Luke 21:34-36 (NKJV)

34 **"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.** (*Is that possible? It must be ... Jesus tells us to watch out*)

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. (*It shouldn't come as a snare to God's people*)

36 **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**" (*Watch Therefore ! KEEP ON THE ALERT. Pray ALWAYS!!*)

This is addressed to you and me! The world won't see it coming. We may be the final generation that is still alive when Christ returns. The final warning is: WATCH!!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 (NKJV)

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 **For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**

3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (The unconverted)

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. (The converted)

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

Therefore ... you and I can take Yom Teruah every year as an annual wake-up call! A shout to be alert/watchful ... particularly as we move into the end-time. It appears to be the case ... the nearer you get ... the more people “drop off”.

Romans 13:10-14 (NKJV)

10 Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Summary:

Teruah ... shout of alarm and trouble and war. And for you and me ... a shout of joy and rejoicing ... and a shout for us to WAKE UP! Be watchful!

Let's look forward to Jesus' return.

And ... BE READY!