

**The Ark  
Sounds of the Trumpet  
September 23, 2020  
Stewardship**

*Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase;*

*10. So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

This is what I call a conditional promise. It states a particular conduct required for a particular blessing. In this case it is honoring the Lord with your possessions and first fruits of your increase.

How do we honor the Lord with our possessions and the first fruits of our increase?

By giving. First to the Lord and then to those around us in need.

**But remember all promises are activated by our faith... that is our confidence that God will honor His word. So when you give, give with expectation.**

Ways to give:

On line through Ark.info

Through the mail

When in service at the back of the auditorium in the boxes provided or ushers

## Lesson Trumpets

I want to talk to you about a Jewish Feast from the Old Testament. I don't celebrate the Jewish Feast days as a rule, because I don't live under the Law but under Grace. However, the entire Old Testament is written for, Gentile believers, as well as for Jewish people, and the New Testament was written for Jewish people as much as for Gentile people. The entire Bible is God's story and was given to us so that we could understand our God and His great love for us.

*1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them (Israel) as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

### Feast of Trumpets

*Leviticus 23:23-24 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "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, a holy convocation."*

The Feast of Trumpets marks the beginning of ten days of **consecration and repentance before God**. It is one of seven Jewish feasts or festivals appointed by the Lord and one of the three feasts that occur in the autumn. **Its name comes from the command to blow trumpets.**

Like most New Testament believers, The Feast of Trumpets reminds me of the rapture of the church...

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself shall 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, 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... Therefore, comfort one another with these words.*

To the Jew, this ten days was and is a time to examine their life and to prepare to stand before God and offer sacrifice for their sins on the **Day of Atonement** when once a year they would offer a lamb in sacrifice for their sins... Once a year...

For believers **Jesus** is our day of atonement. He is our Lamb of God.

*(Exodus 12:13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood. I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.)* Jesus is our sacrificial Lamb who died for the sins of the world. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. However, we still need to examine our life and repent of any sin that may surface as we seek God.

## The Prophet Joel Spoke of Trumpets

*Joel 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! And 12 Now, therefore, says the LORD, Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting with weeping and with mourning. So, rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him – a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God. Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, Verse 17. Let the priests who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar: Let them say, “**Spare Your people O Lord**”.*

***Twice in this passage Joel commanded that they “Blow a Trumpet”***

The prophet Joel commanded that a trumpet be blown in Zion to consecrate a fast, and call a sacred assembly (Joel 2:1-17).

**Three reasons a trumpet was blown in Israel:**

- Israel blew the trumpet to call an assembly
- Israel blew a trumpet to call Israel to War
- Israel blew a trumpet to call the people to God

I found a wonderful narrative in Exodus 19 about the trumpet. In this narrative I found a couple of scriptures whose sister scripture can be found in the New Testament. God is talking to Moses and giving him a message for the people:

*Exodus 19:4 “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to Myself. 5. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”*

In 1 Peter 2:9 Peter is addressing the New Testament Church. Listen to the Word God gave him for the church “*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10. Who once were not a people but are now the people of God!*”

God said the same thing to the church that He had spoken to Israel.

Our identity – We are a chosen generation

We are a royal priesthood and holy nation

We are God’s own people.

Our purpose – That we proclaim and demonstrate the praises of God.

It doesn't matter how you feel or what is going on in your life, if you have received Jesus Christ as Lord.... God sees you as chosen – royal – a priest of God – holy – God's own precious possession and YOU HAVE A PURPOSE: YOU ARE TO PRAISE – WORSHIP – PROCLAIM THE PRAISES OF GOD.

### **Back to Exodus 19:**

God desired to visit the people. I believe God still desires to visit and make His permanent home with us. THIS IS THE REASON GOD CREATED US...FOR COMMUNION. However, in order to come into communion with God we must prepare our hearts and remove those things that are blocking our communion...sin, unbelief, bitterness, offence, unforgiveness.

In this narrative God gave the people three days to examine themselves – cleanse their bodies and prepare their hearts for a visitation from God. Now listen to what happened:

*Exodus 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the TRUMPET was very loud so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.*

*17. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God and they stood at the foot of the mountain.*

*18. Now Mt. Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace and the whole mountain quaked greatly.*

*19. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him by voice.*

**Think about it... they actually heard the voice of God!**

However, they did not want to continue approaching God:

*Exodus 19:18-20 Now all the people witnessed the thundering, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, you speak with us and we will hear; but let not God speak with us lest we die. And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come to test you and that His ear may be before you, so that you may not sin." SO, THE PEOPLE STOOD AFAR OFF, BUT MOSES DREW NEAR THE THICK DARKNESS WHERE GOD WAS!*

I don't want to be like the people. I want to be like Moses and draw near to God...

**Hebrews tells us that we have also come to the Mountain of God...but the mountain we have come to is heavenly:**

*Hebrews 12:18 for you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest;*

*19. And the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.*

*20. For they could not endure what was commanded. And if so much as a beast touches the mountain it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.*

*21. And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling."*

*22. But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. To an innumerable company of angels.*

*23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

*24. To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*

*25. See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.*

### **So, What Should We do?**

Speaking to the crowd after healing the lame man at the Gate Beautiful, Peter said...*Repent therefore and be converted, that*

*your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...*

Tonight, I believe God longs to commune with us. He longs to refresh us and restore us. He has done His part and He stands waiting for us....OUR PART IS TO PREPARE FOR HIS PRESENCE:

David prayed: *Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; 24. And see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Repent = To turn away from toward....** Is there something you need to turn away from in order to turn toward God? Is that thing really worth missing an encounter with the creator of the universe?

**Be Converted or saved** – If you have never received Christ as Savior ... this is the night for you to do that.

I long to experience God in greater ways and deeper communion. I've joined many believers all over the earth in setting aside these ten days during this Jewish Feast to examine my heart and ask God:

- to purify me anew,
- remove any obstacle that may be blocking my faith and
- prepare me for the refreshing winds from heaven

Will you join me?

