

## UNDERSTANDING THE DAY OF TRUMPETS

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Most of the churches that splintered off from Worldwide teach that the Day of Trumpets pictures the return of Christ because of 1Thessalonians 4:16 that says, For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump (trumpet) of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Also they point to the trumpet plagues in the book of Revelation preceding his return. But to insist that Christ will return on the Day of Trumpets contradicts Matthew 25:13 which says that we cannot know the day nor the hour of his return.

There is no set date, but there are clues in the Bible about his return. One clue is that Jesus warned the disciples in Matthew 24:15 that the Great Tribulation would start when they shall see the abomination of desolation stand in the holy place. He told them in the following verses to flee immediately into the mountains, not even stopping to get their clothes. The next verse gives us the clue that we are to pray that our flight be not in winter neither on the Sabbath day. If God answers our prayer, this indicates that the Beast may place the abomination sometime in the fall before winter sets in and the Sabbath day may be referring to a particular high Sabbath, the Day of Atonement when they would all be fasting and it would be most inconvenient at that time to have to flee. If this is so and the tribulation lasts three and a half years, this would place the coming of Christ sometime in the spring, and nowhere near the Day of Trumpets.

Another clue is in Revelation 11 when the two witnesses shall preach in Jerusalem during the same time the Beast is there and will be killed by the Beast shortly before Christ returns at the seventh trumpet. So when we see the two witnesses start their work we will know to count three and a half years until Christ's return - again without knowing the exact day nor the hour.

We can actually do away with the idea that Christ must return on the Day of Trumpets by showing that there were many occasions when trumpets were to be blown, not just on the Day of Trumpets. See Numbers 10:1-10. Notice here that on all the Holy Days and on the first day of every month trumpets were to be blown. On the day of Jubilee trumpets were blown. (Lev 25:9) So it is possible that Jesus could return on any Holy Day or even a New Moon when trumpets are blown, not just on the Day of Trumpets.

But, some may argue, trumpets were blown on the Day of Trumpets more than on any other day. This is surely evidence that it pictures the return of Christ. The fact is though, that there is a good reason why trumpets were blown on the Day of Trumpets more than on any other day and that reason is that on the first days of all the months, trumpets were blown. But since the Day of Trumpets (the first day of the seventh month) is the high day of all the months, it was said to be a day of blowing of trumpets in Numbers 29:1 when they were blown all day long. This is an important fact that we have forgotten since most of the churches of God do not keep the first days of the months (New Moons), this important meaning of the Day of Trumpets has been forgotten and ignored. But Isaiah 66:23 says that when Christ returns all flesh shall come to worship him on the New Moons as well as on the Sabbath days.

Another important point about the Day of Trumpets is - Leviticus 23:24 says that it is a memorial of blowing of trumpets. The Hebrew word for memorial is zikrown H2146. If you look up some of the other scriptures where this word is used, you see that a memorial is something that we are to remember about blowing of trumpets - perhaps occasions when trumpets were blown in order to learn lessons from them. But having ignored the word 'memorial', we have not learned the lessons.

These scriptures give us the true symbolism of trumpets. They are symbolic of the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,*

*Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

So blowing with the trumpets picture receiving instruction from the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is why trumpets were blown on all the Holy Days and the New Moons because in all of them we are to listen to his voice, not man's commandments and doctrines. Notice here that John was commanded to write to the seven churches in Asia with the words of this trumpet voice of the Lord.

Isaiah 58:1 says: Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. And this is exactly what Jesus did in these letters to the seven churches. Here are seven sins in the letters that the Lord rebuked in his churches. Are we listening to his great trumpet voice? Are we paying attention to the voice of the trumpet to see if we are guilty of any of these sins?

1. Rev 2:4 You have left your first love
2. Rev 2:14 You hold the doctrine of Balaam
3. Rev 2:15 You hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans
4. Rev 2:20 You allow Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols.
5. Rev 3:1-2 Your works are not perfect; you are spiritually dead.
6. Rev 3:15 You are neither cold nor hot but lukewarm
7. Rev 3:17 You say you are rich, but know not that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

## CONCLUSION

We have always said that the Holy Days picture the plan of God, and indeed they do, but not in the way we have interpreted them. To say they picture the return of Christ, the putting away of Satan and the millennium leaves us with nothing to do but wait for these events. The true plan of God in the Holy Days is the process of how God changes our character from carnal to righteous, and grows us up into Christ by having us pay attention to the spirit of his laws and facing up to all our sins. Let us keep the Day of Trumpets by listening to the voice of our Lord telling us

what sins we need to repent of so that the coming Day of Atonement will really mean something and change us for the better. Let us keep all his Holy Days with a perfect heart and with the prayer of Daniel 9 on our lips.