

In HONOR of— The FALLEN

JERUSALEM

Trumpet**S**

Concert Hall

In memory of Israel's people who never made it to Israel



The Sweet Essence of a Rose

Biblical Sites We Will See in this File

**Israel Museum, Mount of Olives,
and the Golden Gate**

A Trip of Lifetime...



“Next Year in Jerusalem is Now” TM

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem.” Acts 20:22

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Introduction

Our Christian faith rests on the Jewish Messiah, who was crucified on the Feast of “Passover.” He was buried on the Feast of “Unleavened Bread,” and He was “resurrected” on the Feast of “First Fruits.” Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days after His resurrection and ascended into Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God, the Father. Jesus gave us His LIFE by sending down the Precious Holy Spirit on the Feast of “Pentecost.” The “Church Age” began as the “Time of the Gentiles” continued. The fifth Feast- “Feast of Trumpets,” represents the “picture” for the “Rapture.” The “Last Shofar Trumpet” will sound, and God’s Church will instantaneously disappear. I like the term “gathered,” but most Christians use the term “raptured.” We are waiting for a “**resurrection.**” It will either be a bodily resurrection if we are “asleep” (dead body) or an instantaneous physical resurrection to meet Jesus if we are still alive.

“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him... According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from Heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage each other with these words.” 1 Thess. 4:13-18

“How will we Know when Jesus Christ will Return?”

The Shofar Trumpet and Temple Trumpet’s sounding are the precursor of Jesus’ return.

1. **God’s Shofar Trumpets will be sounding.** God’s “**Shofar Trumpet**” is first introduced when God commands Abram to sacrifice “Isaac” on Mount Moriah. As Abram is about to bring the knife down on his son, God intervenes and provides Abram with a “substitute,” a “Ram” caught in the thicket by its **horns**.

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn.” Psalms 98:4-6

2. **The “Last (Shofar) Trumpet” will sound, and all believers will be “Gathered” (Raptured).** “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last Trumpet. For the **Trumpet will sound**, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” 1 Cor. 15:51-55

3. God's Seventh Angel sounds, the seventh Temple Trumpet will Jesus Christ's RETURN—His Second coming.

"The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15

Now to the obvious question...

**Who will Sound the "Last Trumpet?"
How will the Worldwide Church Hear it?**

Maybe one of God's angels sounds the "Last Trumpet" so His entire church can hear it. Or maybe God chooses someone to sound the Shofar, and it's broadcast so everyone can hear it. Another possibility is that a "Shofar Trumpet" video is posted on social media, and "everyone" hears it. What other options are there?

The ONLY other option I can think of is that we are entering a "Season" when God's people are taught the stories and significance of God's Trumpet throughout Scripture. This new season includes learning how to sound the "Shofar Trumpet."

Ultimately, I believe the "Shofar Trumpet" will be regularly sounded to call God's people to worship and to begin every Christian church service, para-church venue, and event.

Could it be that "One Day" so many "Shofars Trumpets" are being sounded at the same time in the United States and worldwide that the "Last Trumpet" is "Sounded," and the "Church" hears it? **After all, it is the "Last Sound" Christians will hear!**

God's Trumpet

Throughout Scripture, the “Shofar Trumpet” was sounded to announce God’s plans and prophetic purposes. However, if you asked most Christians, “What is a Shofar Trumpet?” You would most likely hear, “I don’t know.” However, if Christians knew what a “Shofar Trumpet” was, they most likely never sounded one. Therefore, if you asked, “Should a Christian own and sound the ‘Shofar Trumpet’ regularly?” You would most likely hear, “What for? That’s a stupid idea! But if sounding the “Shofar Trumpet” is a stupid idea, why did God command that “ANYONE” could sound the Shofar Trumpet? And why didn’t He say to STOP sounding it? Therefore, sounding a “Shofar Trumpet” isn’t a stupid idea! **It’s God’s idea!**

Since 2019, I have been giving away “Shofars,” explaining how to sound it, and sharing the many Bible stories about the sounding of God’s Trumpet.” The trend indicates that people will sound the “Shofar” once or twice and then put it on a shelf or a drawer. But that’s not where you should put your “Shofar.” The Shofar belongs right next to your Bible. Sounding the “Shofar” is as needful as prayer, Bible reading, fasting, giving, serving, etc. Granted, “Shofar” is not listed in any book about “Spiritual disciplines.” **But I submit that it should be! I also propose that the “Shofar” should be sounded to “Call God’s People to Worship” in Christian churches, events, and venues. In addition, I also submit that pastors and Bible teachers should do a preaching and teaching “series” on “God’s Trumpets.”**

The evidence in the Bible indicates that God’s favorite instrument is the “Shofar Trumpet.” So, in Israel and worldwide, Jewish people sound the “Shofar” on the Feast of “Trumpets” and other celebratory events. It is also why every Jewish family has one. Jewish people hold the “Shofar” in high regard. Sadly, for Christians, the opposite is true. The “Shofar” is not regularly sounded in God’s church throughout North America or worldwide. But I continue to believe that’s about to change...



“Israel’s Resurrections”

Israel, “God’s Land,” has been resurrected. Once “dead,” the Land has been restored to the Jews and is a thriving Modern Country.

The Jews, “God’s people,” have been resurrected. After the Holocaust, only one-third of the Jewish population remained, and they were scattered to the “Four Corners” of the earth. But in 2018, more Jews live in Israel than in any other country.

Jerusalem, “God’s City,” has been resurrected. For 2,000 years, Jerusalem was “lost” and not in control by the Jewish People. But after the “6 Day” 1967 war, the City of Jerusalem was recaptured and is now Israel’s capital again.

Hebrew, “God’s Language,” has been resurrected. Until one hundred years ago, the “Hebrew” language was dead. Now, it is the language of the Jews in Israel and worldwide.

Israel, “God’s Economy,” has been resurrected. When Israel was “Reborn” in 1948, Her economy began with nothing. Seventy-five years later, Israel has become an economic powerhouse and is the “Start-Up Nation.” Many companies have established “offices” in Israel to tap into Israel’s “Brain-Trust.”

Could it be that NOW is the “time” for “God’s Shofar Trumpet” to be resurrected, too?

“Sound the Trumpets in Zion”

It’s Time to Praise the Lord

The Shofar was sounded to “Praise the Lord” throughout Israel’s history and should be “Today,” too! I believe the Shofar Trumpet should be sounded to “call” God’s people to worship at every church service, para-church venue, and event.

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth! He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. Psalm 47:1–9

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things...The LORD has made his Salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel...Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn. Psalm 98:1–9

“The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds...Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving...Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion...He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws, and decrees to Israel. He has done this for no other nation...Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King... Praise him with the sounding of the Trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD. Psalm 146:1–Proverbs 4:27

The Sound of the Shofar Trumpet is Near to God's Heart—



God's Trumpet is NOT a toy!

It's a serious instrument for serious Kingdom Work!
Please keep it near your Bible and sound it often!

Keep your Shofar Trumpet near your Bible. Sound it to:
Proclaim and celebrate the "good things" God bestows upon you.
Praise Him in worship.
Prepare you for spiritual battles and during spiritual battles.

An Overview of The Sounding of God’s Trumpets— “Past” The Messiah’s First Coming Is Unveiled

God’s “Shofar Trumpet” is Introduced at Mount Moriah

God “called” Abram to be the Father of the Jewish people. God also promises Abram a “son” even though his wife is beyond child-bearing years. After the “son of promise,” Isaac,” is born, God commands Abram to sacrifice “Isaac” on Mount Moriah. At the instant Abram is about to bring the knife down on his son, God intervenes and provides Abram with a “substitute” – a “Ram” caught in the thicket by its **horns**. At that moment, a “Ram’s Horn” becomes God’s Trumpet, called a “**Shofar.**” The Shofar Trumpet is a “declarative instrument” meant to get the hearer’s attention. Throughout Scripture, anyone could sound the “Shofar Trumpet.”

God’s Angels Sound Trumpets at Mount Sinai

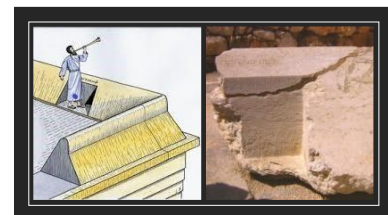
After the Jewish Nation was enslaved in Egypt for four hundred years, God raised Moses, who led the Nation of Israel out of “bondage” toward the “Promised Land.” After crossing through the Red Sea, the Israelites camped at Mount Sinai. Moses meets with God on “Mount Sinai,” and he receives the “Mosaic Law,” or the “Old Covenant.” Before Moses climbed up Mount Sinai to receive the Law, when Moses came down with the Law, God’s angels sounded Trumpets, and God’s people were afraid.

God’s “Temple Trumpet” is Introduced at Mount Sinai

With the Law, Israel also received instructions for building the Tabernacle and the institution of the “Sacrificial System.” “Temple Trumpets,” also called “Silver Trumpets,” are introduced. Temple Trumpets were sounded to make offerings to God, to call the Israelites together or to send them out for times of rejoicing, and to mark the start of God’s “Seven Feasts.”

Place of Trumpeting

Only God’s “Priests” (Tribe of Levi) could sound the “Temple Trumpets,” and they were sounded in the “Place of Trumpeting” located at the top of the Jewish Temple.



God’s “Seven Feasts”

With the Law, God instructed the Jewish people to observe the “Seven Feasts.” They are Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, “Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles. God loves the Trumpet so much that His fifth Feast is called the “Feast of Trumpets.”

Sound the Trumpet-The Year of Jubilee Begins

With the Law, God ordained a “Year of Jubilee,” which also began with the sounding of Trumpets.

God's Trumpets Connect Many of the People, Places, and Events in Israel's History

- ❖ With Trumpets and shouts, the walls of Jericho came down.
- ❖ Ehud defeats the Moabites and then sounds the Trumpet.
- ❖ Sound the trumpet- it's time to praise the Lord.
- ❖ The Sounding of God's Trumpets is Associated with Many of Israel's Kings
- ❖ King Saul sounds the Trumpet presumptuously.
- ❖ Trumpets are sounded as David returns God's "Ark" to Jerusalem.
- ❖ Solomon is anointed King of Israel with Trumpets sounding.
- ❖ With Trumpets Sounding, King Solomon announces that God's Temple will be built.
- ❖ King Solomon's Temple is dedicated with many Trumpets sounding.
- ❖ King Abijah's Priests sound Trumpets, and King Jeroboam is defeated.
- ❖ With Trumpets, God's Judgments are pronounced on Moab.
- ❖ Sound Trumpets- King Jehoshaphat celebrates God's victory.
- ❖ Joash is appointed to be the King of Judah with Trumpets.
- ❖ Return to The Lord, faithless Israel—sound Trumpets, and return to Zion.
- ❖ Gideon defeats the Midianites as "300" Trumpets are sounded.
- ❖ King Hezekiah purifies the Temple as Trumpets are sounded.
- ❖ With Trumpets, Jehu is anointed King of Israel.
- ❖ "Watchmen"-sound Trumpets.
- ❖ Believers are God's Spiritual watchmen-sound Trumpets.
- ❖ With Trumpets, The rebuilding of the First Temple begins.
- ❖ The Foundation of the Temple is now complete-sound Trumpets.
- ❖ The Rebuilt Temple is completed-sound Trumpets.
- ❖ Nehemiah begins rebuilding the "Walls of Jerusalem"-sound the Trumpets.
- ❖ With Trumpets, the "Walls of Jerusalem" are now rebuilt and rededicated.

Zechariah Unveils How to Recognize the Soon-Coming Messiah

Throughout Israel's history, the Jews were looking forward to the "Coming of their Messiah." Then, the prophet, Zechariah, unveils how to recognize Him. He will arrive riding on a donkey. "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion...See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zechariah 9:9

Zechariah Unveils that the Sounding of a Trumpet will precede the Messiah's Return— (His Second Coming).

"The LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the Trumpet; he will march in the storms of the South." Zechariah 9:14

Later, the prophet Jeremiah announces that a "New Covenant" is coming for "Israel" to replace the "Old Covenant:

"The time is coming, declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah." Jeremiah 31:31

Messiah's "First Coming" becomes more imminent as God's trumpets are sounded. God is "silent" for four hundred years after the last prophet of the Old Testament, Malachi.

The Sounding of God's Trumpets— “Past” The Messiah's First Coming Is Unveiled

God's Shofar Trumpet is Unveiled to Abram on Mount Moriah

The Temple Mount is also the location of “**Mount Moriah**,” where the story of Abraham and Isaac finds its conclusion, and Shofar Trumpet is introduced.



Here on “Mount Moriah,” God directed Abraham to offer his “one and only son,” Isaac (the “son of promise”), as a sacrifice. But when Abram is about to bring his knife down, God supplies a “substitute,” a ram caught in the thicket. **Therefore, God chose the “Ram's Horn” to be His Trumpet, called a “Shofar.”**

“Early the next morning, Abraham...took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac...he set out for the place God had told him about...Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife...Isaac spoke up and said to his father, Abraham...The fire and wood are here...but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham



answered, “**God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering**...When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not

do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld from me, your son, your only son. Abraham looked up, and there in a thicket, he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son...The angel of the LORD called to Abraham...I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me." Genesis 22:1-18

The Shofar Trumpet was sounded to celebrate many of Israel's historical achievements. For example, the Shofar was sounded when David returned the "Ark of the Covenant" to Jerusalem, and King Solomon announced that the First Temple would be built. The Shofar Trumpet was also sounded whenever the Israelites lifted their hands and hearts to the Lord. ***"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn."*** The Israelites also sounded God's Trumpet in preparation for battle against their enemies, and just as importantly, it was sounded during their battles. The Shofar Trumpet was just as essential for battle as the Jewish soldier's sword and shield.

The sounding of the Shofar Trumpet was not "exclusive" to the "Old Covenant," as it was introduced before the "Old Covenant" was enacted. And in the "Old Covenant," God introduced His "Seven Feasts" for Israel to observe. He also called the fifth Feast "Trumpets." But God never said, "Stop," sounding His Trumpet. Therefore, the sounding of God's Shofar Trumpet did not go away when Jesus Christ initiated the "New Covenant." God intends for His Shofar Trumpet to be sounded continually as His church waits for the "Last Shofar" Trumpet" to be sounded. Remember that the Shofar Trumpet will be the LAST sound Christians hear before we are "Gathered" to be with Jesus and the time of Tribulation begins.

That said, believers rely on prayer, Bible study, fasting, and other Spiritual disciplines for spiritual growth and engaging in spiritual battles. But did you know that the sounding of God's Shofar Trumpet should also be included in your "spiritual arsenal?" I am convinced Christians should sound their Shofar Trumpet whenever they have "something" to celebrate in conjunction with their praise and worship of God. I am also sure Christians are to sound the Shofar Trumpet in preparation for spiritual battles and the heat of these battles. Therefore, in readiness, Christians should place their Shofar Trumpet near their Bible as God moves in their hearts and lives.

God's Trumpet is Heard for the First Time at Mount Sinai

Eventually, the "Nation of Israel" was held captive under the Egyptian Pharaoh for four hundred years. They cry out for a "Deliverer," and God raises Moses. After a series of "Ten Plagues," God lashes out at the Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Moses leads the Nation of Israel out of Egypt towards the "Promised Land."



After crossing through the Red Sea, the Israelites arrived at **Mount Sinai**. Moses went up the "Mount" eight times to meet with God. On his sixth time up, Moses receives the "Old Covenant," or the "Fifth Covenant." But **before** Moses comes down from Mount Sinai, **God's angels sound trumpets**.

"Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. **Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain...** On the morning of the third day, there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain **and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled...** Mount Sinai was covered with smoke...the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder."

Also, **after** Moses comes down from Mount Sinai with the Law, **God's angels sound trumpets**.

"When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet, and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. Exodus 19:1–20:21

When Moses came down with the Law, he found that the Israelites had made and worshipped a golden cow. It is idolatry, so God punished them, and **3,000** Jews were killed.

The Mosaic Law or "Old Covenant" that Moses received encompasses three parts:

1. The Ten Commandments.

2. The Ordinances. Instructions for sacrifices, dietary restrictions, blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience, and the death penalty for certain sins.
3. The Worship System. The Levitical priesthood, Tabernacle, offerings, and Feasts.

In the Law, God:

- Reveals His Righteousness and Holy character.
- Sets Israel apart from all other nations.
- Reveals the sinfulness of man.
- Provides forgiveness of sins through sacrifices.
- Provides avenues for worship.
- Provides spiritual direction.
- Reveals the need for a Messiah.
- Points us to the Messiah, Jesus.

The “Old Covenant” Law consisted of 613 Laws, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment. Consider this Jewish man, who most likely wanted wood to make a fire and cook food.

“While the Israelites were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, “The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.” So, the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses.” Numbers 15:32–36

God's "Temple Trumpets" Were Introduced at Mount Sinai

With the giving of the Law to Moses, God introduced "Temple Trumpets," also called "**Silver Trumpets.**"

While anyone could blow the Ram's Horn (Shofar Trumpet), the "Temple Trumpets" were reserved solely for use by the Priests (Levites).



The "Temple Trumpets" were sounded to:

- Call the Israelites to gather together and send them out.
- Call God to help them during battle.
- Usher a time for rejoicing. I.E., Jewish Feasts.
- Make offerings to God.

"Make two trumpets of hammered silver and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out...The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets...When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets...you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies. Also, at your times of rejoicing—your appointed feasts and New Moon festivals—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God." Numbers 9:15–10:11

Scripture does not say what type of Trumpet God's angels sounded at Mount Sinai. But the Bible says the people were "afraid" when they heard the Trumpet. Therefore, I believe God's angels sounded the Shofar Trumpet. Temple Trumpets make majestic sounds. I have a Temple Trumpet, and I cannot blow it to make a scary sound. However, when I blow my Shofar Trumpet, I can make various sounds, including scary and piercing sounds like the Israelites heard.

Feast of Trumpets

God loves the Trumpet so much that His fifth feast is called the “Feast of Trumpets.” Each Feast had a “list” of specific instructions on how to observe. However, regarding the “Feast of Trumpets,” God’s only direction is to sound the trumpet.

“The LORD said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the LORD by fire.’” Leviticus 23:23–25

“On the first day of the seventh month, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets.” Numbers 29:1–6

Sound the Trumpets, the Year of Jubilee Begins

With the instructions, God gave Moses on Mount Sinai. God also established the “Year of Jubilee,” which is celebrated with the sounding of Trumpets. To understand the “Year of Jubilee,” we must realize that throughout His Word, there are “events,” “numbers,” and “commonalities” that occur repeatedly. The term used to describe this is called “**Repetitive Cycles.**” For example, every **seven days** is a “Sabbath Day of Rest.” On the Sabbath, the Jews rested just as God rested on the seventh day after He created “everything,” including man and woman. With this in mind, **every seven years is a “cycle of rest” called a “Shemittah.”** And on the “Shemittah,” the Israelites would cancel debts owed to each other.

“At the end of every seven years, you must cancel debts...Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite...You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you.” Deuteronomy 15:1–11

Also, on the “Shemittah,” the Israelites were to let the “Land” rest.

“The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai, “Speak to the Israelites... ‘When you enter the land...the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. For six years, sow your fields, and for six years, prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year, the land is to have a sabbath of rest...Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.’” Leviticus 25:1–7

During the “Jubilee Year,” debts were forgiven, and lands were restored to families who had to sell them to repay a debt. Enslaved people who were sold to repay debt were freed.

All labor ceased during the “Jubilee Year.” Therefore, after a “repetitive cycle” of “Seven Shemittahs” or 49 years, the following year (“50th year”) is the “Year of Jubilee.”

Interestingly, “Jubilee” means “Ram’s Horn” in Hebrew.

So, the Ram’s Horn or Shofar Trumpet was sounded to mark the beginning of the Jubilee.

“Count off seven sabbaths of years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement, sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you.” Leviticus 25:8–13

The “**Year of Jubilee**” is a “picture” of our redemption through the “New Covenant” instituted by Jesus Christ. Jesus came to “set free” the captives” (believers) from the captivity of sin.

Therefore, by Jesus’ “Finished Work” on the cross, those who “believe” are released from sin’s captivity. Just like “slaves, land, and homes” who were redeemed or “Set Free.”

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because...the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death...law was powerless to do...God did by sending his own Son...to be a sin offering. And so, he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1–4

“Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So, the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:21–25

With Trumpets and Shouts, the Walls of Jericho Came Down

Recently, I saw my niece sing in a drama about Joshua and the “Battle of Jericho.” Since that’s fresh on my mind, I’ll use that story to convey my points. In the sixth chapter of the book of Joshua, Joshua and the people of God march around the “City of Jericho” and sound Shofar Trumpets. But to get there, we need to review the first five chapters.

Chapter One

After Moses’s death, God told Joshua to prepare the Israelites to cross the Jordan River and possess The Land God had promised His people.

“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

God also instructs Joshua to be “*strong and courageous*” because He will lead His people into the Promised Land. Later, God emphasizes that Joshua is “*strong and very courageous*,” and He admonishes Joshua to obey God’s LAW. God then repeats Himself by telling Joshua to be “*strong and courageous*” and that He will be with Joshua wherever he goes.

Joshua then prepares the Twelve Tribes of Israel for their journey to the Promised Land. However, the Tribe of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh want to remain in Jordan. Joshua tells them that’s “okay,” but the “fighting men” of these two ½ Tribes must join the rest of the other Tribes in their conquest of the Promised Land.

Chapter Two

Joshua sends two spies into the Promised Land to “*look over the land, especially Jericho.*” The two spies are “hidden” by a prostitute named Rahab. The King of Jericho, looking for the two spies, believes that Rahab is harboring them. But she lies to the King, and the King sends his men to run off on a “wild goose chase.” Rahab and the two spies then enter into a covenant.

“Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death.” “The men said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down... So, she sent them away...And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.”

Chapter Three

The Priests carried the “Ark of the Covenant” to the edge of the Jordan River, and the people followed. The Jordan was at flood stage; however, when the Priests who carried the Ark touched the river’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing.

“The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.”

Chapter Four

After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, the Lord told Joshua to choose twelve men from each of the twelve tribes. They are to go to the middle of the Jordan, where the priest stood with the Ark of the Covenant. Then, they will each take a stone from the middle of the Jordan. After the Israelites crossed over the Jordan, they camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.

“After this, “Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, “In the future, when your descendants ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the LORD, your God, dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD, your God, did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

Chapter Five

You’ll recall that Moses sent twelve spies into The Promised Land to scout it out and give a report. The inhabitants **had been afraid** of the Israelites and their God the “first time.” However, things are the same this “second time” when the two spies scouted out The Promised Land. The inhabitants **are still afraid** of the Israelites.

God also instructs Joshua to circumcise all the men born in the “desert.” Then, the Israelites celebrated “Passover.”

“When the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted, and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.” Then, the Lord instructed Joshua to make flint knives and to circumcise the Israelite men because they had been born in the desert of Israel’s wanderings and were not circumcised. Then, they celebrated the Passover. “On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, **the Israelites celebrated the Passover.**”

Chapter Six

The city of Jericho was “*tightly shut up*” because of the Israelites, and no one was able to enter or come out. The inhabitants of Jericho were afraid and no longer dared to face the Israelites. Jericho was “theirs” for the taking. **But God wanted to Demonstrate His “Great Power.”** So, God told Joshua to have Seven Priests (each carrying and blowing a “Shofar Trumpet”) march ahead of the “Ark of the Covenant,” and the Israelites were to follow behind. They were ALL instructed to march around the “City of Jericho” ONCE for six days. On the seventh day, the priests blew their trumpets ahead of the Ark. The people behind the priests marched around the City of

Jericho seven times. When the Israelites heard the priests “sounding” a long blast on their trumpets, all the people gave a loud shout, and the wall of the city collapsed.

“Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites...Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse...So, Joshua...called the priests and said...“Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it...March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD...the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, **blowing their trumpets**, and the ark of the LORD’s covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets...All this time, the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the people, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. **Then shout!**” So, he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then, the people returned to camp and spent the night there. Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. **The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets...They did this for six days.**”

Before we hear the “Shout,” let me draw your attention to three points.

1. Joshua is about to warn the People of God not to take **any** of the “devoted things,” which are the “spoils” of Jericho. Instead, ALL the “spoils” are to go into “His Treasury,” which is for The Lord’s work. That is because if “anyone” took any of the “spoils,” they would not only be “causing destruction” upon themselves but also the entire Nation of Israel.
2. The “two spies” who had entered Jericho and made an “oath” (a Covenant) with Rahab, the prostitute, were “obligated” to keep their Covenant. Biblically speaking, a “believer” who says “Yes” makes a Covenant. Therefore, keep your word if you say “yes” to someone or something. Keep your “covenant.”
3. Throughout the Bible, God continues with “repetitive cycles.” In this story, Israel went to war for “6 Days,” and on the 7th Day, God gave Israel Victory. And in 1967, when Israel went to war for “6 Days,” and on the 7th Day, God gave Israel victory, too.

Now, here comes the “Shout.”



“On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day, they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, **“Shout! For the LORD has given you the city...Only Rahab, the prostitute, and all who are with her in her house shall be spared because she hid the spies we sent.”** Joshua 6

After Israel’s success, Joshua issues a warning.

“But keep away from the devoted things...Otherwise, you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.” When the trumpets sounded...the **people gave a loud shout**, the wall collapsed; so, every man charged straight in, and they took the city. They...with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, and donkeys. Joshua said...Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her in accordance with your oath to her... **Joshua spared Rahab, the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her.”** Joshua 6

God is serious. The Israelites were instructed not to take any of the “devoted things” spoils for themselves. So, God caused the Israelites to lose a battle they should have easily won. Unfortunately, one of God’s People, Achan, did not obey.

“In regard to the devoted things, Achan... took some of them. So, the LORD’s anger burned against Israel. Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai...When they returned...they said, “Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it...for only a few men are there.” So about three thousand men went up, but they were routed by the men of Ai, who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this, the hearts of the people melted.”

Joshua is unaware of Achan’s sin and that God has just punished the entire nation because of it. Therefore, Joshua is frustrated and upset with God. So, he and the elders “seek” God’s face.

“Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same and sprinkled dust on their heads. And Joshua said, “Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what can I say now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this, and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?”

Now, we come to a sobering truth. God treats “They” (the Entire Nation of Israel) as “ONE.” Therefore, even though one Israelite sinned, in God’s eyes, “ALL” sinned. God also tells Joshua that because the Israelites did not obey His Covenants, He will not bless them (“not be with you”). Joshua must get rid of (“destroy”) whoever stole the “devoted” things.”

“The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I **will not be with you** anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.”

Each of the Twelve Tribes is presented before Joshua and Achan. The man who stole some of the spoils is found out. So, Joshua and the Israelites take Achan and what he stole (the silver, the robe, the gold wedge) along with his sons and daughters, cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent, and all he had, to the Valley of Achor. Achan, his family, and his livestock are all stoned to death. And their bodies, spoils, and all Achan’s possessions are burned.

Then, a large pile of rocks is placed over the “ashes” **to remind the Nation of Israel Jews that:**

- Yes, the LORD God loves His People.
- Yes, God has initiated Covenants with His People.
- Yes, God will keep His Covenants.

In summary, the Nation of Israel was responsible for “Obeying” all the Lord’s Covenants. If the Nation of Israel failed to obey or even one Israelite failed to obey, God would severely punish His people.

“Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow...That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it. “In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe...who is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him... Then Joshua said to Achan...Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.” Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” So, Joshua sent messengers,

and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. They...brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites...Then Joshua, together with all Israel, **took Achan, son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent, and all that he had to the Valley of Achor...** Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. Over Achan, they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day.” Joshua 7:1–26

This story reminds us that the Jewish People were in a precarious predicament. God had established His Covenants with His People. But if even “one person” broke God’s Covenant, the entire Nation of Israel would be punished. **But the TRUTH is NO ONE can keep all of God’s Covenants. This “repetitive cycle” of sin and punishment is “Bad News.”**

Remember the “Good News.” Anyone (Jew or Gentile) can enter God’s “New Covenant” by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This New Covenant is a “Covenant” of Grace, Mercy, and Forgiveness. Therefore, when you sin (and we all sin, “sometimes”), God has “already” forgiven your sin. But it is God’s desire for you to acknowledge your sin and “repent” (turn) from it. God has also given you the power so that you do not have to repeat your sin. That “Power” is His Precious Holy Spirit, which resides within every “believer.” So, the next time you are tempted to sin, you can choose to say NO! and walk away. Aren’t you GLAD for the “New Covenant?”

There are other “connections” within the story of Joshua that can be used to connect it with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They include the “scarlet robe” that Rahab, the prostitute, used to hang outside of her window to let the Israelites know not to harm anyone in Rahab’s room. This “saved” her and her family. Also, Rahab, who, even though she was a prostitute, God used her in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

Earlier, we reviewed the “scarlet rope” the High Priest tied on the horn of the “To Azazel” goat. He confessed and “transferred” ALL of Israel’s sins, placing them on the— “**Scapegoat.**” The **scarlet cord** that the “High Priest” tied to the “Azazel” goat reminds us of Rahab, who also secured a **scarlet cord** out of her window.

The **scarlet cord** that Rahab hung out of her window was the “sign” of the **covenant** she had made with the two Jewish spies she had “saved.” The **scarlet cord** was a sign to the Israelites not to harm Rahab or anyone in her room. Rahab’s family was “saved.”

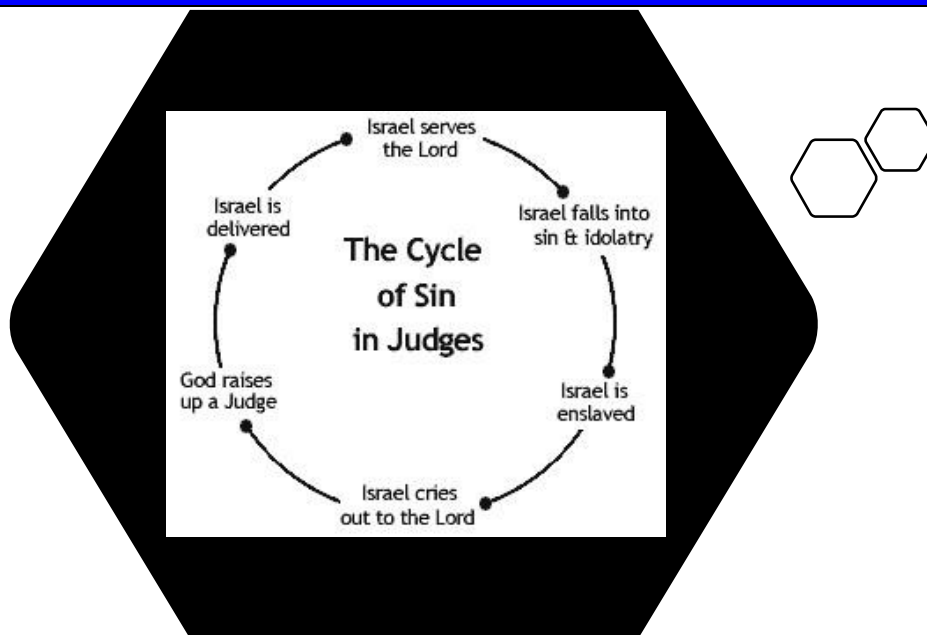
Interestingly, Rabah was not only a prostitute, but she was also a Gentile. Yet, God chose to use her in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Here is the “first section” Matthew 1:1–6.

- ✓ Abraham was the father of Isaac,
- ✓ Isaac, the father of Jacob,
- ✓ Jacob, the father of Judah and his brothers,
- ✓ Judah, the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
- ✓ Perez, the father of Hezron,
- ✓ Hezron, the father of Ram,
- ✓ Ram, the father of Amminadab,

- ✓ Amminadab, the father of Nahshon,
- ✓ Nahshon, the father of Salmon,
- ✓ Salmon, the father of Boaz, **whose mother was Rahab,**
- ✓ Boaz, the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
- ✓ Obed, the father of Jesse, and Jesse, the father of King David.

Everyone sins, and no matter the sin, God can forgive you. But becoming connected to the God of the Bible and having all of your sins forgiven requires that you come to Him by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God will use “anyone” who turns their heart towards Him and comes to Him, His “Way.” God used a prostitute and a Gentile in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. He can use you, too. God is GOOD!

Ehud Defeats the Moabites and Sounds the Trumpet



Throughout their history, God’s people would serve the Lord, but then they fell into another “repetitive cycle” of sin (see picture). In the following story, the Israelites “did evil in the eyes of God,” So He used a King named “Eglon” from Moab (“Moabites” who lived in what we know as Jordan) to punish His people. King Eglon gained control over Israel for 18 years. Yet again, the Israelites cried out to God, and He gave them another “deliverer,” named “Ehud.” In defeating the Moabites, “Eglon” sounded the Trumpet. God gave Israel the victory, and Israel had “Peace” for 80 years.

“The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and because they did this evil, the LORD gave Eglon, king of Moab, power over Israel...Eglon came and attacked Israel...Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms. The Israelites were subject to Eglon, king of Moab, for eighteen years. Again, the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer—Ehud, a left-handed man...[Eglon] blew a trumpet...and the Israelites went down with him from the hills, with him leading them. “Follow me,” he ordered, “for the LORD has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands.” So, they followed him down, and, taking possession of the fords of the Jordan that led to Moab, they allowed no one to cross over...That day, Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years. “Judges 3:12–30

Sound the Trumpets. It is Time to Praise the Lord

The Shofar was sounded to “Praise the Lord” throughout Israel’s history and should be “Today,” too! The Shofar Trumpet should be sounded to “call” God’s people to worship at every church service, para-church venue, and event. I hope **you** will sound the Shofar in Israel.

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth! He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.” Psalm 47:1–9

“The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations...Shout for joy to the LORD...make music to the LORD with the harp...and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn. Psalm 98:1–9

“The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds...Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving...Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion...let the people of Zion be glad in their King... Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet...Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.” Psalm 146:1–Proverbs 4:27



The Sounding of God’s Trumpets is Associated with Many of Israel’s Kings

The Kings of Israel

“Good Kings” are in RED
“Evil Kings” are in BLACK

“The United Kingdom”

Saul	Evil
David	Good
Solomon	Started Good- Ended Evil

“The Divided Kingdom”

The Kings of Judah— “Southern Kingdom” 8 Good Kings and 12 Evil Kings	The Kings of Israel— Northern Kingdom 19 Evil Kings
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1. Rehoboam	Good
2. Abijah	Good
3. Asa	Good
4. Jehoshaphat	Good
5. Jehoram	Good
6. Ahaziah	Evil
7. Athaliah	Evil
8. Joash	Evil
9. Amaziah	Evil
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	Good
11. Jotham	Good
12. Ahaz	Good
13. Hezekiah	Good
14. Manasseh	Evil but Repented
15. Amon	Good
16. Josiah	Good
17. Jehoahaz	Evil
18. Jehoiakim	Evil
19. Jeconiah	Evil
20. Zedekiah	Evil

1. Jeroboam I	Evil
2. Nadab	Evil
3. Baasha	Evil
4. Elah	Evil
5. Zimri	Evil
6. Omri	Evil
7. Ahab	Evil
8. Ahaziah	Evil
9. Jeroram	Evil
10. Jehu	Evil
11. Jehoahaz	Evil
12. Jehoash	Evil
13. Jerobaom11	Evil
14. Zacariah	Evil
15. Shallum	Evil
16. Menahem	Evil
17. Pakhiah	Evil
18. Pekah	Evil
19. Hoshea	Evil

Please review this chart.

- **Good Kings are in Red.**
- **Evil Kings are in Black.**

Keep in mind that:

During the “United Kingdom,” two of Israel’s Kings (Saul and Solomon) were “evil” while King David was “good.”

Then “Israel” was *divided* into **Two Kingdoms**.

1. Judah- “Southern Kingdom”
2. Israel- “Northern Kingdom.”

During the “Divided Kingdom,” **12 of “Judah’s” (Southern Kingdom) Kings were “evil,”** while eight of Judah’s Kings were “good.”

Within “Israel” (Northern Kingdom), ALL of “Israel’s” 19 Kings were evil.

Some of “Judah’s evil Kings” and “Israel’s evil Kings” accomplished “good things” during their reign. Ultimately, these Kings were declared “evil” because they failed to obey God’s Laws, operate in His ways, and lead the people of God into evil.

It is also important to remember that God’s People wanted a “KING.”

So God gave them what they wanted: a King.

“They [Israel] [make idols](#) for themselves from their silver...They [offer human sacrifice](#) and [kiss the calf idols](#)...But I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me...[You are destroyed, O Israel, because you are against me, against your helper. Where is your king, that he may save you? Where are your rulers in all your towns, of whom you said, ‘Give me a king and princes’? So, in my anger, I gave you a king, and in my wrath, I took him away.](#)” Hosea 13:1–16

The Nation of Israel has a long history of disobedience to God and His Word. Their “Evil Kings” were to blame because they allowed evil to prevail. So, when Israel fell into sin, God would often let other Nations attack them and take His people captive. He would also allow calamities and judgments to happen to His People. So, there was never any “Peace” when God’s people were ruled by “Evil Kings.”

However, Judah’s “Good Kings” brought many Jews back to God. But “Evil Kings” took over, and the **“repetitive cycle”** continued.

Remember that Jesus Christ was “Perfect” in EVERY way, but some in His lineage come from imperfect people. Jesus comes from the “Line of Judah,” and His genealogy (recorded in Matthew 1:6–11 is traced through **both** “good” Kings and “bad” Kings.

The lineage of Jesus Christ.

And Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife,

Solomon, the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam, the father of Abijah,

Abijah, the father of Asa,

Asa, the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat, the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram, the father of Uzziah,

Uzziah, the father of Jotham,

Jotham, the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz, the father of Hezekiah,

Hezekiah, the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh, the father of Amon,

Amon, the father of Josiah,

And Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile (of the Nation of Israel) to Babylon.

In summary, the Jewish Nation was “Looking” for a Messiah who would come to “deliver” them from their enemies and bring them “PEACE.” However, most Jews do not know or do not believe that the Messiah, the ‘Prince of Peace,’ did come.

King Saul Sounds the Trumpet Presumptuously

King Saul was Israel’s first King, and he was an “Evil King.” Therefore, let us highlight some of the evil things King Saul did. Keep in mind that King Saul’s evil heart is indicative of the “heart condition” of all the other “Evil Kings” throughout Judah’s and Israel’s history.

To begin with, King Saul did not honor his word. Saul had promised David his daughter, Merab, to be his wife for killing Saul’s enemies. But instead of “Honoring” his word, King Saul gave Merab to another man. **He acted under false pretenses.** King Saul knew that his younger daughter, Michal, loved David. So, he “promised” to give her to David if he conquered the Philistines.



However, King Saul “Hoped” that David would be killed in the battle. David was not killed, and Michal was given to him in marriage.

He was blindly jealous of David. King Saul tried to kill David numerous times because David was “better” and more “loved” by the people. **He was despicable.**

David’s wife, Michal, helps David escape when King Saul’s men come to kill him. But later, as Saul was unable to kill David, he “gave” David’s wife “Michal” to another man. **He did not obey God.** God told Saul to eliminate all of the Amalekites and all of their livestock. Instead, Saul allowed King Agag to live and his soldiers to keep “choice” livestock. **Saul covered up his sin and lied to Samuel (and to God).** Saul told Samuel, the prophet, that he had kept some “choice” livestock and used them to make sacrifices to God. **Saul consulted with “evil spirits.”** Saul traveled to Endor and consulted a witch. **Saul also did not know God in a “personal way.”** Saul was eventually possessed by an “evil spirit.”

It is important to remember that one of the functions of sounding God’s Shofar Trumpet was to call “His People” together in preparation for battle. However, in the following story, King Saul sounded the Trumpet “presumptuously,” and he also gave an unauthorized sacrifice to God.

The story began when King Saul chose 3,000 men from Israel. Two thousand were with him, and 1,000 were with his son, Jonathan, who attacked a Philistine “outpost.” This was not a good idea as the Philistines far “outnumbered” the Israelites. But Saul, in his presumption, had the Trumpet sounded to let the Israelites know that he had attacked the Philistines and **to rally** all the Israelites together.

“Saul was thirty years old when he became king...Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Micmash...and a thousand were with Jonathan...Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba...Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, “Let the Hebrews hear!” So, all Israel heard the news: “Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become a stench to the Philistines.” And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.”

But when the Israelites saw the “size” of the Philistine army, many ran away, some hid in caves, and some even crossed the Jordan River (to flee into what we know as Jordan). The troops who remained with Saul quaked in fear. Also, Saul had been waiting for the prophet Samuel to arrive. But when he did not, many more of his troops ran away. Saul took it upon himself to make an “unauthorized” offering to God. And when Samuel finally arrives, King Saul is confronted with his sins. Samuel tells King Saul that “someone” else (who we later learn is David, a man after God’s own heart) will eventually take over the Kingdom.

This is, therefore, a “starting point” for King Saul’s jealousy and hatred.

“The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore... When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard-pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns...and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days...but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. So, he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering...Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. “What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal...So, I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.’ “You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now, your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people because you have not kept the LORD’s command.” 1 Samuel 13:1–22

Trumpets are Sounded as David Returns God’s “Ark” to Jerusalem



The “Ark of the Covenant” (which resided inside the “Holy of Holies”) had been captured by the Philistines. Upon its return, led by King David, there was a “celebration” that included the sounding of Trumpets. Here is the story.

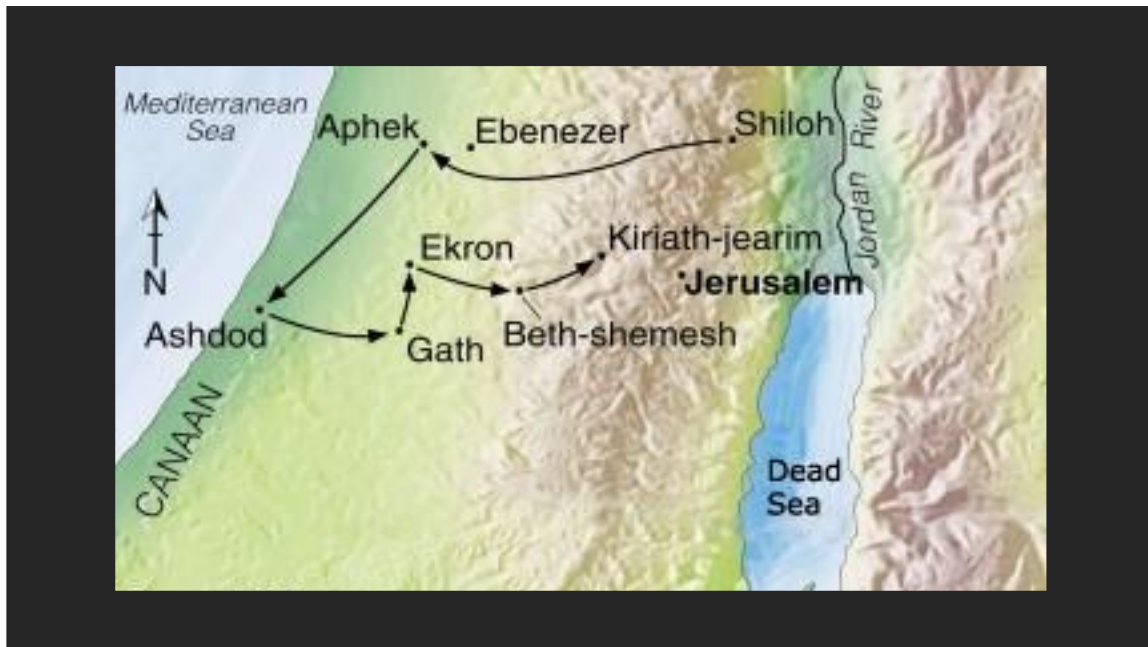
“I rejoiced with those who said to me, let us go to the house of the LORD. Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel. There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David. **“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure.** May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.”
Psalm 122:1–9

There are two “main” thoughts within David’s prayer. Let us review the “first” thought.

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, let us go to the house of the LORD.”

In the first part of David’s prayer, David and his fellow Jews (Twelve Tribes of Israel) are rejoicing over the opportunity to go to the “House of the Lord” in Jerusalem. **“Rejoicing”** refers to singing with joy and gladness and conveys the thought. **“House of the Lord”** refers to the **“Ark of the Covenant,”** where God dwelt in the Tabernacle as the First Temple had not yet been built. David had relocated the Ark and the Tabernacle to Jerusalem after a period when the Ark was “lost” and Jerusalem was not under Israel’s control.

The Jews are most likely going to Jerusalem for either of the three pilgrimage Feasts: Passover, Pentecost, or Tabernacles. ***“Yes, the Ark of the Lord and His presence are in the Tabernacle—in Jerusalem. Yes, we are going there now!”*** Therefore, to fully appreciate the joy and excitement that David and the Jews had over being able to go to the “House of the Lord” in Jerusalem.



Let us trace the Ark's journey from when it was captured by the Philistines and eventually returned to Jerusalem. Refer to this chart.

- To begin, the "Ark" was with the Israelites in Shiloh.
- Then, the Israelites camped at Ebenezer and went out to fight the Philistines encamped at Aphek. The Israelites "presumed" upon God and carried the Ark into battle against the Philistines. This outraged God, allowing the Philistines to win the battle and capture the Ark. The Philistines took the Ark to Ashdod, where they placed it in the Temple of Dagon. But all sorts of calamities began to afflict the Philistines, so they decided to return the Ark.
- The Ark was then taken to Gath, but then the city's men were afflicted with tumors.
- Then the Ark was sent to Ekron, where similar afflictions broke out.
- The Ark was loaded onto a cart pulled by two cows and pointed in the direction of Israel. The cows wandered about until they arrived at the village called Bethshemesh. When the people looked inside the Ark, many were struck dead. The Ark continued its journey and ended up in the town of Kiriath-jearim. The Ark remained there in the house of Abinadab.
- Finally, the Ark ends its LONG voyage away from the Jewish people and is brought back to them. The Ark was placed in a tent (Tabernacle) on Mount Moriah (today's Temple Mount) by King David. This was after King David and the Israelites recaptured Jerusalem from the Jebusites.

"The LORD...revealed himself to Samuel through his word...The Israelites camped at Ebenezer and the Philistines at Aphek...Israel was defeated by the Philistines...When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies." So...they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. When the ark of the LORD's covenant

came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, “What’s all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?” When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp, the Philistines were afraid...Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert. Be strong, Philistines...Be men and fight!” So, the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated, and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great...The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.”

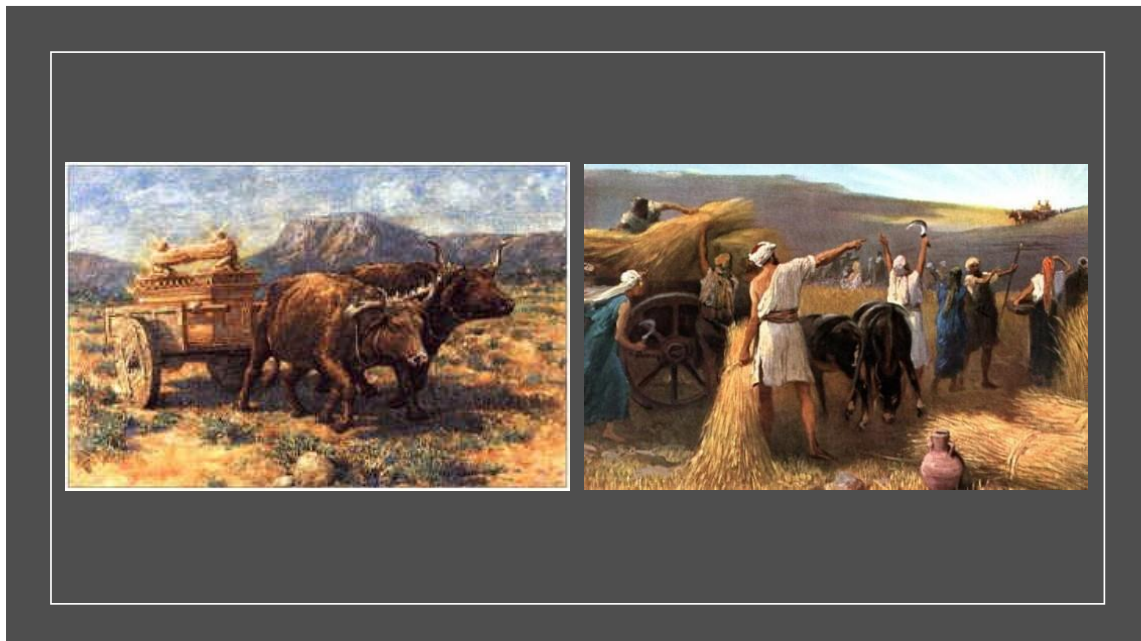
The elders of Israel presumed upon God. They assumed that God had been with them while they carried the Ark through the desert for 40 years. And God had been with them when the Ark was taken into Canaan as Israelites crossed the Jordan River. Therefore, they believed they would defeat the Philistines if they took the Ark. However, God NEVER instructed the Israelites to remove the Ark from the Tabernacle and to take it into battle. So, they were defeated, the Philistines captured the Ark, and the Ark began a long journey AWAY from the people of God.

“That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh, his clothes torn and dust on his head...there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching...When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry. Eli heard the outcry and asked, “What is the meaning of this uproar?” The man hurried over to Eli...He told Eli, “I have just come from the battle line...Eli asked, “What happened, my son...Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also, your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.” When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken, and he died...He had led Israel forty years. His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth but was overcome by her labor pains. As she was dying, the women attending her said, “Don’t despair; you have given birth to a son.” But she did not respond or pay any attention. She named the boy Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel...She said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

From the moment the Ark of the Covenant was “away,” the Israelites began to suffer.

“The Philistines...took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then they carried the ark into Dagon’s temple and set it beside Dagon. When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground...The LORD’s hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumors. When the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, “The ark of the God of Israel must not stay here with us because his hand is heavy upon us and upon Dagon, our god.” So, they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked them, “What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?” They answered, “Have the ark of the god of Israel moved to Gath.” So, they moved the ark of the God of Israel. But after they had moved it, the LORD’s hand was against that city, throwing it into a great

panic...So, they sent the ark of God to [Ekron](#). As the ark of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, “They have brought the ark of the God of Israel around to us to kill us and our people... “Send the ark of the God of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people...Those who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven. When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months, the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the LORD...They answered, “If you return the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means, send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you.” The Philistines asked, “What guilt offering should we send to him?” They replied, “Five gold tumors and five gold rats, according to the number of the Philistine rulers, because the same plague has struck both you and your rulers.”



The Ark was never intended to be away from the Tabernacle of God. Therefore, whoever possessed the Ark suffered greatly. Keep in mind that for the MANY years that the Ark was away, the High Priest could not make atonement for the sins of Israel on the “Day of Atonement,” so the Israelites continued to suffer.

“Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked...Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it, put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering...If it goes up to its own territory, toward [Beth Shemesh](#), then the LORD has brought this great disaster on us...They took two such cows and hitched them to the cart, and penned up their calves. They placed the ark of the LORD on the cart and, along with it, the chest containing the gold rats and the models of the tumors. Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left.”

“Now, the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced at the sight. The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. The Levites took down the ark of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock... These are the gold tumors the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD—one each for Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. And the number of the gold rats was according to the number of Philistine towns belonging to the five rulers—the fortified towns with their country villages. The large rock on which they set the ark of the LORD is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh. But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD.”

Why did the Israelite men of Beth Shemesh “LOOK” inside the Ark?



To begin, they would have had to remove the “covering,” which is the “**Mercy Seat.**” On the “Mercy Seat” sat the Two Angels, where the Presence of God dwelt. On the “Mercy Seat” is where the High Priest sprinkled the blood (of the “**To the Lord**” goat) on the Day of Atonement. The men were most likely looking inside the Ark to make sure that the “Tablets,” “Aaron’s Rod,” and the “Golden Pot of Manna” were still there. They were!

I believe God struck down the men for looking inside the Ark because the “Tablets” or God’s Law, the Ten Commandments, represent judgment. But His Law (His Judgement) was given to show us our need for mercy.

“What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The Law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one. Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could

impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So, the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.” Galatians 3:19–25

God’s Presence dwelt on the “Mercy Seat” on the “Ark,” which is where the High Priest sprinkled blood every year on the “Day of Atonement. Therefore, when the Israelite men removed God’s “**Presence**” and His “**Mercy**,” they stared directly at God’s judgment (The LAW) and died.

This “picture” also applies to EVERYONE. God provided “His Mercy” through the atoning blood sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus is God’s Mercy to us.

When we receive “God’s Mercy” by faith, we are spared from facing His judgment and eternal death.

Unfortunately, those who do not accept “God’s Mercy” stare directly at God’s punishment for eternity.

“The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?” Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, “The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place.” So, the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They took it to Abinadab’s house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar, his son, to guard the ark of the LORD. It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim.” 1 Samuel 3:19–8:22

But there’s HOPE.

So when the “Ark” is finally back “home,” there is a celebration that includes the sounding of Trumpets.

“David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. He and all his men...set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab...guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it...When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God because the oxen stumbled. The LORD’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore, God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. Then David was angry because the LORD’s wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day, that place is called Perez Uzzah. David...said, “How can the ark of the LORD ever come to



me...Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household. Now King David was told, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has because of the ark of God.” So, David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might while he and the entire house of Israel, brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets...They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.” 2 Samuel 6:1–23

The previous story about the “Arks” return included “rejoicing” with the sounding of Trumpets. It was also recorded in I Chronicles.

“David...said to the whole assembly of Israel... Let us bring the ark of our God back to us...David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets... David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it...David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps, and cymbals...Benaiah and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow trumpets before the ark of God...So, all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouts, with the sounding of rams’ horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps...Benaiah and Jahaziel, the priests, were to **blow the trumpets** regularly before the ark of the covenant of God...Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Israel his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: “To you, I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit... 1 Chronicles 13:1–16:43

In summary, the Ark of the Covenant had been “away” from the Israelites for MANY years. But now it is finally back “HOME” in Jerusalem, and David places the Ark in a “Tent.” The Israelites were elated, and David penned the following Psalm.

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. “Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Israel his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He

confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: To you, I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit...Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day...Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength, ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name...The LORD reigns...Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, that we may glory in your praise." Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting." 1 Chronicles 16



The "Shekinah Glory of God," or "God's Presence," resided in between the "Wings" of the Two Angels that sat on the "Mercy Seat." See RED/BLUE arrow).

So, when the "Ark" was returned to Jerusalem, David placed the "Ark" into a "Tent." However, it is essential to remember that this "Tent" is NOT the Tent of The Tabernacle. Instead, this "Tent" kept the Ark in a "safe" place until The First Temple was constructed by King David's son, King Solomon.

Here is another familiar verse associated with David returning the "Ark" to Jerusalem.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1-2

David knew God personally, and he communed with God. But David was not a Levite, so he could not bask in "God's Presence," which resided inside the "Tent" in the "Holy of Holies."

But David ***"Dwelt in the shelter of The Almighty."***

David could ***“Rest in the shadow of The Almighty.”***

How is that possible?

- Rabbinical teaching suggests that the “Tent” David put the Ark into may have been opaque.
- Therefore, when the “Sun” cast its light on the “Tent” and on the “Wings” of the Two Angels that sat on the “Mercy Seat,” a **shadow** would appear **outside** of the “Tent.”
- David most likely sat or laid down outside the “Tent” in the “shadow” of God’s Presence, which was cast by the sun reflecting off the Ark of the Covenant.

The application for believers is that, unlike David, we can take refuge **DIRECTLY** in God’s Presence (not in the shadow of His Presence).

What an amazing TRUTH!

Those who believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ can bask in His presence because God’s Presence has taken up residence inside the hearts of ALL believers.

Now, let us review the second part of David’s prayer...

“Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. May those who Love you be Secure.”

I believe the best way to explain this verse is to ask, **“Do you love Jerusalem?”** If so, pray for the “Peace of Jerusalem.” And when you do, I pray that God will make you “secure”—to prosper. That said, we need to continue to “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem because there will be many conflicts there.



Therefore, after King David’s reign, Jerusalem was destroyed twice, besieged over twenty times, captured, and recaptured over forty times. **We must also pray for the Messiah to return.** There can NEVER be true and lasting peace in Jerusalem until the “Prince of Peace”—the Lord Jesus Christ comes back to Jerusalem. The word peace refers to the “Peace of Shalom.” Shalom is the

Hebrew word for peace. Israelis say “Shalom” to greet and say goodbye to one another. However, the term “Shalom” is more than peace; “Shalom” means completeness, wholeness, health, safety, soundness, tranquility, and the absence of agitation or discord.

In summary, the return of the “Ark of the Covenant” to Jerusalem was a miracle orchestrated by the Hand of God, as He used King David to accomplish this miracle. Let’s also remember that because King David was a “Good King,” he understood the evilness of “men’s hearts,” but he also understood that God would forgive anyone who “comes” to God in faith.

“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Will evildoers never learn—those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on the LORD? There they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge. Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, and Israel be glad!” Psalm 14

“LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.” Psalms 15

King David wanted to build God a more permanent residence, the Temple.

“After the king [David] was settled in his palace...he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.” That night, the word of the LORD came to Nathan... ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Solomon is Anointed King of Israel with Trumpets Sounding

When King David ruled over the Kingdom of Israel, and Judah was old, he called for his wife, Bathsheba, and made an oath (covenant) concerning their son, Solomon.

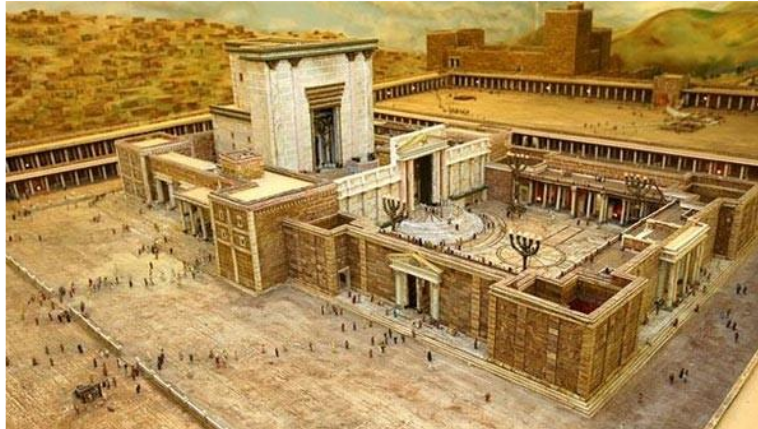
Solomon would become the next King of Israel. So, King David calls for his trusted “aids” and tells them to anoint Solomon as the King of Israel, to blow the Trumpet, and to shout, **“Long Live King Solomon.”**



King David’s aids find Solomon, and they **pour oil over him from a “Horn” (Shofar)**, which came from the Tabernacle or “Sacred Tent.” God’s Trumpet, the Shofar was sounded, and the people shouted, *“Long live King Solomon.”* Later, King David gave his son a “charge” to obey The Lord and to follow His Ways. However, though King Solomon started “well,” he ended up poorly as one of Israel’s “Evil Kings.”

“When King David was old and well advanced in years... King David said, “Call in [Bathsheba](#).” So, she came into the king’s presence and stood before him. The king then took an oath: “As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, I will surely carry out today what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel: [Solomon, your son, shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place](#)...King David said, “Call in Zadok, the priest...When they came before the king, he said to them: “Take your lord’s servants with you and set Solomon, my son, on my own mule and take him down to Gihon. There have, Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, anoint him king over Israel. [Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon...I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah](#)...So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites, and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David’s mule and escorted him to Gihon. [Zadok, the priest, took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet, and all the people shouted, “Long live King Solomon](#)...When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon, his son. “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.” 1 Kings 1–4

With Trumpets Sounding, King Solomon Announces God’s Temple will be Built.



King David had it in mind to build a Temple—a permanent residence for The LORD. However, King Solomon would build the Temple on Mount Moriah. After the “Ark of the Covenant” was “stolen,” King David captured it and returned it to Jerusalem.

“Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God’s Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the LORD’s servant had made in the desert. Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem...**Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself...** Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the LORD our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel. “The temple I am going to build will be great because our God is greater than all other gods...**Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah,** where the LORD had appeared to his father David... 2 Chronicles 1-3

King Hiram sent men, materials, and cedar logs through the port of **Joppa** to build King Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem. Hiram, king of Tyre, replied by letter to Solomon:

“Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you their king... “I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill... “Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised, and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them in rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem.” 2 Chronicles 2:1-16

Later, the name of the City of “Joppa” was changed to “Jaffa.” Jaffa is where the prophet Jonah boarded a ship bound for Tarshish. Today, the statue of a “BIG Fish” in Jaffa reminds every one of the story of Jonah.

King Solomon’s Temple is Dedicated with Many Trumpets Sounding

Israel’s Calendar, Feasts, and Our Calendar

<u>Jewish Month</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Israel’s Feasts</u>	<u>Our Calendar</u>
1-Nisan	Spring	“Passover” “Unleavened Bread” “First Fruits”	March-April
2-Lyar	Spring		April-May
3-Sivan	Late Spring/ Early Summer	“Pentecost”	May-June
4-Tammuz	Summer		June-July
5-Av	Summer		July-August
6-Elul	Summer		August-September
7-Tishrei	Fall	“Trumpets” “Day of Atonement” “Tabernacles”	September-October
8-Cheshvan	Fall		October-November
9-Kislev	Fall		November-December
10-Tevet	Winter		December-January
11-Shevat	Winter		January-February
12-Adar	Winter		February-March

On this chart, you can see that the first three of Israel’s Feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits) are “Spring Harvest Feasts,” occurring in the **1st month of “Nisan.”**

The fourth Feast of Pentecost occurs in the **3rd month of “Sivan”** and is Israel’s “Summer Harvest Feast.” The last three Feasts of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles are “Fall Harvest Feasts,” and all occur in the **7th month of “Tishrei.”**

We now come to 2 Chronicles 1-7 and the dedication of King Solomon’s Temple.

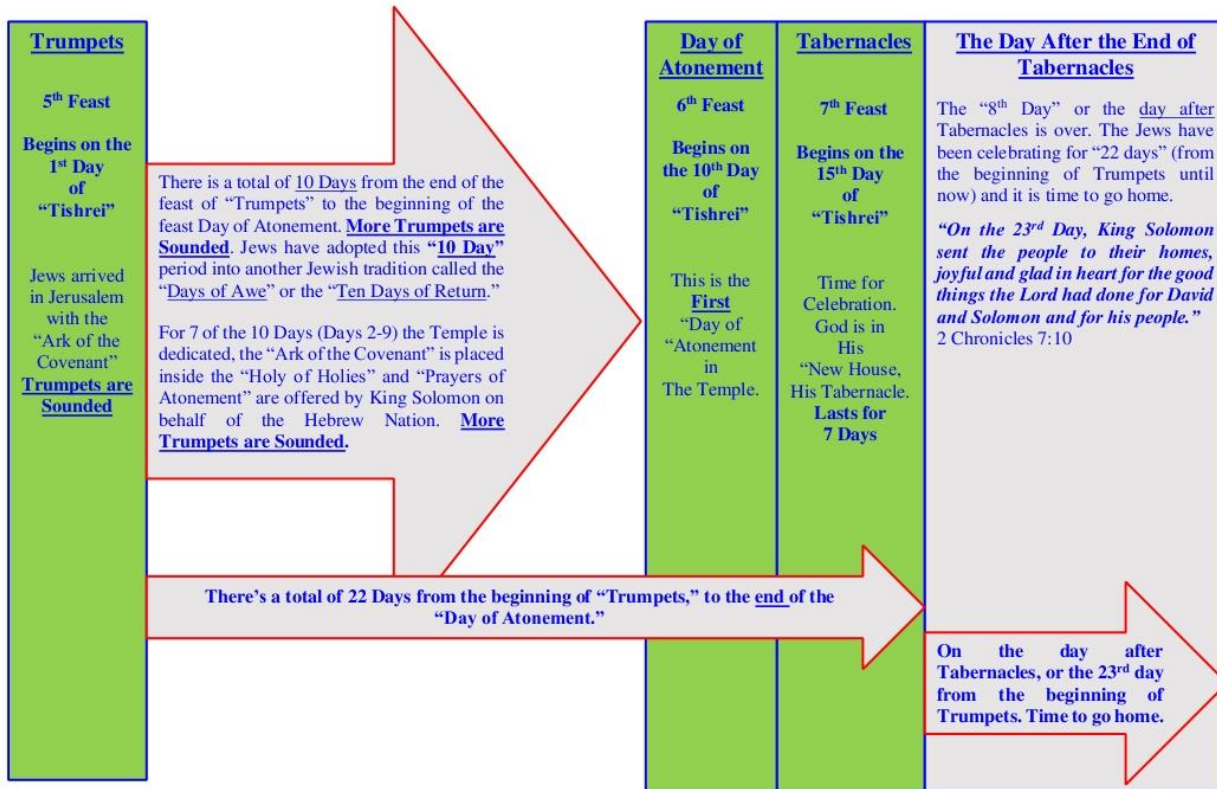
In the 7th month (Tishrei), there are three FALL Feasts.

- “Trumpets,” which begins on the 1st day of Tishrei.
- “Day of Atonement,” which begins on the 10th day of Tishrei.
- “Tabernacles” begins on the 15th day and lasts for seven days.

Interestingly, the Jews came to Jerusalem to dedicate King Solomon’s Temple on the “Feast of Trumpets.” The Jews stayed in Jerusalem through the Feast of “Day of Atonement” and through to the end of the Feast of “Tabernacles.” Therefore, the Jews were in Jerusalem for 22 days. Then,

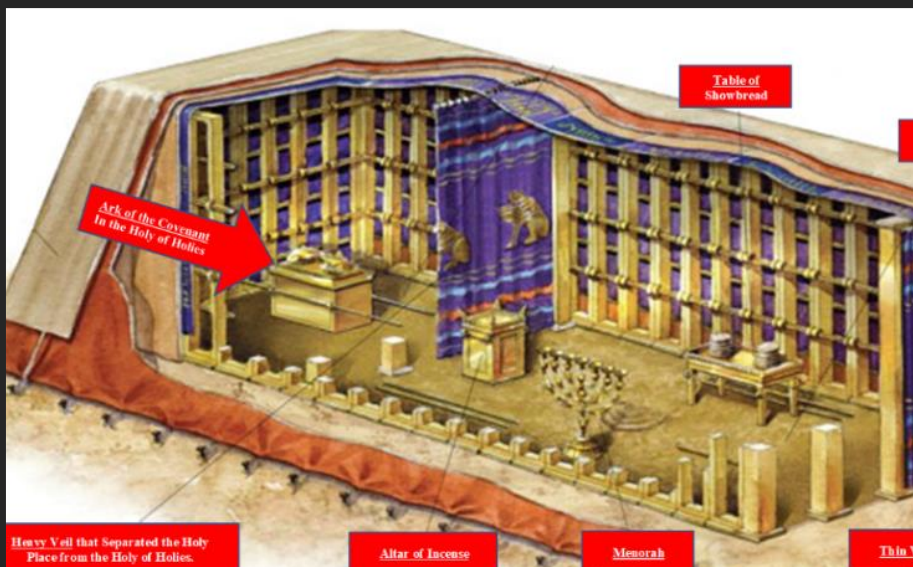
on the 23rd day, the “Day After,” the end of Tabernacles (or the 8th day), King Solomon sent everyone home. With that in mind, please review the following chart.

The Dedication of King Solomon’s Temple in the 7th Month of “Tishrei”



Now, let us take a closer look at the events surrounding the dedication of King Solomon’s Temple.

On the 1st Day of the Seven Month (Tishrei) is the “Feast of Trumpets”-
The “Ark of the Covenant” arrives in Jerusalem and is placed in the “Holy of Holies.”
Trumpets are Sounded.



God chose Jerusalem as “His City” and where “His Name” would dwell. King Solomon’s Temple was built on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. After the Temple was completed, King Solomon summoned the elders of Israel, the heads of the “Twelve Tribes,” and the chiefs from the Israelite families to Jerusalem. They brought the “Ark of the Covenant” and came on the “Feast of Trumpets.”

“When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated... and he placed them in the treasuries of God’s temple. Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD’s covenant from Zion, the City of David. And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival [Trumpets] in the seventh month.”

The “Ark of the Covenant” had to be inside of the “Holy of Holies” before the next Feast, “Day of Atonement,” could be celebrated.

As the “Ark” was being led and placed inside the “Holy of Holies,” 120 Priests Sounded their “Temple Trumpets” (Silver Trumpets).



“The priests then brought the ark of the LORD’s covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim...All the Levites who were musicians...stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps, and lyres. **They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.** The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: “He is good; his love endures forever.”

**The Temple is Dedicated on “Days 2-9”
In between the Feasts of “Trumpets” and “Day of Atonement,” More Trumpets are Sounded.**

Ezra, the writer of 2 Chronicles, tells us that for “7 Days,” the Jews celebrated the “**Dedication of the Altar,**” which is the dedication of The Temple.

The “Ark of the Covenant” was now in its rightful place, the “Holy of Holies.”

Therefore, these “7 Days” had to be “Days 2-9” **after** “Trumpets,” as the “Day of Atonement” begins on the 10th Day.

This period of “10 Days” in-between “Trumpets” and “Day of Atonement” has morphed into another Jewish tradition. This period is called the “**Days of Awe**” or the “**10 Days of Return.**” It is a time for repentance, restitution, reflection, and reconnecting with God.

As part of the dedication, King Solomon communes with God on behalf of the Nation of Israel.

Following, I am calling his prayers “Prayers of Atonement.”

As you read his prayers, you get a sense of the type of prayers the “High Priest” prayed on behalf of the Jewish Nation on the “Day of Atonement.” King Solomon’s prayers likely influenced the Jews in forming their Jewish Tradition, “Days of Awe.”



To begin with, King Solomon blesses the entire nation of Israel. Then, he stands at the Temple with the Priests and God’s People. He kneels and stretches his hands toward heaven as he dedicates The Temple to the LORD. It is the picture of the Hebrew letter “SHIN.”

“Then Solomon said...I have built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever...Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands...He stood on the platform and **then knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven...**“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way....Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God...“When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back and confess your name, praying and

making supplication before you in this temple, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to them and their fathers...Teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land you gave your people for an inheritance...Forgive, and deal with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of men), so that they will fear you and walk in your ways all the time they live in the land you gave our fathers...When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin...say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong and acted wickedly'; and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken, and pray toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and toward the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their pleas, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people who have sinned against you."

To review, on the "**Mercy Seat**," there were "Two Angels" who sat with their wings spread "outward and upward." Their "wings" form a "SHIN."

In between the "Two Wings" that "God's Presence" **had resided** while the "Ark of the Covenant" was in God's temporary home, the "Tabernacle" or the "Tent of Meeting."

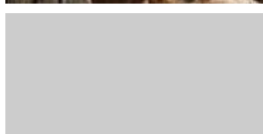
But now, the "Ark of the Covenant" was inside the Holy of Holies, in King Solomon's Temple. God's Presence would have to descend and reside there, too.

And that is what happened.

"When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple."

God's Presence was so **STRONG** that it prevented the priests from entering the Temple. It also caused the people to kneel with their faces on the ground. But still, they sang a song.

"The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."



King Solomon and all the people continued to dedicate The Temple as they offered MORE sacrifices to God.

They sacrificed 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats. That is a staggering number of animals.

The priests also blew their Trumpets.

“King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So, the king and all the people dedicated the temple of God. The priests took their positions, as did the Levites, with the LORD’s musical instruments, which King David had made for praising the LORD and which were used when he gave thanks, saying, “His love endures forever.” Opposite the Levites, the priests blew their trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.”

On the 10th Day of the Seven Month (Tishrei) is the Feast of “Day of Atonement.”

To review:

- The Jews came to Jerusalem on the Feast of “Trumpets” with the “Ark of the Covenant.” The Ark was placed inside the “Holy of Holies,” and Trumpets **sounded**.
- “God’s Presence” descended from Heaven and took residence in the Temple.
- Then King Solomon and all the people offered more sacrifices to God **as more Trumpets were sounded**. Now, **everything** was in place for the High Priest to make atonement for the Nation of Israel on the “Day of Atonement.”
- Therefore, “5 days” after the “Day of Atonement” is the Feast of “Tabernacles.”



**On the 15th Day of the Seven Month (Tishrei) is the Feast of “Tabernacles.”
It is a Celebration that God, The Father, is in His “New House.”**

Where did all the Jews live while they were in Jerusalem for 22 days? Some stayed with fellow Jews who lived in and around Jerusalem. But most Jews lived in “tents” (Tabernacle.) That is so “fitting” because God’s Presence had once resided in a “Tent” (Tent of Meeting or Tabernacle). But NOW God’s Presence had a permanent place to dwell, The Temple.

On our “Timeline,” it’s now the day after the end of Tabernacles, which lasted for “7 Days.” Another way to express the “day after” is to say it’s the “8th Day.”

The Jews have been in Jerusalem for “22 Days,” and they dedicated King Solomon’s Temple. Many Trumpets have sounded.

The Jews have also celebrated ALL Three FALL Feasts.

- So, on the 23rd Day, King Solomon sent everyone back home!
- God is GOOD!
- Everyone is glad in heart, but it is time to go home.

“So, Solomon observed the festival at that time for seven days [Feast of Tabernacles], and all Israel with him—a vast assembly...On the eighth day [The day after the end of Tabernacles], they held an assembly, for **they had** celebrated the dedication of the altar for seven days [Days “2-9” in between Trumpets and Atonement] and the festival [Tabernacles] for seven days more. On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, he sent the people to their homes, joyful and glad in heart for the good things the LORD had done for David and Solomon and for his people Israel.”

King Abijah's Priests Sound Trumpets, and King Jeroboam is Defeated

One of the functions of the “sounding” of God’s Trumpet was to gather the fighting men to battle.

The declarative sound of the Trumpet would rally the fighting men against their enemies-also called “The Battle Cry.”

**But God’s Trumpet is not a “magical” instrument.
God will not give “anyone” the “Victory” because His Favorite Instrument is sounding.**

However, when you act on God’s behalf, moving forward according to His Word and His instruction, defending God’s Holy Name and His Word. When you blow the Trumpet, those opposed to God and His ways will be defeated.

You will recall that after King Solomon died, the Twelve Tribes of Israel split in two, creating the “Divided Kingdom.”

This consisted of Ten Tribes, which formed the “Northern Kingdom” and were called “Israel.”

The remaining two Tribes formed the “Southern Kingdom” called “Judah.”

You will also recall that Judah had eight good and evil Kings.

But **ALL** “Israel’s Kings were evil.

Some of Israel’s “Kings” started “good.”

But ultimately, they were declared to be “evil” because of the “evil” they committed.

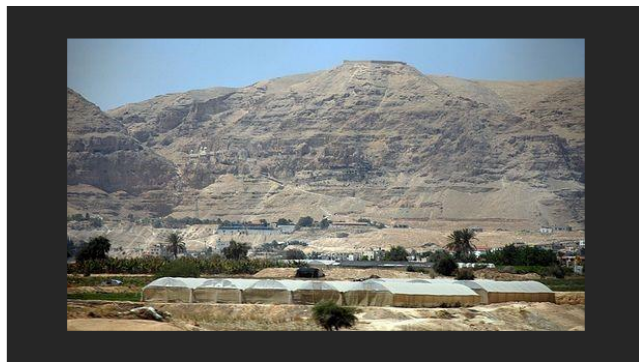
We see all this in the following story.

King Abijah was “Judah’s” Second King (Evil King). And King Jeroboam was “Israel’s” first King (“Evil King).

King Abijah stood on “Mount Zemaraim” and “Called Out” King Jeroboam for many sins against God. King Jeroboam is “called out” for possessing “golden calves,” which he made and (“Israel”) continued to use in worship to “other gods.”

He is also “called out” because he had forsaken God and was allowing “non-Levites”

to act as “Priests.” You will recall that God consecrated only the Tribe of Levi to be “His Priests.”



King Jeroboam acted against God and His Word, whereas King Abijah defended God's ways and Word. King Abijah warned King Jeroboam NOT to "engage" him in a "fight" because King Abijah's Priests (Levites) would blow the Trumpet, and God **would give** them the victory. King Jeroboam does NOT listen and sends his men to ambush King Abijah's men from "behind." Remember that King Abijah is outnumbered "Two to One," but he is not concerned because God is on his side.

So, when King Abijah sees that his men are surrounded in the front and from the rear, God's TRUE Priests, the Levites, blow their Trumpets, and God gives King Abijah the victory.

"In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem three years...There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. Abijah went into battle with a force of four hundred thousand able-fighting men, and Jeroboam drew up a battle line against him with eight hundred thousand able troops. Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, "Jeroboam and all Israel, listen to me...You are indeed a vast army and have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made to be your gods. But didn't you drive out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and make priests of your own as the peoples of other lands do? Whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may become a priest of what are not gods. "As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. The priests who serve the LORD are sons of Aaron, and the Levites assist them. Every morning and evening, they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to the LORD. They set out the bread on the ceremonially clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening. We are observing the requirements of the LORD, our God. But you have forsaken him. God is with us; he is our leader. His priests, with their trumpets, will sound the battle cry against you. Men of Israel, do not fight against the LORD, the God of your fathers, for you will not succeed." Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to the rear so that while he was in front of Judah, the ambush was behind them. Judah turned and saw that they were being attacked at both front and rear. **Then they cried out to the LORD. The priests blew their trumpets, and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. At the sound of their battle cry,** God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. The Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands. Abijah and his men inflicted heavy losses on them so that there were five hundred thousand casualties among Israel's able men. The men of Israel were subdued on that occasion, and the men of Judah were victorious because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers." 2 Chronicles 13:1–22

With Trumpets, God's Judgements are Pronounced on Moab

The prophet Amos announces God's judgments against Israel and her neighbors, including "Moab." Keep "Moab" in mind as we will look at her later in our study of the book of Daniel.

"The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—what he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel. He said: "The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers...This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Moab, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. Because he burned, as if to lime, the bones of Edom's king, I will send fire upon Moab that will consume the fortresses of Kerioth. Moab will go down in great tumult amid war cries and the blast of the trumpet. I will destroy her ruler and kill all her officials with him," says the LORD."

Amos also references the "Watchmen" of the city, who are to sound Trumpets to warn the people of imminent danger. We will look at God's watchmen shortly.

"When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble?" Amos 3:6

Sound Trumpets, King Jehoshaphat, Celebrates God's Victory

King Jehoshaphat was Judah's 4th King, a "Good King."

He turned his people "back to" The LORD.

He also appointed "Judges" and gave them Biblical "Charges" concerning their "TRUE" responsibilities.

In the following story, we are again reminded of an ongoing Spiritual Truth.

When we place our faith in the God of the Bible and trust Him for ALL things, He is the "One" who gives the victory.

It is ALL His doing and not ours. This truth unfolds as the "Moabite" and "Ammonite" armies come from "Edom" (Jordan today) to make war with King Jehoshaphat.

Their armies had already crossed over the "Sea" (Dead Sea), were in "En Gedi," and were moving towards Judah.

There are many "Spiritual Truths" in the stories of God's trumpets sounding.

Interestingly, the order of these "Spiritual Truths" forms a "Pattern," which will be helpful to you no matter what "enemy" is moving toward you.

This "pattern" helped me overcome the enemy of "negative thoughts and emotions."

Following is the order and progression of how King Jehoshaphat responds to the immediate threat of the Moabites and Ammonites.

1. King Jehoshaphat “seeks the counsel” of God.
2. He proclaims a “time of fasting” for all of Judah.
3. He stands at The Temple and exalts the “Name of God.”
4. He reminds the people of the many things God did for them.
5. A Levite, Jahaziel, also reminds the people, “The battle is not theirs but The Lord’s.”
6. Then King Jehoshaphat and his army set out to battle the Moabite and Ammonite armies. And as they go forth, he AGAIN reminds the people to trust and place their faith in GOD.
7. He appoints men to lead them in a song of praise to God for the splendor of HIS holiness, “Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.” And as they began to sing and praise God, God caused the Ammonite and Moabite armies to destroy “each other.” And when King Jehoshaphat and his army came upon them, they were all dead.
8. King Jehoshaphat and his men returned to Jerusalem joyfully because GOD had given them victory. They went to The Temple, with the playing of instruments and the sounding of TRUMPETS.

“Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers. He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. He told them, “Consider carefully what you do because you are not judging for man but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you...After this, the Moabites, and Ammonites, with some of the Meunites, came to make war on Jehoshaphat. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard and said: “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham, your friend...Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel... He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s...Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.’” Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD...Early in the morning, they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah,



and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God, and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets, and you will be successful.” After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: **“Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.”** As they began to sing and praise, the **LORD set ambushes** against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another. When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped... Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lutes and trumpets.”
2 Chronicles 19:1–21:3

Joash is Anointed King of Judah with Trumpets Sounding

To appreciate the story of Joash, we first need to understand the person of Athaliah, who was the daughter of King Ahab (Israel’s 7th King, who was evil).

Ahab had married a wicked foreign woman named Jezebel, who promoted the worship of Baal and other pagan religions in Israel.

Athaliah, like her mother Jezebel, was ruthless and evil.

Athaliah had forced her way onto the throne of Judah and ruled for six years.

When her son Ahaziah died, she killed off the “Royal Line” to the throne. Baby Joash (who was in line) was doomed to die, but Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram (Judah’s 5th King -Evil), stole him to protect his young life. Baby Joash remained “hidden” in The Temple with his nurse for six years while “Queen Athaliah” ruled the Land.

In the seventh year, The Priest, Jehoiada, summoned “commanders” and made them swear an oath to protect Joash, who was now seven years old. Later, Jehoiada brought Joash out, put a crown on his head, and proclaimed him King. Joash was now “Judah’s 8th King (Good).

As Trumpets announce King Joash's reign, Athaliah hears the commotion and learns what has just happened. She is infuriated. But when she leaves The Temple, she is executed.

“When Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram... took Joash...so he was not killed. He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land. In the seventh year... Jehoiada brought out the king’s son and put the crown on him; he presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, “Long live the king!” When Athaliah heard the

noise made by the guards and the people, she went to the people at the temple of the LORD. She looked, and there was the king standing by the pillar, as the custom was. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her robes and called out, “Treason! Treason!” Jehoiada, the priest, ordered the commanders... “She must not be put to death in the temple of the LORD.” So, they seized her as she reached the place where the horses enter the palace grounds, and there she was put to death. Jehoiada then made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people that they would be the LORD’s people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people. All the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, in front of the altars...The king then took his place on the royal throne, and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet because Athaliah had been slain with the sword at the palace. Joash was seven years old when he began to reign.”

King Joash was a “Good King,” and he did what was right in the eyes of The Lord. Interestingly, he gave the order to collect money and use it to repair the Temple. However, after 23 years, the Temple had not been rebuilt. Why?

Most likely because the “monies” had been “used” by the Priests, he instructs them not to take any more money “for themselves” from the treasurers but to use it to repair the Temple.

“Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him... Joash said to the priests, “Collect all the money that is brought as sacred offerings to the temple of the LORD—the money collected in the census, the money received from personal vows, and the money brought voluntarily to the temple. Let every priest receive the money from one of the treasurers and let it be used to repair whatever damage is found in the temple.” But by the twenty-third year of King Joash, the priests still had not repaired the temple. Therefore, King Joash summoned Jehoiada, the priest, and the other priests and asked them, “Why aren’t you repairing the damage done to the temple? Take no more money from your treasurers, but hand it over for repairing the temple.” The priests agreed that they would not collect any more money from the people and that they would not repair the temple themselves.”

Jehoiada enacts a “New System” to collect money. And with that money, they used it to pay the workers who were repairing the Temple.

“Jehoiada, the priest, took a chest and bored a hole in its lid. He placed it beside the altar, on the right side, as one enters the temple of the LORD. The priests who guarded the entrance put into the chest all the money that was brought to the temple of the LORD. Whenever they saw that there was a large amount of money in the chest, the royal secretary and the high priest came, counted the money that had been brought into the temple of the LORD, and put it into bags. When the amount had been determined, they gave the money to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. With it, they paid those who worked on the temple of the LORD...The money from the guilt offerings and sin offerings was not brought into the temple of the LORD; it belonged to the priests...About this time, Hazael, king of Aram, went up and attacked Gath and captured

it. Then he turned to attack Jerusalem. But Joash king of Judah took all the sacred objects dedicated by his fathers—Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, the kings of Judah—and the gifts he himself had dedicated and all the gold found in the treasuries of the temple of the LORD and of the royal palace, and he sent them to Hazeel king of Aram, who then withdrew from Jerusalem.” 2 Kings 11:1–12:21

Return to The Lord, Faithless Israel, Sound Trumpets, and Return to Zion

King Josiah was “Judah’s 16th King and the last “good king” of Judah. Please read the following in its entirety, and it needs no explanation.

“During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done?” She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. I thought that after she had done all this, she would return to me, but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense,” declares the LORD. The LORD said to me, “Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah. Go, proclaim this message toward the north: “Return, faithless Israel,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt— you have rebelled against the LORD your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,’” declares the LORD. “Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and **bring you to Zion**. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land,” declares the LORD, “men will no longer say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. **At that time, they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.** In those days, the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance. “I myself said, “‘How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.’ I thought you would call me ‘Father’ and not turn away from following me. But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel,” declares the LORD. A cry is heard on the barren heights, the weeping and pleading of the people of Israel, because they have perverted their ways and have forgotten the LORD their God. “Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding.” “Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God. Surely the idolatrous commotion on the hills and mountains is a deception; surely, in the LORD, our God is the salvation of Israel. From our youth, shameful gods have consumed the fruits of our fathers’ labor— their flocks and herds, their sons, and daughters. Let us lie down in our shame and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the LORD our God, both we and our fathers; from our youth till this day, we have not obeyed the LORD our God.” “If

you will return, O Israel, return to me,” declares the LORD. “If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, and if in a truthful, just, and righteous way you swear, ‘As surely as the LORD lives,’ then the nations will be blessed by him and in him, they will glory.” This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: “Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done— burn with no one to quench it. “Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say: ‘Sound the trumpet throughout the land!’ Cry aloud and say: ‘Gather together! Let us flee to the fortified cities!’ Raise the signal to go to Zion!” Jeremiah 3:6–4:6

Gideon Defeats the Midianites as “300” Trumpets are Sounded

Repeatedly throughout Israel’s history, the Israelites did “Evil in the eyes of the LORD.” And God would allow Israel’s enemies to rise against His People. Therefore, in the following story, God allowed the Midianites to oppress His People for seven years, including destroying Israel’s crops and killing their livestock.

“Again, **the Israelites did evil** in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years, he gave them into the hands of the Midianites...Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern peoples invaded the country. They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count the men and their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it.”

The Israelites cried out to God, and He sent them a prophet who reminded the Jews of God’s actions during the Exodus.

“When the Israelites cried to the LORD because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave you their land. I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

Throughout Scripture, God often sends an Angel(s) to “assist” His People. This time, one of God’s Angels comes to Gideon, the son of King Joash (“Judah’s 8th King-Good). Following, God’s Angel has a conversation with Gideon.

“The angel of the LORD came...appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.” “But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.” The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you... I am the least in my family.” The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”

Gideon has heard God's Angel encourage him but does not believe it, so he introduces a "fleece." A "fleece" is an indication of "unbelief." The unbeliever says, "God, do 'THIS,' and then if you do, I'll believe you." So, Gideon asks the Angel to show him a "sign."

"Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me...Gideon went in, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour, he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak...With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

God is known by many different names throughout the Old Testament. Each of His names has a significant meaning. And following Gideon "discovers" that The LORD is the...



e-lo-hay ha-sha-LOHM

"But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." So, Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day, it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."

Building and worshiping idols is another recurring theme throughout Israel's history.

God wants to be worshiped; anything Israelites (or we) "Put Up" as a substitute to replace God is a SIN. So, as the story continues, God instructs Gideon to tear down the "idols" His sinful People had constructed. But they want to kill Gideon when they see that their idols have been torn down.

"That same night, the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Then, build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood

of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering.” So, Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. In the morning, when the men of the town got up, there was Baal’s altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar! They asked each other, “Who did this?” When they carefully investigated, they were told, “Gideon, son of Joash, did it.” The men of the town demanded of Joash, “Bring out your son. He must die because he has broken down Baal’s altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.”

Gideon’s father, Joash, “stands up” for his son, and then Gideon embarks on the mission God called him to accomplish, defeating the Midianites.

“But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, “Are you going to plead Baal’s cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar.” So that day, they called Gideon “Jerub-Baal,” saying, “Let Baal contend with him,” because he broke down Baal’s altar.”

Let’s remind ourselves that God’s Trumpet is the “Shofar” Trumpet. Throughout Scripture, whenever you see “Trumpet” mentioned, it refers to the Shofar Trumpet or Ram’s horn. However, whenever Scripture says that a “Priest” is blowing a Trumpet, the Priest is blowing a “Temple Trumpet” (“Silver Trumpet”) as ONLY the Priest could do so.

Gideon SOUNDS his Trumpet and calls the people to follow him “in arms.”

“Now, all the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. **Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.** He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali so that they too went up to meet them.”

Gideon still does not believe God is with him because he again “offers a fleece.” And again, in “this case,” God answers Gideon’s fleece.

I want to point out that this story is not a theological basis for saying it is okay to offer a “fleece” to God. Remember that what occurred here occurred in the “Old Covenant.”

However, in the “New Covenant,” ALL of God’s Promises are “YES” and AMEN!”

God has already proven Himself. All God asks us to “Believe” in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God will do everything He has ordained for YOU and me to do.

“Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.” And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of

water. Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time, make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew.” That night, God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.”

The following day, God tells Gideon that HE wants to get all the credit for what He is about to do. So, of 32,000 men who were with Gideon, 22,000 men turned back because of “fear.” There were now 10,000 men with Gideon who remained.

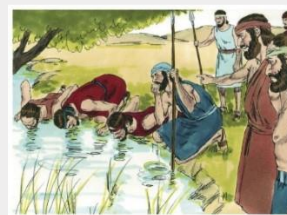
“Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, announce now to the people, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So, twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.”

God now gives Gideon fascinating instructions. He is to narrow the field of 10,000 men by observing how they drink water—either like a dog or in “another posture.”

“But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” So, Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink.” Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped, I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands.”

I cannot explain this “odd” instruction except “ONE.” In the picture, the Israelites kneel, lapping water like a dog.

They are representative of the 9,700 men God wanted nothing to do with. You can also see the “other Israelite” in the picture. He has his weapon in one hand with his arm stretched upward. And with his other hand, he has cupped the water and is “raising” his hand to his mouth.



As you can see, both arms are facing upwards and are forming a “SHIN”—the “ideographic meaning” for **God**. This Israelite is representative of the “300” men God was going to use mightily

(the “numerical value” of the letter “Shin” is three hundred). Therefore, these “300” were indeed men of GOD!

Now, the 9,700 men who got on their knees were sent home. But before they went back, the “300” took their provisions. That makes sense! More food in case they need it. However, Scripture says that the “300” also took the Trumpets from the 9,700.

“Let all the other men go, each to his own place.” So, Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.”

Yes, the “300” might need more food. But why would the “300” need 9,700 more Trumpets? They could not carry them, nor could they blow them. What’s the answer?

You have seen movies where a “Co. turns in his or her “shield and gun,” which are “symbols” of power and authority- entrusted to them. But the moment the officer “turns them in,” they have been relinquished of power and authority. They are no longer a Police Officer.

Therefore, the 9,700 men were not only “turning in” their “instrument” (Trumpet); they were also turning in “one” of God’s symbols of power and authority-HIS TRUMPET! And though the Bible does not say, we can assume that the “first cut” of 22,000 men had “turned in” their Trumpets, too.

But this leads to the question, “Did every Israelite who EVER went into battle carry a Trumpet?” Again, the Bible does not say. But it is most likely, “NO!” Only in the story of Gideon did all the original armies (32,000 men) carry a Trumpet. However, God could ONLY use “300” men. They were men of GOD who carried God’s symbol of Power and Authority- the “Shofar” Trumpet. Let us continue the story.

“During that night, the LORD said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp because I am going to give it into your hands...Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp...Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread

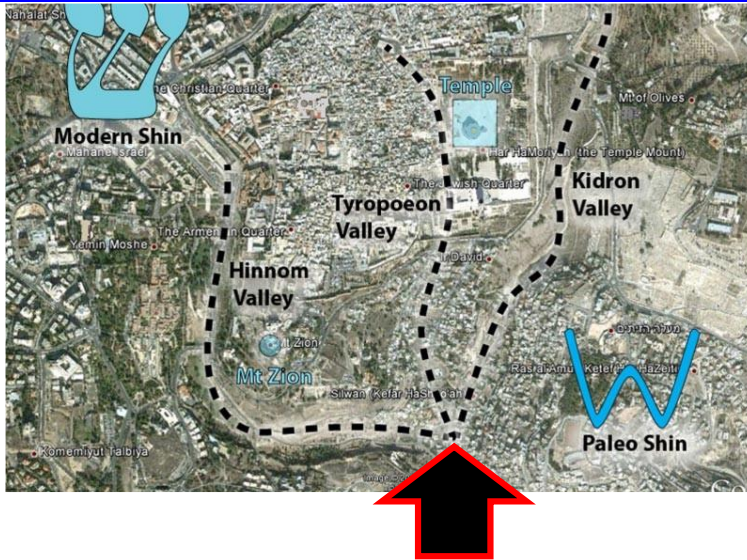


came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.” His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon, son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God.”

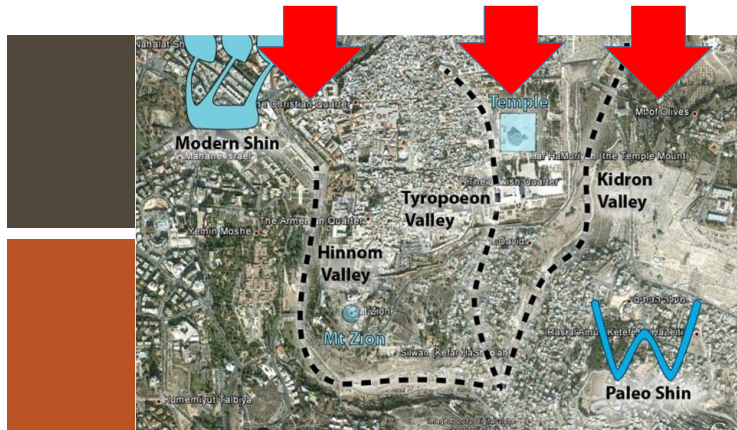
According to Gideon's instruction, the story concludes as the “300” men blow their trumpets. As we have seen before in Scripture, God caused the Midianites to “turn on each other,” and He gave Gideon and the Nation of Israel the Victory!

“He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.” Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’” Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon...When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. Judges 6:1–7:25

King Hezekiah Purifies the Temple as Trumpets are Sounded



Please focus on the **Black/Red** arrow pointing to the black “dashes.”
Please “trace” the black dashes and “three branches.”
The three branches form the letter “SHIN.”



Each of the three RED arrows in this picture identifies the “tops” of three “branches” that form the letter “SHIN.” Each branch identifies three “Key” Biblical sites. They are the following:

- “The Old City” (Old Jerusalem).
- “The Temple Mount”
- “The Mount of Olives.”

Most importantly, the three RED arrows point to the **Three Valleys** that form the “SHIN.” They are the following:

- “Hinnom Valley”
- “Tyropoeon Valley”
- “Kidron Valley”

Let's review the story.

King Hezekiah was "Judah's" 13th King (Good King), and his reign began in the 1st month of "Nisan." You will recall that Passover is also celebrated during the month of "Nisan."

The **first thing** that King Hezekiah did was open the Temple's doors as it had become defiled under the rule of King Ahaz (Judah's 12th King-Evil).

Then King Hezekiah called the Priests and gave them a "charge" to purify the Temple and bring out every "unclean" thing.

The Priests obeyed and took all the unclean items to a "waste dump" in the Kidron Valley.

"Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years... He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them. He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side, and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him...Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us...The priests went into the sanctuary of the LORD to purify it. **They brought out to the courtyard of the LORD's temple everything unclean that they found in the temple of the LORD. The Levites took it and carried it out to the Kidron Valley...**



King Hezekiah began the "cleansing" process in "Nisan," and by the 16th day, the purification was completed. So, on the morning of the 17th day, King Hezekiah gathered the "City Officials," and they went to The Temple with sacrifices as a "sin offering." As they began to sacrifice, the Priests started to sing. They played instruments, and **Trumpets were SOUNDED**. The Priests had now

dedicated themselves to The Lord, and The Temple had been re-established. From start to finish, it had taken ONLY “17 days.”

“They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month, they reached the portico of the LORD. For eight more days, they consecrated the temple of the LORD itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month. Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported: “We have purified the entire temple of the LORD... We have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz removed in his unfaithfulness while he was king...Early the next morning, King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the LORD. They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs, and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah...He stationed the Levites in the temple of the LORD...So, the Levites stood ready with David’s instruments and the priests with their trumpets. Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David, king of Israel. The whole assembly bowed in worship while the singers sang and the trumpeters played...Then Hezekiah said, “You have now dedicated yourselves to the LORD.... So, the service of the temple of the LORD was reestablished. Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people because it was done so quickly.””

You will recall that the Feast of Passover begins on the 14th day **after** the first FULL Moon of Spring in “Nisan.”

Therefore, the first full moon of Spring was most likely seen sometime during the “17 days” that King Hezekiah purified and re-consecrated The Temple.

Passover can now be celebrated.

However, there is a problem.

There were not enough Priests, and all of God’s people from “Israel” and “Judah” were not in Jerusalem.

Therefore, King Hezekiah sent word via a “Proclamation” to ALL of Israel and Judah to come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

However, the “timeline” for celebrating Passover in the month of “Nisan” had passed.

So, King Hezekiah decided to celebrate Passover in the “Second Month” called “Lyar.”

Please notice the language of repentance in his proclamation.

“Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. The king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month. They had not been able to celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves, and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. The plan seemed right both to the king and to the whole assembly. They decided

to send a proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, calling the people to come to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. It had not been celebrated in large numbers according to what was written. At the king's command, couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and from his officials, which read: "People of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. Do not be like your fathers and brothers, who were unfaithful to the LORD, the God of their fathers, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see. Do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were; submit to the LORD. Come to the sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever. Serve the LORD your God so that his fierce anger will turn away from you. If you return to the LORD, then your brothers and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will come back to this land, for the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him."

Unfortunately, many Jews in "Israel" (Ten Tribes) scorned and ridiculed the proclamation.

However, some Jews from the Tribes of Israel, Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun (also Ephraim and Issachar) humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

In contrast, God "caused" all the Jews in "Judah" (Two Tribes) to have a "unity of mind" and to come to Jerusalem.

As the Jews came, they continued to cleanse Jerusalem from the "pagan" altars and threw them into the **Kidron Valley**.

Passover was celebrated on the 14th day of the second month of "Lyar."

Interestingly, many Jews from "Israel" had not purified themselves and were therefore "ceremonially unclean."

Yet, they still partook in the Passover, as King Hezekiah interceded with God on their behalf.

And God in His MERCY HEALED them.

"The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but the people scorned and ridiculed them. Nevertheless, some men of Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. Also, in Judah, the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the LORD. A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month. They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars, and threw them into the Kidron Valley. They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month... Then they took up their regular positions as prescribed in the Law of Moses, the man of God... Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean and could not consecrate their lambs to the LORD. Although most of the many people who

came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the LORD, who is good, pardon everyone who sets his heart on seeking God—the LORD, the God of his fathers—even if he is not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.” And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.”

For each of the “7 Days,” which encompasses the Feasts of “Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits,” the Jews rejoiced.

The Priests sang songs accompanied by “**The Lord’s Instruments of Praise,**” which also included the sounding of TRUMPETS-God’s instrument.

“The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests sang to the LORD every day, accompanied by the **LORD’s instruments of praise.**”

Interestingly, King Hezekiah decided to continue celebrating the “Festival (Passover) for seven more days, and there was great joy in Jerusalem.

“Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites, who showed good understanding of the service of the LORD. For the seven days, they ate their assigned portion and offered fellowship offerings, and praised the LORD, the God of their fathers. The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so, for another seven days, they celebrated joyfully...There was great joy in Jerusalem, for, since the days of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place.”

After the “extended” Passover was over, Jews continued to destroy pagan idols as they went home.

“When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah and smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.”

According to Mosaic Law, the Jews were required to give “tithes” and “offerings.”

Some of these monies were used to pay the Levites (from the Tribe of Levi), who were God’s “Appointed Priests.”

However, for a “long time,” The Temple work performed by the Priests had stopped.

Therefore, as there was no money in the Temple treasury, King Hezekiah began to collect “tithes” and “offerings” from the people.

Interestingly, (as a Good Leader should), King Hezekiah begins by contributing generously-First!

“King Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks, and to sing praises at the gates of the LORD’s dwelling. The king contributed from his own possessions for the morning and evening burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed feasts as written in the Law of the LORD. He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so that they could devote themselves to the Law of the LORD...They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. The men of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps.”

To recap, King Hezekiah had decided to celebrate Passover in the 2nd month” of “Lyar.”

At Passover’s end, he began collecting “tithes and offerings.”

These were collected in the 3rd month, called “Sivan,” the 4th month, called “Tammuz,” the 5th month, called “Av,” and the 6th month, called “Elul.”

Interestingly, so much had been given that King Hezekiah stopped “collecting” on the 7th month, which you’ll recall is called “Tishrei.”

Though the Bible does not say it, I believe that King Hezekiah stopped “collecting” on the “Feast of Trumpets,” which begins on the 1st day of “Tishrei.”

And why not?

So much money was collected that there was MORE than enough.

It gave “Great Cause” to BLOW TRUMPETS IN VICTORY!

“They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and blessed his people, Israel. Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps; and Azariah, the chief priest from the family of Zadok, answered, “Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the LORD has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over. Hezekiah gave orders to prepare storerooms in the temple of the LORD, and this was done. Then they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes, and dedicated gifts... This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. In everything that he undertook in the service of God’s temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so, he prospered.”

The story of King Hezekiah continues as King Sennacherib of Assyria comes and invades Judah. He is also intent on conquering Jerusalem.

King Hezekiah “fortifies” Jerusalem. Then he called his military leaders together and gave them “a charge,” which we repeatedly see throughout Scripture. **“Do not be afraid or discouraged...but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.”**

Meanwhile, King Sennacherib sends letters to King Hezekiah, taunting him and insulting the God of the Bible. King Sennacherib’s men also did something not heard of before in the Bible. They “taunted” the Jewish People in Hebrew.

The Hebrew language is near and dear to God’s heart.

MANY believe that Hebrew is the language of Heaven.

Nevertheless, God had enough. So, after King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah prayed, God did “something” we have also seen repeatedly throughout Scripture. God sent His Angels, who annihilated King Sennacherib’s army. Though the Bible does not say, TRUMPETS were sounded in celebration of God’s Victory! The God of the Bible- the God of Israel- had come through again.

“Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came and invaded Judah...When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem, he consulted with his officials and military staff...Then he worked hard, repairing all the broken sections of the wall, and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the supporting terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields. He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah, the king of Judah, said. Sennacherib’s officers spoke further against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah. The king also wrote letters insulting the LORD, the God of Israel, and saying this against him: “Just as the gods of the peoples of the other lands did not rescue their people from my hand, so the god of Hezekiah will not rescue his people from my hand.” Then they called out in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall to terrify them and make them afraid in order to capture the city. They spoke about the God of Jerusalem as they did about the gods of the other peoples of the world—the work of men’s hands. King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, cried out in prayer to heaven about this. And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king...And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword. So, the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib, king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others. He took care of them on every side. Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts for Hezekiah, king of Judah. From then on, he was highly regarded by all the nations.” 2 Chronicles...

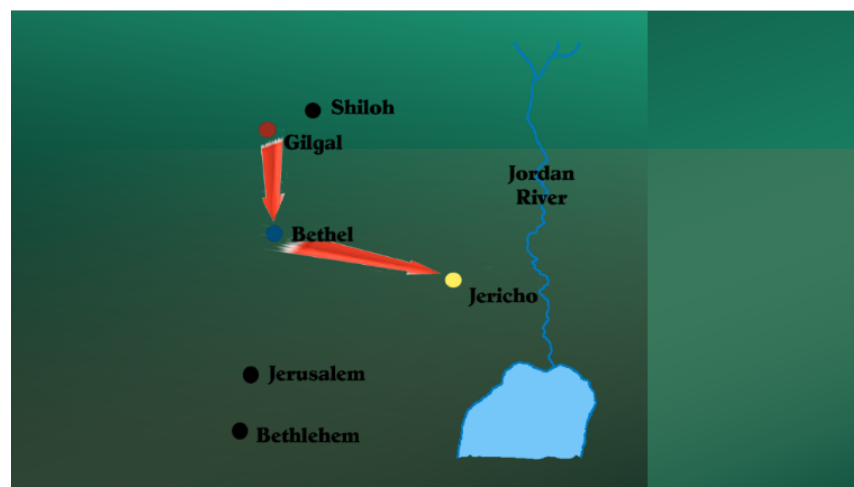
With Trumpets, Jehu is Anointed King of Israel

For the Jews, other than Abraham and Moses, “**Elijah**” is one of their most revered prophets.

Just before “**Elijah**” was “Taken Up” to Heaven to be with God, he took his predecessor, “Elisha,” to four places.

In each “place,” God did something significant for the Jewish People, and “**Elijah**” wanted “Elisha” to remember what God did!

Please review this chart as you follow their journey.



Gilgal

- “When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.” 2 Kings 2:1–2

Bethel

- “Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So, they went down to Bethel.” 2 Kings 2:2–3

Jericho

- “Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So, they went to Jericho.” 2 Kings 2:4–5

Jordan River

- “Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So, the two of them walked on.”

Gilgal was the first place Elijah and Elisha went. Here, three “New Beginnings” began for the Nation of Israel.

1. At the beginning of New Faith-After Israel’s Exodus from Egypt, Moses sent twelve spies into the “Promised Land.” Ten of the twelve spies said the Jews could NOT take the Land when they returned. Only Joshua and Caleb “believed” they could take the land God had promised to His People. Because of Israel’s “unbelief.” God caused the Israelites to wander in the desert for 40 years until all the “unbelievers” died. Joshua is now Israel’s “leader,” leading the Israelites through the Jordan River as they cross into the Promised Land.

Interestingly, God caused the Jordan River to “divide” in the same way He “parted” the Red Sea. After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, Joshua instructed **each** of the “Twelve Tribes” to take a “stone” from the center of the Jordan. It was a “memorial” of what God had accomplished for them. Then on the 10th day of Nisan (the first month of the Jewish calendar), the Nation of Israel camped at Gilgal.

“On the tenth day of the first month, the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, “In the future, when your descendants ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the LORD, your God, dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD, your God, did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

2. At the beginning of New Flesh- Remember that God’s “LAW” required all Israeli male babies to be circumcised on the eighth day after their birth. Circumcision is the “cutting away of flesh,” marking Jewish babies as belonging to God. All men over 20 (military age) had died in the desert of Israel’s wanderings. And all the men born in the desert had not been circumcised. Therefore, God instructs Joshua to make flint knives and to circumcise the men.

“At that time, the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again...this is why he did so...The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died since they had not obeyed the LORD... So, he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised...Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today, I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So, the place has been called Gilgal to this day.”

3. At the beginning of New Food- On the 14th day of the first month of “Nisan,” the Israelites celebrated the Feast of Passover. On the next day, the “Feast of Unleavened Bread,” the Israelites ate unleavened bread and some of the produce from the Promised Land. Then, on the day after, the 16th of Nisan, God had so generously supplied the Manna for 40 years, stopped. The Israelites would now be sustained from the “bounty” of God’s Land.

“On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan. Joshua 4:1–5:12



Bethel was the “second place” Elijah and Elisha went. It was here that “Jacob” saw a “stairway” to the “Gate of Heaven”- God’s Home. At the top of the “stairs” (sometimes referred to as “Jacob’s Ladder”) stood the God of Abraham and Isaac.

“Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel. Genesis 28:10–22

Jericho was the “third place” Elijah and Elisha went. After the “40 Years of Israel’s Wonderings, it was here, in Jericho, that Joshua sent “two spies” into the Promised Land. And it was here that the two spies “hid” Rahab, the prostitute, and made a covenant with her, confirmed with a “scarlet cord” tied to her window. And it was here, in Jericho, that God demonstrated His “Great Power.” God told Joshua to have Seven Priests (each carrying and blowing a “Shofar” Trumpet) march ahead of the “Ark of the Covenant” (as the Israelites followed behind). They ALL marched

around the “City of Jericho” for six days. Then on the seventh day, the priests blew trumpets (ahead of the “Ark”), and all the people marched around the City of Jericho seven times. And when the Israelites heard the priests “sounding” a long blast on their trumpets, all the people gave a loud shout, and the wall of Jericho collapsed.

The Jordan River was the “fourth place” Elijah and Elisha went to. Here, the Israelites “crossed over” into the Promised Land. But it would also be here that Elisha would see Elijah “depart” to Heaven.

Interestingly, only two men in the Bible did not die, Enoch and Elijah. They were both “suddenly” “Taken Away” to be with God in Heaven. As I write this, I just received a text that my friend, Frank, had “passed away.” It must be God’s providence and not a coincidence. Frank had chosen not to receive food or water in his “last days” and slipped into a coma. I went to hold his hand and whisper into his ear yesterday evening. Among other things, I told him, “Jesus would be waiting on the other side.” Yes, it is “appointed” that ALL will die. But the HOPE “believers” have is that when they die, they will suddenly be “Taken Away” to Heaven to be with God. Sad for your family, but Happy for you! I miss you, Frank.

“Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, not.” As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly, a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more.” 2 Kings 2:6–14

After the Prophet “Elijah” was taken to Heaven, Elisha took over as another of God’s Prophets. One day, Elisha told one of his prophets (unnamed) to find Jehu and to anoint him as King over Israel (Israel’s 10th King). Then, in reverence, Jehu’s soldiers took off their cloaks and spread them under King Jehu’s feet, and they blew TRUMPETS to announce his reign as King. Jehu was also told to “destroy” Ahab (Israel’s 7th King) and his Kingdom. Jehu gathers (under deception) all the prophets, ministers, and priests of Baal together at the Temple of Baal so that eighty of his soldiers can kill them. Therefore, King Jehu did “good” by destroying Baal worship in Israel. God even commends King Jehu for doing this. King Jehu was also noted for many achievements during his reign. However, King Jehu was not careful about keeping ALL the laws of God. So, King Jehu is considered to be an “Evil King” because he allowed the Israelites to continue their worship of the “golden calves” (which began under King Jeroboam’s reign-Israel’s 1st King). King Jehu should have destroyed them, but he did not.

“The prophet Elisha summoned a man from the company of the prophets and said to him...go to Ramoth Gilead. When you get there, look for Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat...Go to him...and take him into an inner room. Then take the flask and pour the oil on his head and declare, ‘This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel...the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead...Jehu got up and went into the house. Then the prophet poured the oil on Jehu’s head and declared, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anoint you, king, over the LORD’s people Israel. You are to destroy the house of Ahab, your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants, the prophets, and the blood of all the LORD’s servants shed by Jezebel. The whole house of Ahab will perish... [Jehu’s soldiers] took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, “Jehu is king!... Then Jehu brought all the people together...summon all the prophets of Baal, all his ministers, and all his priests. See that no one is missing because I am going to hold a great sacrifice for Baal...But Jehu was acting deceptively in order to destroy the ministers of Baal. Jehu said, “Call an assembly in honor of Baal.” So, they proclaimed it. Then he sent word throughout Israel, and all the ministers of Baal came; not one stayed away. They crowded into the temple of Baal until it was full from one end to the other... Jehu said to the ministers of Baal, “Look around and see that no servants of the LORD are here with you—only ministers of Baal.” So, they went in to make sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had posted eighty men outside...As soon as Jehu had finished making the burnt offering, he ordered the guards and officers: “Go in and kill them; let no one escape.” So, they cut them down with the sword. The guards and officers threw the bodies out and then entered the inner shrine of the temple of Baal. They brought the sacred stone out of the temple of Baal and burned it. They demolished the sacred stone of Baal and tore down the temple of Baal, and people have used it for a latrine to this day. So, Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel. However, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam [Israel’s 1st Evil King], which he had caused Israel to commit—the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan. The LORD said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.” Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit.” 2 Kings 9:1–10:36



“Watchmen,” Sound Trumpets



We now come to another exciting passage in God’s Word, Ezekiel, chapter 33. To begin, in Biblical times, a “watchman” was assigned to watch over the **physical needs** of his people. To do this, the watchman stood on top of a “Watchtower” (constructed within an outer wall of a city). The watchtower provided “strategic elevation” so the watchman could look out into the distance for any approaching enemies. If an enemy was spotted, the watchman sounded his Trumpet to warn his people. Immediately the people would rally to fight off the enemy, protect their city, and save their lives.

However, if the watchman sounded his Trumpet, the enemy killed the people who did not listen and act. It was their fault. The watchman had done his job. They had been WARNED!

“The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head. Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself.”

In contrast, if a “watchman” saw an enemy approaching but did not SOUND the Trumpet. And even if “one of his people” was killed by the enemy. The “watchman” was responsible, and he would be killed for failing to do his job.

“But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.”

God also uses the term “watchman” to refer to **anyone** who is tasked with “looking out” for the “**spiritual needs**” of the people God has entrusted to them. They ensure their people are nourished with God’s WORD to meet their “spiritual needs.”

In Biblical times, spiritual watchmen included “Israel’s and Judah’s” Kings. They were responsible for looking out for the “physical needs” of God’s People. But they were also tasked with looking out for the people’s “spiritual needs” as well. “Kings” were to obey God’s Word and “Trumpet” God’s Word to the people, who were to **Listen and Obey!** But MOST “Kings” failed to obey God’s Word personally, and they also failed to “Trumpet” God’s WORD to the people. Therefore, God held BOTH the Kings and the people accountable.

One of God’s spiritual watchmen was the Prophet, Ezekiel. He was responsible for “Trumpeting” God’s Word to the “House of Israel” and his “Countrymen,” the Jews. God makes it clear that Ezekiel would be held accountable if he did not “Trumpet” God’s Word to the people (or person).

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so, hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.”

In contrast, if Ezekiel did “Trumpet,” God’s word and the people (or person) did not listen or did not act. Then, only the people (or persons) would be “judged.” The spiritual watchman (Ezekiel) had done his job!

“But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways, and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.”

Today, we have “**Watchmen and Watchwomen**” who are tasked with “looking out” for the “physical needs” of the people God has entrusted to them.

“Watchman and Watchwomen” include parents, teachers, police officers, elected officials, the military, etc. They are responsible for ensuring their people have food, clothes, shelter, education, etc., to meet their physical needs.

The watchperson’s job is to also “Sound a Trumpet” (a metaphorical term) when they spot “enemies” approaching by doing whatever is necessary to “protect” their people.

Believers are God’s Spiritual Watchmen, Sound Trumpets



Initially, God’s Word was recorded on scrolls called the Torah (pictured), which holds the first five books of the Old Testament. Jews revere God’s Word and treat the Torah with great care and respect.

Jesus opens the scroll of Isaiah and reads from it, saying He is the fulfillment of Scripture.

- “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day, he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. “Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” **Then he rolled up the scroll**, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, “Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:14–21

Jesus came to Fulfill the Law.

- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” Matthew 5:17–18

Today, we also have “Spiritual Watchmen and Watchwomen” who have been entrusted to “Trumpet” His Word. Spiritual watchmen and women are tasked with “feeding” God’s Word to God’s People. They are “believers” to include parents, pastors, elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, ministers, and those who have an audience through Christian speaking, writing, music, etc.

“The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15–17

But “Spiritual Watchmen and Women” are also tasked with “Sounding a Trumpet” to warn their people if they spot “enemies” approaching (those teaching False doctrines and False Gospels) and then doing whatever is necessary to “protect” their people.

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus...I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and discharge all the duties of your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:1–5

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned...I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:6–24

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number, men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!” Acts 20:28–31

“In your teaching, show integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us... For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.” Titus 2:7–15

Continuing

God instructs Ezekiel to “Trumpet” the following message to God’s People- The, the Nation of Israel.

This message is God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Therefore, REPENT (turn away) from sin.

“Son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How, then, can we live?” “Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?”

Also, Trumpet that the “righteousness” of a “righteous person” will not “save” them.

“Therefore, son of man, say to your countrymen, ‘The righteousness of the righteous man will not save him when he disobeys, and the wickedness of the wicked man will not cause him to fall when he turns from it. The righteous man, if he sins, will not be allowed to live because of his former righteousness.’ If I tell the righteous man that he will surely live, but then he trusts in his righteousness and does evil, none of the righteous things he has done will be remembered; he will die for the evil he has done.”

But an “unrighteous person” who turns away (repents) from their sin will be “saved”-they will not die.

“And if I say to the wicked man, ‘You will surely die,’ but he then turns away from his sin and does what is just and right— if he gives back what he took in pledge for a loan, returns what he has stolen, follows the decrees that give life, and does no evil, he will surely live; he will not die. None of the sins he has committed will be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he will surely live.”

Interestingly, God’s message in the previous verses “foreshadows” **the need** for a Messiah who will take away His people's sins. The “Good News” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that when a person “believes,” they receive the Righteousness of Jesus Christ. They are declared righteous before God. This means God no longer sees that person’s righteousness (like “menstrual rags”-DIRTY). Instead, God sees the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ-CLEAN-PURE-WHITE. Unfortunately, many people (Jews and Gentiles) do not believe or accept God’s Way concerning Salvation. They assume God’s favor and eternal life can be earned by “**good works.**” Therefore, The Gospel is a “stumbling block” for many.

Continuing...

“Yet your countrymen say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But it is their way that is not just. If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, he will die for it. And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so. Yet, O house of Israel, you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ But I will judge each of you according to his own ways.” Ezekiel 33:1–20

In summary, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is counterintuitive. The “righteous” trust in their righteousness and die. While the “unrighteous” BELIEVE, REPENT and LIVE.

- **Jesus said**, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” John 3:16–18

Now, let us consider the term “**Son of Man**,” which God uses to refer to the Prophet, Ezekiel. Interestingly, “Son of Man” is mentioned over ninety times in the book of Ezekiel.

However, I believe Ezekiel's term “Son of Man” also refers to Jesus Christ. In the book of Hebrews, the writer uses a verse from Psalm 8, “***What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?***” And then conclusively indicate that the “Son of Man” is Jesus.

“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders, and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet.” In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet, at present, we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death so that by the grace of God, he might taste death for everyone.” Hebrews 2:1–13

Jesus also uses “Son of Man” to refer to Himself more than any other term (over eighty times in the Four Gospels).

Jesus said.

- “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:4–10
- “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” Matthew 12:1–8
- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:42–45

And in the Book “Daniel,” the term “**son of man**” is mentioned in one of Daniel’s visions. He sees the “Son of Man” (the pre-incarnate Christ) approaching His Father, “The Ancient of Days.” And Jesus is given all authority, glory, and dominion and worshiped.

“In my vision at night, I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13–14

The book of Daniel and Revelation are interconnected, so John’s vision (book of Revelation) of the “son of man” is similar.

“I turned, I saw...someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters...His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.” Revelation 1:12–18

Now consider that when Jesus was arrested and taken before Caiaphas, the High Priest. Jesus was asked, “Tell us if you are the Christ, **the Son of God**?” Jesus answers.

➤ **Jesus said**, “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future, you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26:57–68

Again, John’s vision (book of Revelation) is also similar.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.” Revelation 1:7

In summary, “ONE Day,” Jesus, the “Son of Man,” will RETURN! He is “Coming” SOON!

With Trumpets, The Rebuilding of The First Temple Begins



You'll recall from our review of the book of Daniel that King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and destroyed Jerusalem and the First Temple. Then, he took the Jews captive in Babylon for 70 years. After the Babylon Empire was destroyed, God "put it" on King Cyrus's heart to allow the Jewish People to return to Jerusalem. God also "moved" King Cyrus's heart to "open up" his pocketbook. King Cyrus issued a "decree" encouraging the Jews to rebuild the Temple, which King Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed. He also returned many of the "Holy Articles" from The Temple that King Nebuchadnezzar had looted. And King Cyrus also contributed significant sums of money to the rebuilding process.

The Jews returned to Jerusalem in "Three Waves," with many years in between each wave of "Return." The first wave of Jews returned with Zerubbabel during the reign of King Cyrus and King Darius (Persian Kings). In this wave, the Jews rebuilt the foundation for the Temple, sound Trumpets!

"In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing..." The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you—may his God be with him and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.'" Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem...Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought by Mithredath, the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah...In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along when the exiles came up from Babylon to Jerusalem. Ezra 1:1–11

On the 1st day of Tishrei, **Feast of Trumpets**, the Jewish People gathered as “ONE” and built an altar to make sacrifices to The Lord. The rebuilding of the Temple was in process. There was much to be joyful for. Remember that when the Jews were led out of Jerusalem (as captives), they had lost all hope. But now that the Temple was being rebuilt, the Jews had GREAT HOPE.

“When the seventh month came, and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled as one man in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua, son of Jozadak and his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel and his associates, began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses, the man of God. Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD.”

As this was the 1st day of Tishrei (Feast of Trumpets), both the Shofar and Temple Trumpets must have been sounded. But the Jews could NOT celebrate the next Feast, “Day of Atonement,” as The Temple was still not rebuilt. The “Ark of the Covenant” had to reside within the “Holy of Holies.” However, the Jews could celebrate the last of God’s “Seven Feasts”- “Tabernacles.” And that is what they did!

“Then, in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices, and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred feasts of the LORD, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the LORD...though the foundation of the LORD’s temple, had not yet been laid.”

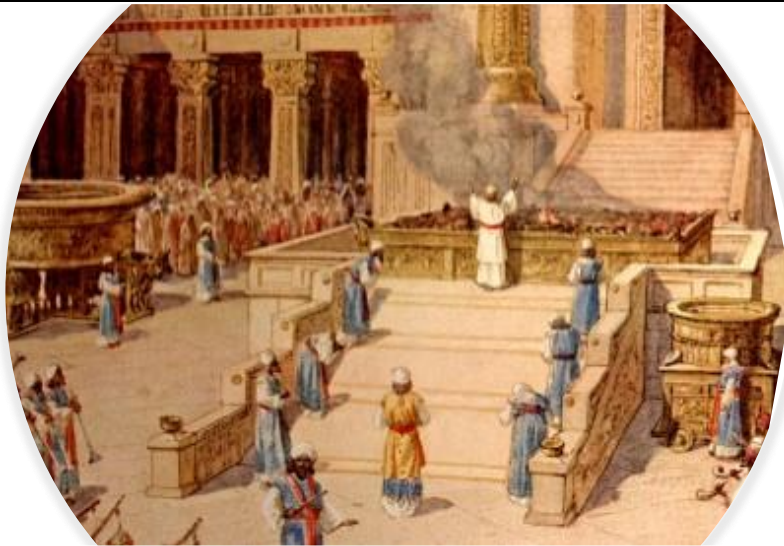
The second wave of Jews returned with Ezra (about 80 years later) during the reign of King Artaxerxes. The Jews continued their “spiritual” restoration to God in this wave. The third wave of Jews returned with Nehemiah during the reign of King Artaxerxes. And in this wave, the Jews rebuilt Jerusalem’s Walls.

The Foundation of The Temple is Now Complete, Sound Trumpets

In the second month, “Lyar,” in the 2nd year after the Jews had returned from Babylon, the foundation of the Temple was laid. “Priests” sounded their Temple Trumpets, and “Great Joy” was in Jerusalem.

“In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem...When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites...with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD...With praise and thanksgiving, they sang to the LORD: “He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.” Ezra 3:1–13

Sound the Trumpets as the Rebuilt Temple is Completed



The **foundation** for the rebuilt Temple was finished in the second month, “Lyar,” in the 2nd year after the Jews had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon.

Trumpets had been sounded.

Now, The Temple was finished on the 3rd day of the month of Adar in the 6th year.

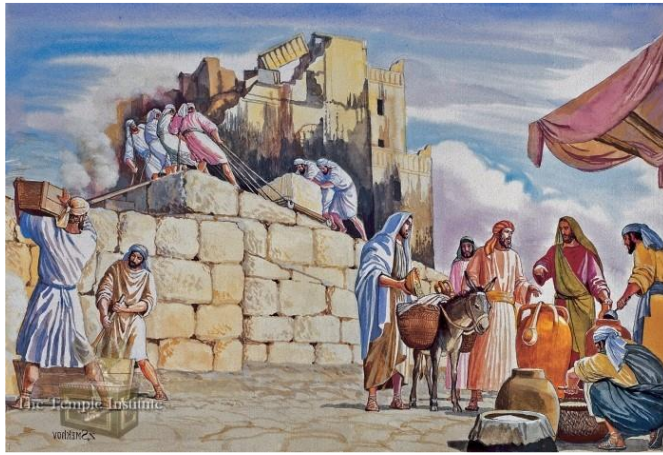
Though the Bible does not say, Trumpets were sounded. It could be correctly assumed that the Priests sounded their Temple Trumpets.

“Any” Israelite was free to blow the Shofar Trumpet, which is what they most likely did, too.

Remember that Trumpets were sounded when the rebuilding process began and when the foundation was laid.

“So, the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy... And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.” Ezra 6:13–22

Nehemiah Begins to Rebuild the “Walls of Jerusalem,” Sound the Trumpets



The “First Wave” of Jews had completed the rebuilding of **God’s Temple** in Jerusalem.

The “Second Wave” of Jews had also returned.

It was time for the “Third Wave” of Jews to return. This began when Nehemiah, “cupbearer” to King Artaxerxes, learns of the condition of “Jerusalem’s Walls” (Walls that surrounded Jerusalem) was “broken down,” and the “Gates” (various “entrances” within the Wall) had been burned.

“In the month of Kislev [the 9th month in the Jewish calendar] in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.””

Nehemiah 1:1-3

Nehemiah is despondent when he hears the “bad news.”

Nehemiah weeps, fasts, and prays to the God of the Jews, the God of the Bible.

Nehemiah is contrite in his prayers as he confesses his sin and the sins of his people.

Nehemiah acknowledges God’s “Special Dwelling” place on the earth, which has God’s Name on it—**Jerusalem**.

“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days, I mourned and fasted and prayed...God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the

prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees, and laws you gave your servant Moses. Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' Nehemiah 1:4-11

We now come to a discrepancy in the "Timeline."

At the beginning of the book, Nehemiah states that it is the 9th month (Kislev) of the 20th Year.

But following, he says that it is "Nisan" (the 1st month) of the "same 20th year."

Why the discrepancy?

No one knows.

Most likely, it was recorded incorrectly.

It was, therefore, about three months later.

With that in mind, how many of us have written "Last Year's" date on our checks or other correspondence at the beginning of the New Year?

Nehemiah is depressed over what has happened to Jerusalem's "Walls." And with a sad face and sad heart, he approaches the King, who notices Nehemiah's sad demeanor.

"In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." Nehemiah 2:1-2

Nehemiah tells the King what has happened to Jerusalem.

"I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Nehemiah 2:3

In answer to Nehemiah's prayer, God gives Nehemiah a "Great Favor" with King Artaxerxes.

He asks the King for "time off" to return to Jerusalem (over 1,000 miles away).

He also asks for “letters” to grant him safe passage.

Nehemiah also asks the King to provide him with “timber” to rebuild Jerusalem’s Gates from the King’s Forest.

ONLY God could cause a “Gentle” to open up their pocketbooks for the “cause” of God’s people, the Jews.

“The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.” Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king’s forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. So, I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.” Nehemiah 2:4-9

Out of nowhere, the Jew-haters suddenly appeared, and they were NOT happy that King Artaxerxes looked favorably upon Nehemiah (a Jew) and the Jewish people in Jerusalem. **SAD! Things have not changed today either; there are Jew-haters everywhere, too.**

“When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.” Nehemiah 2:10

Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem and begins “scouting out” Jerusalem. After surveying “damages,” he rallies the Jews who agree to start the rebuilding process, a “Good Work.” However, he does not tell anyone what he is doing.

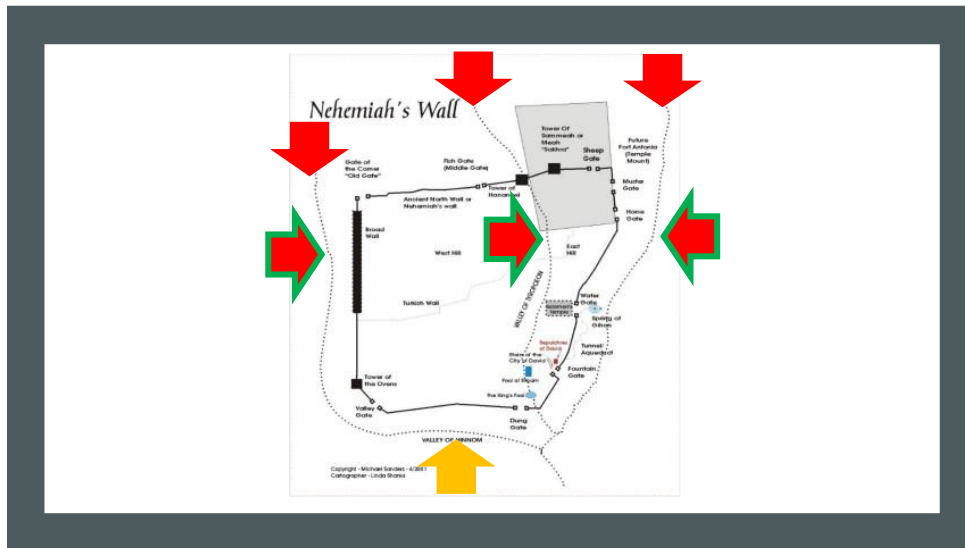
“I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days, I set out during the night with a few men...examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire... the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So, they began this good work.” Nehemiah 2:11-18

The Jew-haters mock Nehemiah and ridicule him.

“But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” Nehemiah 2:19

Now, Nehemiah tells Israel’s enemies the truth (a truth that still stands and will never change). **Jerusalem belongs to the Jewish people according to God’s divine covenant.**

“We, his servants, will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.” Nehemiah 2:20



The people of God begin to rebuild “**Jerusalem’s Wall.**”

Here is a diagram of the “Wall” that surrounded Jerusalem.

From the previous charts we looked at, remember that “God’s City” forms a “SHIN.” The SHIN is the picture graphic representation of GOD.

To Review:

The **RED** arrows at the “tops” of each of the three “branches” identify three “Key” Biblical sites.

1. “The Old City” (Old Jerusalem).
2. “The Temple Mount”
3. “The Mount of Olives.”

The **RED/GREEN** arrows point to the **Three Valleys** that form the “SHIN.” They are the following:

1. “Hinnom Valley”
2. “Tyropoen Valley”
3. “Kidron Valley”

The **ORANGE** arrow points to the base of the “SHIN” and is the “Valley of Hinnom” or “Gehenna.” It is the picture of Hell on earth.

Continuing...

“Eliashib, the high priest, and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far... as the Tower of Hananel...The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah... They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall... Malkijah, son of Harim, and Hasshub, son of Pahath-Moab, repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens... The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah... The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah, son of Recab...The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallum, son of Col-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah... He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King’s Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David... Next to him, Pedaiah, son of Parosh, and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower... Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs.” Nehemiah 3:1-32

Again, Israel’s enemies mock Nehemiah when they learn “Jerusalem’s Walls” are being rebuilt.

“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!” Nehemiah 4:1-3

And again, Nehemiah cries out to God.

“Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.” Nehemiah 4:4-5

The rebuilding of “Jerusalem’s Walls” is underway.

But they were only “halfway” finished when Israel’s enemies began to plot an attack against them.

They want nothing more than to see the Jews fail and be destroyed.

Unfortunately, this “sentiment” is still true today.

“So, we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.” Nehemiah 4:7–8

You will recall a “watchman” who stood on the “Watchtower” to “look out” for any approaching enemies and to **Sound a Trumpet** if enemies were approaching. Therefore, Nehemiah and the people prayed to the LORD, and then he posted a “Watchman” guard to keep watch.

“But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.” Nehemiah 4:9
Nehemiah also posts men rebuilding the “Wall” as armed guards.

He placed them at the “Wall’s most vulnerable positions.

“Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall...Therefore, I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears, and bows.” Nehemiah 4:10-13

Now, Nehemiah reminds God’s People that their God was great and awesome.

He also encourages them to fight their enemies.

Nehemiah divides those rebuilding the “Wall” into “Two Groups.”

Half of the men rebuilt the “Wall,” while the other half were “armed and ready” to meet the enemy.

Even those who worked held materials in one hand and a weapon in the other.

“After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives, and your homes...From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows, and armor...Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other.” Nehemiah 4:14-17

It is important to remember that “Jerusalem’s Walls” were massive and extended over a “large area.” Nehemiah was the “overseer” of this project and most likely was on horseback as he made the “rounds” to see the progress and to encourage the workers.

Nehemiah also had a “**Trumpeter**” who stayed with him.

Each of the “Watchmen” had a Trumpet, too.

If an enemy were spotted, the Trumpeter would alert the Israelites, who would “scramble” to defend God’s Wall in God’s City.

“But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our

God will fight for us!” So, we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out...Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.” Nehemiah 4:18–23

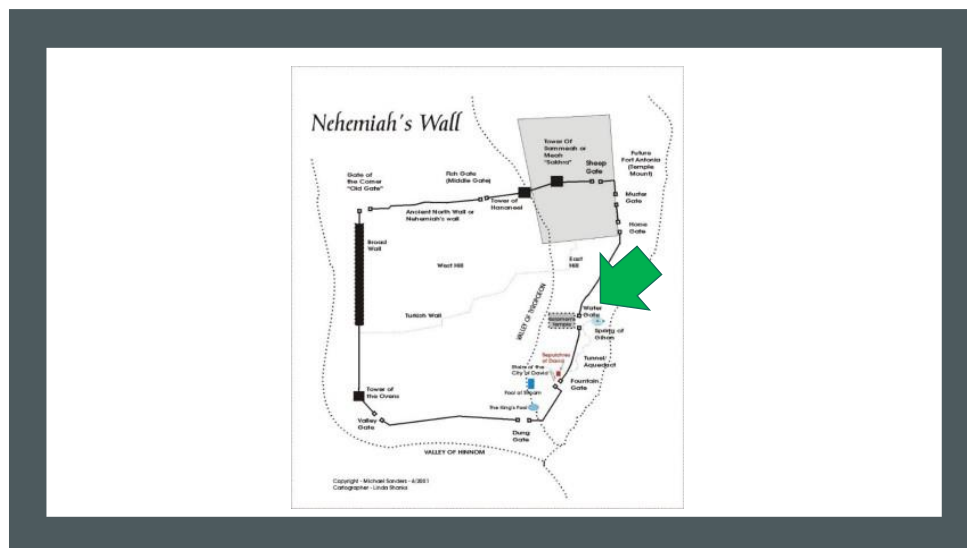
The rebuilding of “Jerusalem’s Walls” took ONLY 52 days to complete. It was completed on the 25th of Elul (the twelve-month on the Jewish Calendar).

When Nehemiah “finished,” Israel’s enemies reconsidered.

They now realized that God had His hand in the rebuilding process.

“So, the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.” Nehemiah 6:15-16

Interestingly, the Jews had gathered many years earlier (on the 1st day of Tishrei- “Trumpets”) to begin rebuilding the Temple.



Now, on this “Same Day,” the Israelites gathered together as “ONE” Nation at the “Water Gate” to hear Ezra read God’s Word “out loud” to them.

I placed a GREEN arrow to mark the “Water Gate” location in front of the Temple.

Again, the Jews must have sounded trumpets- it was the 1st day of the 7th Month.

“When the seventh month came...all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra, the scribe, to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So, on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra, the priest, brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water

Gate in the presence of the men, women, and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law... Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them, and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground." Nehemiah 8:1-6

On the 2nd day of Tishrei, the Israelites continued to hear God's Word and to consider what God was saying to them.

The Jews had already rebuilt "The Temple." Therefore, they must have also celebrated the sixth feast, "Day of Atonement." We know this to be true because the Israelites are now preparing to celebrate the seventh feast of "Tabernacles." So, they gathered "branches," constructed "booths," and celebrated the seventh feast, "Tabernacles," for seven days.

On the 8th day after the end of "Tabernacles" (Day 23 of Tishrei), the Jews gathered together.

"On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law. They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: "Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths"—as it is written. So, the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God, and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua, son of Nun, until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly. Nehemiah 8:13–18

On the 24th Day of Tishrei, the Nation of Israel responded to what they had heard.

"On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting, and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads... They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers. They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God... You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you... "You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven... For forty years, you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing..., You made their sons as numerous as the stars in the sky, and you brought them into the land that you told their fathers to enter and possess... "But they were

disobedient and rebelled against you; they put your law behind their backs. They killed your prophets, who had admonished them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. So, you handed them over to their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed, they cried out to you. From heaven, you heard them, and in your great compassion, you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. “But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion, you delivered them time after time. “You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked, and refused to listen. For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit, you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. But in your great mercy, you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.” Nehemiah 9:1–38

Interestingly, the Israelites “cast lots” (lottery system) to determine who could live in Jerusalem. Only “one” out of every “ten Jews” were chosen to live in Jerusalem. It was a “Great Honor.”

“Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem, and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. The people commended all the men who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.” Nehemiah 11:1–2

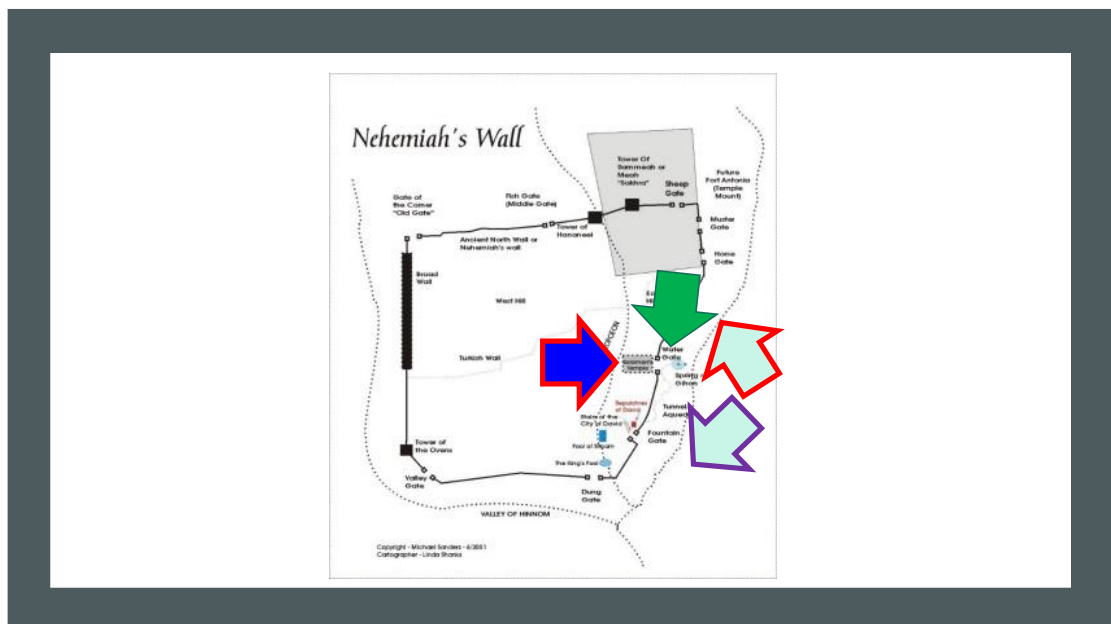
With Trumpets Sounding, the “Walls of Jerusalem” are Now Rebuilt and Rededicated

When the rebuilding of “Jerusalem’s Walls” was completed, Nehemiah assigned leaders of Judah to go on **“Top of the Wall.”** He assigned “Two Large Choirs” (singers and musicians) who also went to the “Top of the Wall.” Nehemiah **assigned Priests with Trumpets (Temple Trumpets)** to each of the “Two Choirs.” Each of the “Two Choirs” began at the same starting point.

- The “First Choir” was to circle the “Wall” towards the East
- The “Second Choir” was to encircle the “Wall” towards the West.

As both choirs marched, Temple Priests sounded “Temple Trumpets,” and other instruments with joyful singing accompanied each Choir. Anyone could sound the Shofar Trumpet, so I assume the sounds of Shofar Trumpets could be heard, too.

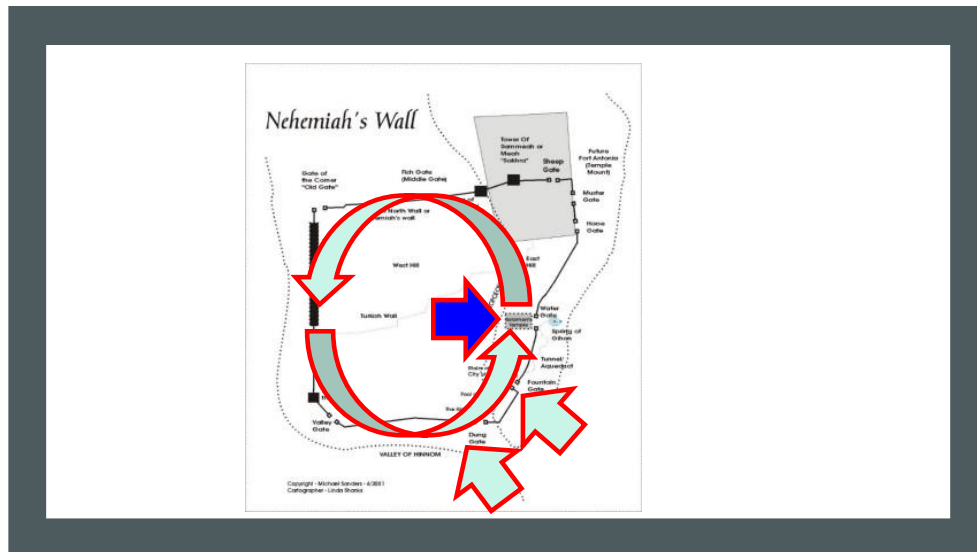
“At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were...were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres...I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks.” Nehemiah 12:27–31



Both Choirs began at the Water Gate (**Green arrow**).

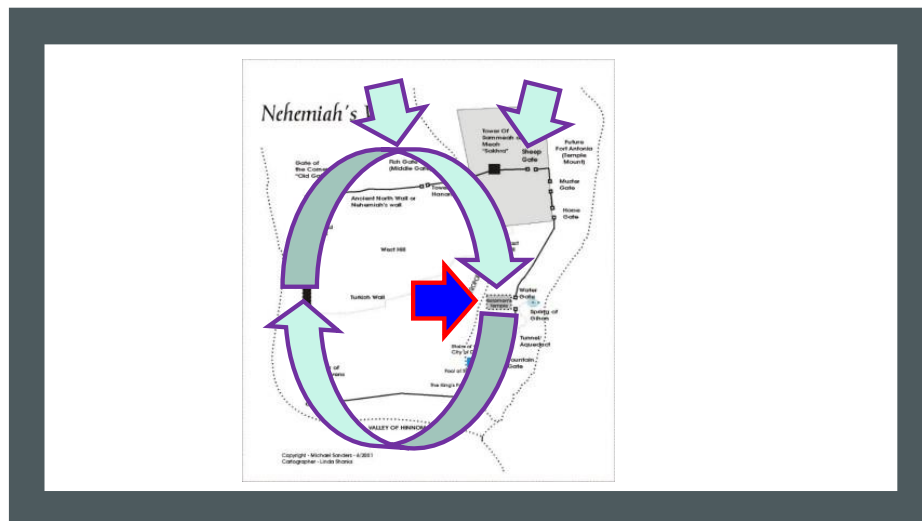
The “Water Gate” is **directly** in front of The Temple (**BLUE arrow**).

- The **RED/TEAL** arrow identifies the “First Choir” who circled at the “Top of the Wall” towards the East.
- The **BLUE/PURPLE** arrow identifies the “Second Choir” who circled at the “Top of the Wall” towards the West.



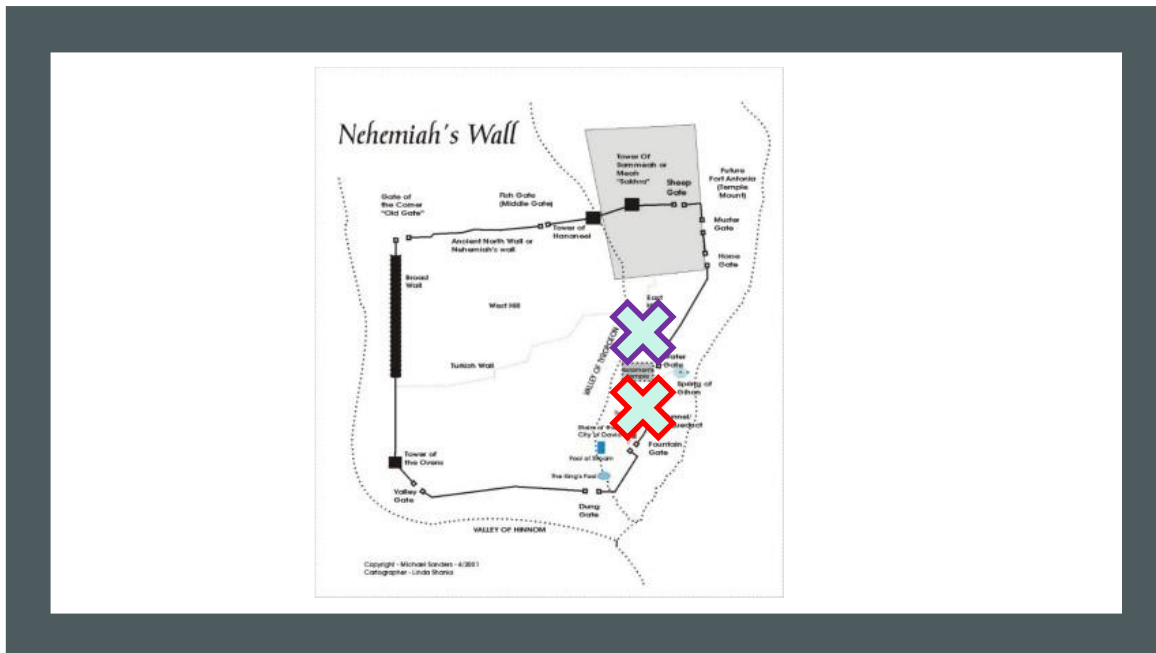
Follow the route of the “First Choir.”

“One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate... as well as some priests with trumpets...with musical instruments prescribed by David, the man of God. Ezra, the scribe, led the procession. At the Fountain Gate, they continued directly up the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the wall and passed above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east.” Nehemiah 12:31-37



Now, follow the route of the “Second Choir.

“The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall, together with half the people—past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard, they stopped.” Nehemiah 12:38-39



The sounds from “Singing and Trumpeting” were so loud that they could be heard from “far away.” Each Choir has made one complete circle around the “Wall.” The “Two Choirs of Trumpeters and Singers” would eventually meet at **The Temple**.

- The **RED/TEAL X** identifies the “First Choir” arriving at The Temple.
- The **TEAL/PURPLE X** identifies the “Second Choir” arriving at The Temple.

At The Temple, the book of Moses (the first five books of the Bible) was read out loud.

“The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so, did I, together with half the officials, as well as the priests...The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah. And on that day, they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away...On that day, the Book of Moses was read aloud.” Nehemiah 12:40–13:1

Once again, the Israelites were in Jerusalem.

They had their “Temple,” and the “Wall” surrounding Jerusalem was rebuilt.

The Nation of Israel was following after God and His Word.

Nehemiah returns to King Artaxerxes, but the Jewish Nation regresses in sin.

They defiled the rooms of the Temple.

They worked on the Sabbath-buying and selling.

Many married foreigners, and half the Jewish could not speak Hebrew.

Soon, Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem, the city He loved and the people He loved.

Then Nehemiah “cleans house.

Zechariah Unveils How to Recognize the Soon Coming Messiah- His First Coming

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey... He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

Zechariah Unveils that the Messiah’s Return (His Second Coming) It will be preceded by the Sounding of a Trumpet



The Messiah has not arrived yet. But the prophet Zechariah said the Messiah would Return (His Second Coming) with a trumpet sounding.

“As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now, I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior’s sword. **Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet;** he will march in the storms of the south, and the LORD Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with slingstones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar. The LORD, their God, will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. How attractive and beautiful they will be! Zechariah 9:9–17

This concludes our journey concerning the sounding of God’s Trumpets in the “Past.”

Now, let us look at the sounding of God’s Trumpets in the “Present.”

An Overview of The Sounding of God’s Trumpets— “Present” The Messiah “Gathers” His Church to Himself

Sound the Trumpets, John the Baptist announces the Messiah has arrived.

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” John 1:29

It is Jesus’ “Triumphal Entry” as He enters Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. The Jewish Messiah has finally arrived, but the Jews did not recognize or accept Jesus as their Messiah.

Sound the Trumpets, in 1948, Israel was Reborn, and Exiled Jews began Returning.

As a result of the Holocaust, the world cried out in sympathy for the Jewish people. Through a series of events, the Land of Israel was “returned” to the Jewish people, and on **May 14, 1948**, **Israel was “Reborn.”** Jews worldwide began returning “Home” to Israel, called “Alijah.” But Jerusalem, the “City of God,” was not under Israeli control, so the Jewish People continued to end the “Passover” with this prayer, **“Next Year in Jerusalem,”** which expressed the Jewish People’s “Hope” that “One Day,” Jews could once again celebrate Passover in Jerusalem.

Sound the Trumpets-Israel Recaptures Jerusalem, in 1967

Again, by God’s miracle, on June 7, 1967, Israel won the “6-Day War” and recaptured Jerusalem. As Israel’s Defense Forces entered the area of the “Western Wall,” Rabbi Shlomo Goren blew a “Shofar Trumpet” and quoted this verse.

“When you go into battle in your own Land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the Lord your God and rescued from your enemies.” Numbers 10:9

Sound the Trumpets at the “Western Wall”

The City of Jerusalem is again under Israeli control, and so is the “Western Wall,” which is Israel’s Most Holy Site. At the Western Wall, both Jews and Christians can come to pray. The Western Wall is also the **only place** on earth with 365/24/7 prayer.

The Church Age Begins

Jesus, the “Passover Lamb,” “died on the first Feast of “Passover.” The “Old Covenant” ended, and the “New Covenant” began. Jesus was buried the same evening on the second Feast, “Unleavened Bread.” Jesus arose from the grave on the third Feast three days later, “First Fruits.” After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days and then ascended into Heaven, where He sits at the “right hand” of His Father. Then Jesus sent down the “Holy Spirit” on the fourth Feast, “Day of Pentecost.” The Holy Spirit is the “surety” or “guarantee” that Jesus will return.

“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession.”
Ephesians 1:13-14

The descending of the Holy Spirit on “Pentecost” began the “Church Age.” The “Church of Jesus Christ” started as a Jewish Church. Israel did not believe Jesus was their Messiah, but God did NOT replace Israel with the church. It is called “Replacement Theology.” Instead, God put Israel “aside” until the “full measure of the Gentiles” (the “last Gentile” believes the Gospel). Today, the Jews are still “looking” for Messiah to come. They intend to build the Third Temple, where “daily sacrifices” will be reinitiated, and “Temple Trumpets” sounded.

We are Waiting for the Sound of the “Last” Shofar Trumpet

Presently, the Church of Jesus Christ is waiting for the sound of the “Last Shofar Trumpet,” and then the “Church” will be “Gathered” (raptured) to be with Jesus Christ, fulfilling the Fifth Feast. “Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you...By this Gospel, you are saved... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ, all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: **Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.** Then, the end will come when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death... But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed, he gives its own body. All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another, and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies, and there are earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another, and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. So, will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So, it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being;” the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that, the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from Heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from Heaven, so also are those who are of Heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from Heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, **I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last Trumpet. For the Trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed...**then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is

your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 15:1–58

“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him... **For the Lord himself will come down from Heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage each other with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

The “Last Shofar Trumpet” will sound, and God’s Church will instantaneously disappear to be with Jesus. But **WHO** will sound the “Last Trumpet,” and more importantly, **how will** the “Worldwide Church” hear it? I believe we **are entering** a “New Season” when God’s people sound the “Shofar Trumpet” to “call God’s people to worship” to **begin** every Christian church service, para-church venue, and event. Could it be that “One Day” so many “Shofars” are being sounded in the United States and around the world that the “Last Trumpet” is “Sounded.”

Jesus Confirms that His Return (Second Coming) Will be Preceded by Trumpets

“At that time, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. **And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call,** and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Matthew 24:30-31

A Loud Voice LIKE a Trumpet- It is Jesus

Still, in the “Present Time,” about 65 years after Jesus’ ascension, “John” is on the Island of Patmos, and he records “Revelation.” John also hears a Loud Voice LIKE a Trumpet. Jesus instructs John to write “Seven Letters” to Seven Churches.” His writings apply to the Church of Jesus Christ today. *“I, John...was on the island of Patmos.*

“On the Lord’s Day, I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches... “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later.” Revelation 1:10

Seven Letters to Seven Churches

John writes seven letters to “Seven Churches.” These letters are not just for these seven churches in the “past” but also for the church presently.

John is Ushered Up into God’s Throne Room

John is ushered “up” into God’s Throne Room. One of the many things he sees is God giving Seven of His Angels a “Trumpet” (most likely a “Temple Trumpet).

“After this, I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in Heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” Revelation 4:1

The “Day of The Lord.” It is Here, and it is Coming-Sound Trumpets

There is a “Special Day” called “The Day of the Lord.” It is here (Present Time) and coming (Future Time). Therefore, sound Trumpets.

“For the day of the LORD is near...Blow the Trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill...for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand.” Joel 2:1

The Sounding of God's Trumpets— “Present” The Messiah “Gathers” His Church to Himself

John the Baptist Announces that the Messiah has Arrived, Sound Trumpets

God has been silent for 400 years. Then, John the Baptist announces, *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”* John 1:29, Jesus enters Jerusalem, *“riding on a donkey.”* Matthew 21:1-11



- “As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” Matthew 21:1-11

Interestingly, the first mention of a donkey in the Bible is when Abraham and Sarah grow impatient with God regarding a promised child. Sarah instructs Abraham to sleep with her maidservant, Hagar, and she gives birth to a child named Ishmael. Ishmael becomes the father of all the nations represented in the Middle East. The Bible says that Ishmael is a “wild donkey of a man” (Genesis 16:12). That story contrasts sharply with the Jewish Messiah who, instead of coming to earth with a mighty army, came riding on a donkey to fulfill the prophet, Zechariah.

But “His People,” the Jews, did not recognize or accept Him.

“Israel” is Reborn— Sound Trumpets

In 70 AD, the Romans invaded Jerusalem and destroyed it and the Second Temple. Most the Jews were killed by the “remnant” that survived were scattered to the four corners of the earth.

What to do?

For over 2,000 years, to conclude the “Feast of Passover,” the Father poured the “fourth cup of wine (Elijah’s Cup) and prayed, “**Next Year in Jerusalem.**” The final prayer of Passover was asking God to restore the Jews to their Land, “Israel,” so they could celebrate Passover “again” in Jerusalem. It was just a matter of time. The Jewish people knew their Bible and that their God had made a covenant with them regarding their Land. They had HOPE.

In 1877, Naftali Imber, a Jewish poet, wrote the song “Hatikva,” which became Israel’s National Anthem. The lyrics reflect the Jewish people’s hope to return to Jerusalem (“Zion”) after the Second Temple was destroyed and they were exiled from Jerusalem. The Jewish people hoped, “One Day, We WILL be in Jerusalem,” so they could celebrate Passover there.



As a “direct” result of the Holocaust, the HEART of the “Nations” was open and receptive to providing the Jewish People with “Land” to become a State again. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was re-born by God’s divine intervention. The Jewish people scattered to the world’s four corners began returning to Israel. The “Land” they were given, “ISRAEL,” is the Land that God had promised to the Jews, and they had “Occupied” thousands of years earlier. However, Modern Israel’s geographical territory is smaller than the “original land” God intended for them to have. Interestingly, the Prophet Isaiah prophesied this miraculous “event.”

“Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?” Isaiah 66:7–13

“Jerusalem” is Recaptured— Sound Trumpets



Through the Jewish people were once again in the “Land” that God had promised them. God’s City—Jerusalem- was still not under Jewish control. Then, yet again, by God’s extraordinary miracle-working power, **on June 7, 1967**, after the “Six-Day” War, God enabled the Jews to **recapture** Jerusalem. Pictured are paratroopers who descended into Jerusalem after they entered through “The Lion’s Gate” and captured the “Western Wall.” In the center of the photos is **Rabbi Shlomo Goren**, chief rabbi of the IDF. **He is blowing a Shofar**. See **RED** arrow).

After the Western Wall was “captured,” it is said that Rabbi Goren was the **“first” person to have blown the Shofar** (God’s Trumpet) at the Western Wall. And as **Rabbi Shlomo Goren** blew the Shofar Trumpet at the Western Wall, he quoted the following verse: **“When you go into battle in your own Land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.”** Numbers 10:9

At this MOMENT, the prayers of the Jews (for thousands of years) were answered. Jerusalem is NOW under Jewish Control. And again, Jerusalem has been “redeemed.” Jerusalem (ZION) is the City of God and, since 1967, has been the Capital of Israel. **“They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”** Isaiah 35:1–10 Therefore, as a result of the “Six Day” War...

The Father’s prayer to end Passover, **“Next Year in Jerusalem,”** has been answered.

Jews NOW live in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is NOW once again the Capital of Israel.

Jews NOW come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

“Next Year in Jerusalem is Now”

“Celebration Stone”



After the 1967 War, the “Western Wall” was under Israeli control. A “Stone” was discovered “in” the Western Wall. On the stone is the following inscription from Isaiah 66. “When you see this, your heart will rejoice, and you will flourish like grass.” God is Good!

Now, here is where the verse is found. You will also notice that this verse speaks to Israel being “Re-Born” in a Day and a “New Heaven” and a “New Earth,” which the Lord will create.

“This is what the LORD says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?... Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve. “Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day, or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?” says the LORD. “Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?” says your God. “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance.” For this is what the LORD says: “I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.” **When you see this, your heart will rejoice, and you will flourish like grass;** the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes. See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury and his rebuke with flames of fire. For with fire and with his sword, the LORD will execute judgment upon all men... And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem... “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.” Isaiah 66:1–

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Therefore, can you imagine the “Gladness” when the Jews discovered this “Celebration Stone?” **It had been inscribed and left for “The Day,” when Jerusalem would again be under Jewish control.** I yearn for the day that every believer has learned how to sound the Shofar Trumpet and will sound it at their Church and Christian events. And that every believer will come to Israel to tour the Biblical sites and hear the Shofar throughout their tour, especially at the “Western Wall.”

“In that day, this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you...for the LORD is the Rock eternal...The path of the righteous is level; O upright One, you make the way of the righteous smooth. Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning, my spirit longs for you...LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished, you have done for us. O LORD, our God...You have enlarged the nation...You have gained glory for yourself; you have extended all the borders of the land... In days to come, Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit... And in that day, a great trumpet will sound. Those who were exiled...will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.” Isaiah 26:1–27:13

Jesus Confirms that His Return (Second Coming) Would be Preceded with Trumpets Sounding



- **Jesus said,** “At that time, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other...” Matthew 24:3–37

A Loud Voice LIKE a Trumpet, It is JESUS



We now come to the last book of the Bible, “Revelation.” It is essential to understand that the “Timeline of Events” recorded in Revelation will occur in chronological order, precisely as John recorded them. There are also many people, places, and events mentioned in Revelation. So, I will limit my commentary to only the “essential” necessary to show you a “progression” leading to the RETURN of Jesus Christ, which will occur after the “sounding” of the “Seventh Trumpet.”

“John” has been expelled to the “Island of Patmos,” where he records Revelation.

It is also now about 65 years after Jesus’ departure.

Therefore, we are still in the “Present Time” or the “New Covenant.”

Remember that Revelation is divided into two sections.

- ❖ Chapters 1-5 deal with God’s Church” and are still applicable today. It is in the “Present” time or the “New Covenant.”
- ❖ Chapters 6-22 reveal and outline the coming “Seven Year” Tribulation.” The Tribulation is for “unbelievers” (Jews and Gentiles) who have been left behind after the rapture of the Church. It is in the “Future” time.
- ❖ I believe the events in Revelation 6-22 will take place in chronological order.

John begins by reminding us that this is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” and that it **reveals “what must soon take place.”**

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place.”

Throughout Scripture, God will often send “Angels” to His servants to reveal Himself and His Will and to give Prophecies (details about future events to come). So, God sends His “Angel” to John.

“He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw— that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

John hears a loud voice LIKE a trumpet.

It is Jesus.

I, John...was on the island of Patmos... On the Lord's Day, I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man...When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." Revelation 1:9–20

Jesus instructs John to record:

1. "What you have seen."
2. "What is now."
3. "What will take place later."

Jesus indicates the "seven lampstands" are "seven churches." Remember that in the Temple, there is a "Lampstand." It provided light in the "Holy Place" as the priests ministered there. As you can see, it has "Seven" branches.

Jesus instructs John to write a letter to each of these "Seven Churches." John's letters contain an admonishment for a specific "issue(s)" and a "Call to Repentance." Remember that these are Jesus' Words but John's "hand" who writes these "Seven Letters."



Jesus also offers a "Blessing" for obeying His instructions.

It is important to remember that each of these "Seven Letters" was written in "Present Time" or in the "New Covenant." Therefore, the admonition, call to repentance, and the benefits of obeying apply to the "Church" TODAY and individual Christians.

Before we look at the "Seven Letters," let us consider that today, there are "some" Christians who say, "*Since believers are now in the 'New Covenant,' Christians no longer need to repent for their sins.*" I believe those who say this confuse forgiveness with repentance.

When you believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His Blood "covers" every one of your sins (Past, Present, and Future). It is a "Done Deal."

The Righteousness of Jesus Christ has been "credited" (imputed) to your account. Therefore, God no longer sees your "sin" or unrighteousness. Instead, God SEES the righteousness of His Son,

Jesus Christ—the Perfect Spotless Lamb. That is Good News! There is nothing that you have done or will ever do to make God love you any less than He already LOVES YOU!

Therefore, if you believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you have total, full, and complete forgiveness of sins. Again, that's Good News!

Also, when you believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God “deposits” His Holy Spirit inside you. That is also Good News! The “Same Power” (The Holy Spirit) that raised Jesus from the dead LIVES inside of you. However, we still live in a “Fallen World,” and the enemy (the serpent) still tempts us.

Again, the “Good News” is that God always provides a way out when we are tempted.

You Have the Power to say NO to sin!

But the truth is NO ONE always exercises their “Power to say no to sin,” so every Christian still sins (sometimes).

So, what is repentance?

Repentance is a “mindful” choice by a sinner to turn 180 degrees away from their sin.

Repentance is acknowledging that you have sinned and do not want to sin again.

“God, I am sorry. I trusted in myself and not in You. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you also for the Power of Your Holy Spirit living in me. The next time I am tempted, I will turn to You and ask You to help me through the temptation.”

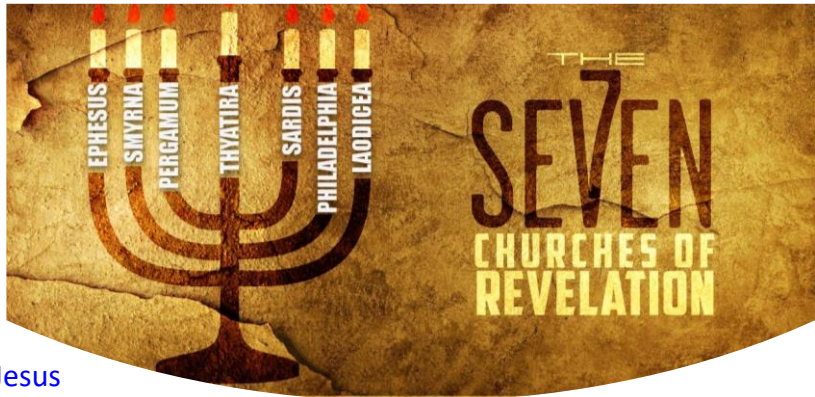
In conclusion, may ALL who call on the “Name of the Lord” have a “Repentant Spirit”—let repentance begin with “me.”

John Writes Seven Letters to Seven Churches

John is about to write a letter to each “Seven Churches.”

“To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus

Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and ever.”



John indicates “Seven Spirits” in front of God’s Throne.

John reminds those who will read or hear this “Revelation” that:

- Jesus Christ **is** the faithful witness,
- Jesus Christ **is** the firstborn from the dead,
- Jesus Christ **is** the ruler of the kings of the earth.

John also reminds those who will read or hear this “Revelation” that:

- Jesus Christ loves us.
- Jesus Christ has freed us from our sins through His blood.
- Jesus Christ has made us be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father.

“Now, John writes that when Jesus returns (His Second Coming), “every eye “will see Him.”

“Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So, shall it be! Amen.” Revelation 1:1–8

The fulfillment of this prophecy is **NOW** possible. With “cellular and internet” technology, “someone(s)” is going to be in Jerusalem as Jesus comes down from the clouds and sets foot on the “Mount of Olives.”

Therefore, those who “see” Him will hold up their cell phone towards Jesus, and in an instant, the ENTIRE World (“every eye”) will also see Jesus returning.

John then emphasizes that even the “unbelieving Jews” (“Those who pierced Him”) will see Him. John makes this point because “unbelieving Jews” never accepted Jesus as their Messiah. But

when “they” see Jesus on their televisions, cell phones, computers, or “live” (if they are near the Mount of Olives). Then the Jews and “all the peoples of the earth” (The World) will “mourn.”

ALL (Jews and Gentiles) will now understand that they were wrong. **Jesus Christ is, in fact—God.** As you read the following, please remember that Jesus admonishes sin. He is also calling for repentance and providing benefits for “listening and obeying.”

1. To the Church of Ephesus- “I know your deeds, your hard work, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first... “To him, who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”
2. To the Church of Smyrna- “I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life... “He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.”
3. To the Church of Pergamum- “I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent, therefore... “To him, who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”
4. To the Church of Thyatira- “I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching, she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols... “To him, who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations...I will also give him the morning star.”
5. To the Church of Sardis- “I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent... “He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will

never blot out his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.”

6. To the Church of Philadelphia- “I know your deeds.... I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name... Since you have kept my command to endure patiently...I am coming soon...Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”
7. To the Church of Laodicea- I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so you can become rich, and white clothes to wear so you can cover your shameful nakedness, and salve to put on your eyes so you can see... Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. “To him, who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

John is Ushered Up into God’s Throne Room

John confirms that the “Trumpet” he heard is the voice of Jesus.

- “After this, I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” Revelation 4:1

John is ushered “Up” into God’s “Throne Room” to “witness” all the “Events” that will take place in the “future.” We are now “**looking**” into “Future” time. John records the “events” that Jesus shows him “**what must take place after this.**”

In God’s “Throne Room,” John sees a Throne with “someone” sitting on it. It’s The Lord God Almighty. John sees 24 other thrones circling the Throne of God. And seated on the 24 thrones are 24 “elders.”

“At once, I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it...Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders.”

John sees “Four Living Creatures” (Angelic Beings) praising God day and night. John also observes the 24 “elders” falling before God, laying their “crowns” before The Lord God Almighty and praising HIM, too.

“In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures...Day and night, they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being.” Revelation 4:2–11

John sees many other people, places, and things he records throughout chapters 6-22. We will cover many of them later. Of interest, John sees:

- ❖ A “Scroll” sealed with “Seven Seals.” It is the “Title Deed to the Earth,” which NO ONE is found worthy to open except the “rightful heir,” Jesus, the Lamb of God.
- ❖ Jesus stands and takes this “Scroll” from His Father’s right hand.
- ❖ Angelic Beings and Elders fall before Jesus and sing a “new song,” with “millions” of Angels joining in, too.

John sees that God will give Seven of His Angels a “Trumpet.” As the first “Four Trumpets” are sounded, “Great Tribulation” will be unleashed on the earth. The final three Trumpets (five, six, and seven) are called “Woe Trumpets.”

“The Day of the Lord” is Here, and it is Coming, Therefore Sound Trumpets

There is also a “Special Day” called “The Day of the Lord.” It is here, and it is coming. Therefore, Sound the Trumpets.

“For the day of the LORD is near...Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill...for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand.” Joel 1:2–3:21

“The Day of the Lord” is mentioned throughout Scripture and refers to different “Periods.”

“The Day of the Lord” can refer to:

- “One Day” consists of 24 hours.
- “The Time of Tribulation” will last for seven years.
- “The Final Day” of the Tribulation and the “Day” Jesus returns.
- “The First Day” of the 1,000-year millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

To begin, the term “Day” refers to a period of 24 hours. For example, on the “Day” of Passover, Jesus was crucified at about 9:00 A.M. He died at about 3:00 P.M. and was buried by about 6:00 P.M. So, a lot happened in “One Day.” Then, three “Days” later, Jesus rose, and He spent the next 40 “days” with His disciples. He ascended to be with His Father in Heaven and sent down the Holy Spirit on the “Day” of Pentecost.

However, “The Day of the Lord” can also refer to the “Time of Tribulation.” As you read the underlined verses, notice the “description” of what will happen during the Tribulation.



“Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming...The day of the LORD is great... “Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments...**Blow the trumpet in Zion,** declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly... “I am sending you grain, new wine, and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations. “I will drive the northern army far from you, pushing it into a parched and barren land, with its front columns going into the eastern sea and those in the rear into the western sea... “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten... And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness **and the moon to blood** before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.” Joel 2:1–32

“For the day of the LORD...That day will be darkness, not light...pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness.” Amos 5:18–20

“The great day of the LORD is near...That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, a day of trumpet and battle cry...Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath.” Zephaniah 1:14–18

“Gather together...before the appointed time arrives, and that day sweeps on like chaff...before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger.” Zephaniah 2

“Now, brothers, about times and dates, we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3

We will review the book of “Daniel” shortly, but keep in mind that there is another of God’s “set times,” which refers to the “End of Time,” also called the Tribulation, and will last for ‘seven years.’ These “seven years” are divided into “**Two Parts**,” each lasting for 1,260 “Days” (or 3½ years). It is during the second part of the Tribulation, the Antichrist is revealed, and he stops the “daily” sacrifices in the Third Temple. He will also proclaim himself to be a god.

Following is the term “Day of the Lord” in that context.

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report, or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4

But the question you are probably asking yourself is, “How can a ‘Day’ of 24 hours also be referring to a period of seven years?” The answer is that with God, a day is LIKE 1,000 years, and 1,000 years is LIKE a day. Again, the following Scriptures refer to the Tribulation.

“Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all, you must understand that in the last day's scoffers will come, scoffing, and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago, by God’s word, the heavens existed, and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also, the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:1–18

This concludes our journey concerning the sounding of God’s Trumpets in the “Present.”

Now, let us look at the sounding of God’s Trumpets in the “Future.”

An Overview of The Sounding of God's Trumpets— "Future" The Messiah "Returns"-His Second Coming

Seven Angels Sound Seven Temple Trumpets

During the Tribulation, God will give "Seven of His Angels" a Trumpet to sound. With the sounding of each Trumpet, more Tribulation is unleashed on the earth. The final three trumpets are called the "Woe Trumpets."

"As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!" Revelation 8:13

The Shofar Trumpet or the Temple Trumpet

Do God's seven angels sound the Temple Trumpet or Shofar Trumpet? The Bible does not say. I believe God's seven angels sound Temple Trumpets because the "earthly" Temple is a copy or shadow of the "Heavenly Temple." At the top of the Earthly Temple was a "Place for Trumpeting," where the priests sounded the Temple Trumpet. Only Levites could serve God in their priestly role, and only they were allowed to sound "Temple Trumpets." Likewise, in the "Heavenly Temple," there must be a "Place for Trumpeting" for God's angels to sound the Temple Trumpet. Therefore, God's Angels serve God in a "Priestly" capacity. And since angels are higher in authority than the earthly "Priests," we can conclude that God's angels sound Temple Trumpets.

God "Calls" His Elect with Trumpets

After the Tribulation, all "Surviving Israel" will be "Saved."

"He (God) will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." Matt. 24:31

God's "elect" are Jewish believers ("Surviving Israel") and Gentile believers who will be "gathered" in preparation for Jesus' return. God will also send three more angels to the earth to provide one last opportunity to believe.

1. The first angel will preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. The second angel will proclaim the destruction of all who oppose God and His ways.
3. And the third angel will pronounce the reality of an eternal hell.

The Seventh Angel Sounds the Seventh Trumpet-Jesus Christ has Returned!

The Bible is explicit – NO ONE knows the day or the hour of Jesus Christ's return. However, Scripture reveals that Jesus will return after the Seventh Angel sounds the Seventh Trumpet.

“The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15

A Great Earthquake and Flood in Jerusalem

Jesus Christ will return to the Mount of Olives. His return will not be as a spotless Passover Lamb, like His first coming. Instead, His second coming will be as a “Lion” (Jesus is from the Tribe of Judah). A “Great Earthquake” will split the Mount of Olives in two, and a “Great Flood” will flood Jerusalem to the East and the West.

God will create a “New Heaven,” a “New Earth,” and a “New Jerusalem.” We will live in “rooms,” also called Tabernacles, which Jesus has prepared for us- fulfilling the seventh Feast, “Tabernacles.” God will then “reset” His stopwatch for 1,000 years as all believers rule and reign with Jesus during this “Millennial Reign.” It is a glorious time.

The Bema Seat, Crowns, and the “Marriage Supper of The Lamb

Later, at some point, all believers will be judged at the “BEMA Seat” (“Judgement Seat of Christ”). Believers are NOT judged for their sins, as Jesus removed “all sin” and the penalty of sin on the Cross. However, the “works” believers accomplished when they lived are judged. If their works were accomplished in the power of the “flesh,” no rewards are offered. But if believers’ “works” were performed in the power of the “Spirit,” “Crowns” are given as “rewards.” Believers also experience the “Marriage Supper of The Lamb.”

The End of the Antichrist and the Judgement for Unbelievers

The antichrist will meet “*The end*” Daniel prophesied about, and then all unbelievers will be judged at the “Great White Throne Judgement,” and Satan will be cast into the “Lake of Fire.”

God’s Trumpets Begin His Word with Trumpets and Ends with Trumpets

God introduced the “**Shofar Trumpet**” in the first book of the Bible (Genesis), and He closes out the canon of Scripture (Revelation) with the sounding of “**Temple Trumpets.**” “*Sound the Trumpets in Zion,*” the story of God’s people and their redemption is complete.

Sound Trumpets, God’s Eyes are Fixed on Zion

“All you people of the world, you who live on the earth, when a banner is raised on the mountains, you will see it, and when a trumpet sounds, you will hear it.” Isaiah 18:3

Sound Trumpets, a New Believer, has Entered into God’s Kingdom.

“When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again but went on his way rejoicing...preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.” Acts 8:39

The “Sounds” God LOVES to Hear

“I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead...the instrument God LOVES to hear is the sound of the Shofar Trumpet.

While We Wait for Jesus' Return, Sound Trumpets

- “Behold, I am coming soon...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End... “Yes, I am coming soon.” Revelation 22:12-13

God said to “Sound His Trumpets,” But He NEVER said to Stop Sounding Them.

I believe Christians should have a Shofar Trumpet next to their Bible. The Shofar Trumpet was NEVER meant to sit on a shelf as decoration. It was intended to be sounded. Therefore, the Bible tells us to Sound Trumpets as we wait for our glorious hope of Jesus' return. We are to sound trumpets to **Proclaim and celebrate** the “good things” God bestows upon us. **Praise** Him in worship. **Prepare** us for spiritual battles and during spiritual battles.

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn.” Psalms 98:4

The Sounding of God's Trumpets— “Future” The Messiah “Returns”-His Second Coming

Scroll with Seven Seals

The following is “preparation” for the RETURN of Jesus Christ.

Throughout Old Testament history, it was common for “Kings” (Jewish and Gentile) to wear a “Signet Ring.” Then, whenever a King needed to send an important document (usually rolled up as a “scroll” and to make sure only the “recipient” opened the document), the King placed drops of hot wax on the rolled scroll. Then, the King would inscribe his Signet Ring into the hot wax, making it an “Official Seal.” If anyone other than the intended recipient opened the scroll, it would be treasonous and punishable by death. Of course, Jewish kings wore a signet ring, identifying them as Jewish. And Gentile Kings wore a Signet Ring with a “Crest.”

You’ll recall in the book of Esther that King Xerxes had given his “Signet Ring” to the Jew-hater, Haman. But after Haman was “found out” and hung, the King’s ring was retrieved from Haman’s finger and given to Mordecai. Then Mordecai used the King’s “Signet Ring” to overturn the decrees that the Jew Hater, Haman, had enacted.

Likewise, a “Signet Ring” was also used to seal a “Last Will and Testament.”

The wealthiest people had multiple people place their “Insignia” on their “Last Will and Testament.” When the person who initiated the “Will” died, “each person” who had inscribed their “Insignia” had to be present when the “Last Will and Testament” was opened. Of course, if one of the people who had inscribed their “Insignia” died, then an heir would come in their place. It is also presumed that a “Last Will and Testament” (like other “important” documents) was rolled up like a “Scroll.”



With that in mind, John has been ushered “Up” into God’s Throne Room, and he sees that The Lord God Almighty has a “Scroll” sealed with “Seven Seals” in His right hand.

This “Scroll” may be the most “important” document ever!

Why?

This “Scroll” is the “Title Deed to the Earth,” and the “Rightful Heir” is about to receive it.

But why are there “Seven Seals” and not another number? The Bible doesn’t say anything, but it is my opinion that the “Seven Spirits” (Witnessing Angels) who served at God’s Throne may have had “Signet Rings.” And if they did, then they inscribed their “Insignia” into the “Scroll.”

But God’s Angels (are not worthy to open the “Scroll”).

The ONLY “One” who is worthy to open the “Scroll” is Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God.

After Jesus takes this scroll from His Father’s (The Lord God Almighty) right hand, the Four Living Creatures and the 24 Elders fall before Jesus and sing a “new song.”

Then John hears the voice of “Millions” of angels singing and praising Jesus.

“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were slain, and with your blood, you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures, and the elders. In a loud voice, they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!”
Revelation 5:1–13

Four Horses and Four Horsemen

Much is happening in Revelation, but it's not difficult to understand.

Chapters 6-22 deal with the coming seven-year Tribulation.

I can't include "everything," so I chose the following because it continues the theme of the "seals."

As Jesus opens the first four seals of the Seven Seals, four horses and four "horsemen" are unveiled who will bring "Tribulation" to the earth.

Jesus opens the first seal.

"I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest."

The rider on the first horse (a white horse) is representative of the "evil one." However, a "TRUE" White Horse is reserved for Jesus Christ—at His Second Coming.

Jesus opens the second seal.

"When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword."

Jesus opens the third seal.

"When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

Jesus opens the fourth seal.

"When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth."

Jesus opens the fifth seal.

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”

The first five seals of the “Scroll with Seven Seals” have been opened.

Jesus opens the sixth seal, and it is followed by a “Great Earthquake” and another Blood Moon. (“Great Multitude” are those who “believed” the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the Tribulation).

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red... Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel...After this, I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” Revelation 4,5,6,7

Jesus opens the seventh seal.

“There is silence in heaven...

Seven Angels Sound Seven Trumpets



Now, the Seven Angels who stand before God are each given a TRUMPET to sound. And as each Angel sounds their Trumpet, a different aspect of the “Time of Tribulation” is revealed.

“When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets...Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them (Revelation 8:1–9:21).

But what type of Trumpet do the Seven Angels sound?

Are God’s “Seven Angels” sounding the “Temple Trumpet” or “Shofar Trumpet?”

The Bible doesn’t say, but we can make a reasonable conclusion.

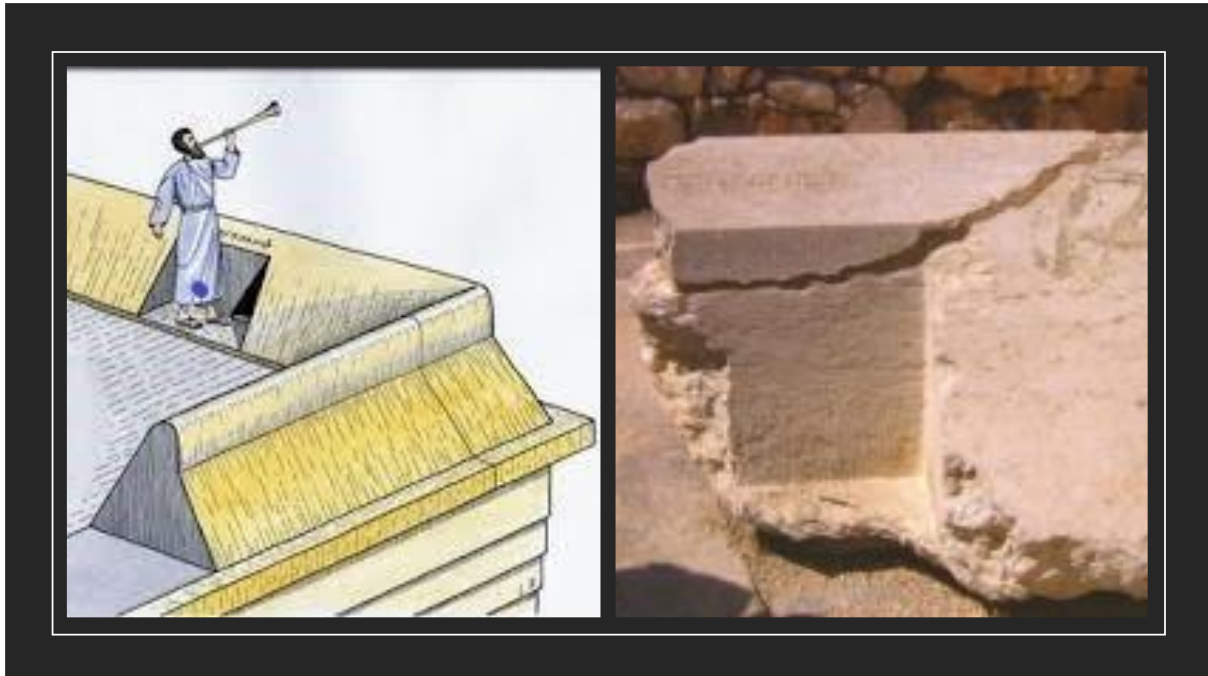
The Bible says the “earthly” Temple is a copy or shadow of the “Heavenly” Temple.

In the “earthly” Temple, only “Priests” served God there, and on top of the “earthly” Temple was a “Place for Trumpeting,” where only Priests sounded “Temple Trumpets.”

In the “Heavenly” Temple, Angels serve God there in a “Priestly” capacity. Similarly, there must be a “Place for Trumpeting” in the “Heavenly” Temple.

Now, consider that “Angels” are “higher in authority” than the earthly “Priests.”

Therefore, we can conclude that the Seven Angels are sounding “Temple Trumpets.”



You're NOT looking at a "Big Rock." Instead, when you go to the "Archaeological Park" at the Davidson Center Museum in Jerusalem, you will see the "Place of Trumpeting" stone. The Priest would stand "within" this stone and sound the Temple Trumpet (Silver Trumpet).

There must also be a "Place of Trumpeting" in the Heavenly Temple.

Therefore, in the "Place of Trumpeting," "**Seven Angels**" will sound **Seven Trumpets**.

Continuing

The first angel sounded his trumpet.

"A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."

The second angel sounded his trumpet.

"A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed."

The third angel sounded his trumpet.

"A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter."

The fourth angel sounded his trumpet.

“A third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.”

John hears an Eagle reveal that the final three Trumpets are “WOE” Trumpets.

“I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe! to the inhabitants of the earth because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

With the sounding of each “Woe,” Trumpet MORE “Tribulation” is unleashed on the earth.

The fifth angel sounded the 1st “WOE” Trumpet.

“I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke, locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not given power to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days, men will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them...The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.”
Revelation 9

The sixth angel sounds the 2nd “WOE” Trumpet. The Return of Jesus Christ is imminent.

“I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels... And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million...A third of mankind was killed... The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality, or their thefts. Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven... [the angel] said, “There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets...The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.” Revelation 9:13–11:14

Two Witnesses

To recap.

- Seven Angels have each received a “Temple Trumpet” to sound.
- The first four Trumpets have sounded as “Tribulation” is unleashed on the earth.
- John hears the voice of an Eagle, and the final Three Trumpets is called “Woe Trumpets.”
- The fifth Trumpet (1st Woe Trumpet) has sounded.
- The sixth Trumpet (2nd Woe Trumpet) is sounded, and God brings forth “Two Witnesses.”

The arrival of these “Two Witnesses” will occur at the beginning of the second part (3 ½ years) of the final “Seven Years” of time. These “Two Witnesses” will prophesy for 1,260 days, and NO ONE can harm them. But at the “end,” the Antichrist will “kill the “Two Witnesses.” However, after 3½ days, the “Two Witnesses” will be resurrected and ushered back into Heaven.

“I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying, and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days, men from every people, tribe, language, and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. But after the three and a half days, a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies looked on. At that very hour, there was a severe earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe [Sixth Trumpet] has passed; the third woe [Seventh Trumpet] is coming soon. Revelation 11:1–14

So, who are these “Two Witnesses?” The Bible doesn’t say. But many Bible commentators agree that the “Two Witnesses” could be Enoch and Elijah. Interestingly, both men did not die. They were “Taken.” Therefore, the theory is that God brings both men back (so that He can use them), so they might taste death. Let’s take a look.

Enoch did not die.

The book of Jude tells us that Enoch was the seventh from Adam in the genealogies.

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam.”

In Genesis 4:17, we learn that Cain (one of Adam and Eve’s two sons) was the father of Enoch.

“Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.”

And in Genesis 5:21–24, we read.

“When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then, he was no more because God took him away.”

And in Hebrews 11:5–6, we read.

“By faith, Enoch was taken from this life so that he did not experience death; he could not be found because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”

Elijah did not die.

“When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So, they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “but do not speak of it.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So, they went to Jericho. The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “but do not speak of it.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So, the two of them walked on. Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, not.” As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly, a chariot of fire and

horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. “Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.” 2 Kings 2:1–18

In the book of Malachi, the prophet Malachi says that Elijah will come.

“Before that great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

Religious Jews expect Elijah to “return.”

So, the Jews leave a “Place Setting” for Elijah on the Passover Table. This is also why they leave the door slightly open in case he returns during the Passover celebration.

Revelation 11 indicates that after the “Two Witnesses” die, their bodies are laid out in the streets of the “Great City” (Jerusalem) for 3½ days. But then both are resurrected and ushered back into Heaven. Therefore, Enoch and Elijah could be the “Two Witnesses.” Another possibility is that the “Two Witnesses” are Moses and Elijah. Moses brought down the Law (Ten Commandments) from Mount Sinai. And of all the prophets in the Old Testament, Elijah was the greatest prophet.

God’s Three Angels- One FINAL Opportunity to Believe

God desires that ALL will come to, HIM and believe, which is why “just before” Jesus returns...

Three Angels in Heaven “CALL OUT” ONE LAST TIME!

The first Angel preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water.”

The second Angel proclaims the destruction of ALL who oppose God and His Ways.

“A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

The third Angel proclaims the reality of an Eternal Hell.

“A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:6–13

➤ **Jesus said**, “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:39–40

With Trumpet Sounding-God Sends His Angels to Gather His Elect

Let’s go back to what Jesus said must take place “before” He Returns-His Second Coming, in Matthew 24:1–31

We know from our review of Daniel that the event, “*When you see standing in the holy place, the abomination that causes desolation spoken of through the prophet Daniel,*” refers to an event during the second half of the “Seven Year Tribulation.”

We also know that **just before** His return, “*The Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all nations of the earth will mourn,*” and “*They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky.*” We looked at these events in our review of Daniel and Revelation.

Here is the **last event** Jesus said would take place before He Returns.

➤ ***“God will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”***

This does not refer to the “Last Trumpet” before all believers are taken to meet Jesus in the air (Rapture). Instead, Jesus refers to the “Gathering” of God’s “Elect.”

So, who is God’s “elect?”

God’s “elect” refers to Israel,” the Jews, who have “believed” and received “Salvation which will occur after the Battle of Armageddon. Another term is “Surviving Israel,” and it refers to those who finally believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they “return” to their God.

“In that day, the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return. A remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God.” Isaiah 10:20–21

The “Tribulation” time is about over, and Jesus’ Return to Jerusalem is imminent. So, how does God “gather” His “elect” (Jewish and Gentile believers) to be with Him when He returns? With this in mind, the first six (of Seven Angels) have sounded their Temple Trumpets.

God will SOUND a Trumpet to summon His Angels who will “gather” His “elect” from the “four winds” (four corners) of the world. ALL will come to Jerusalem-God’s Holy City.

“In that day, the LORD will thresh from the flowing Euphrates to the Wadi of Egypt, and you, O Israelites, will be gathered up one by one. And in that day, a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.” Isaiah 27:12–13

The Seventh Angel Sounds the Seventh Trumpet and Jesus Christ RETURNS



The Seventh Angel will Sound the 3rd “WOE” Trumpet.

“There were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15–19

Sound the Trumpets in Zion— Jesus Christ has Returned.

God’s Word is crystal clear: God’s Trumpet was first sounded in Genesis, and the last Trumpet will be sounded in Revelation.

It is NO accident that the sounding of God’s Trumpet, “Past,” “Present,” and “Future” correlates with MOST of Israel’s historical events throughout Scripture.

When Jesus Returns, He Will Return to the Mount of Olives

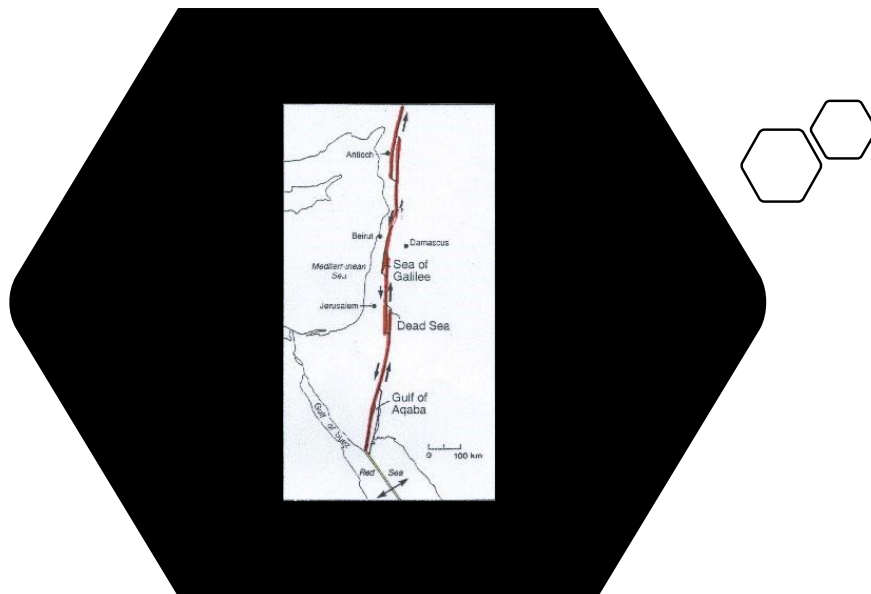


The prophet Zechariah in the Old Testament indicated that the Messiah would return to the Mount of Olives. Pictured, the tourists are standing on the Mount of Olives.

The Mount of Olives is “East” of the Temple Mount (located in the distance. Therefore, “One Day,” the world’s attention will be focused HERE.

“A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day, his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.”

A “Great Earthquake” will Occur in Jerusalem when Jesus Christ Returns



The prophet Zechariah reveals that there will be a Great Earthquake in Jerusalem when Jesus returns.

...and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah...

Let us review what causes an earthquake. The earth’s “surface” consists of “layers” of structure. When a layer of the structure is “cracked,” it’s called a “fault line.” Therefore, when “rocks” or “plates” along these “fault lines” break or shift (which can be caused for many varied reasons), there is a release of energy that causes the ground to shake (“earthquake”). Most earthquakes are mild and produce little to no damage. However, some earthquakes are so intense that they can cause structures along the “fault lines” to severely damage or even collapse. In other cases, an earthquake is so severe that the ground literally “opens up” and swallows everything along its “fault line.”

Interestingly, Israel has a significant “fault line,” which runs North and South of the Dead Sea. And as you can see from the picture, this “fault line” extends straight through Jerusalem. Because this “fault line” in Israel is so severe, it is commonly compared to the “Andreas Fault” in California.

That said, geological studies are always conducted before any new structures are built in Israel. Of interest is the “Seven Arches Hotel,” which was slated to be built at the Mount of Olives. The intent was to provide guests with “Spectacular” views of the Temple Mount, like the views you see in the previous picture. However, it was determined that the ground was “unstable” at the Mount of Olives, so the hotel was built elsewhere. Therefore, when Zechariah made his prophecy

about a Great Earthquake that would split Jerusalem in half, he did not know a “fault line” was running through Jerusalem.

But God did!

You will recall that several significant “Great Earthquakes” are recorded in the Bible. A “Great Earthquake” occurred in Jerusalem when Jesus died.

- “From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks split. The tombs broke open, and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus’ resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!” Matthew 27:45–54

A “Great Earthquake” also occurred when Paul and Silas were in prison.

“Once, when we [Paul and Silas] were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally, Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!” At that moment, the spirit left her. When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once, all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night, the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then, immediately, he and

all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family. Acts 16:16–40



A “Great Earthquake” will occur when Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives. To appreciate it; remember that surrounding the Temple Mount is a large wall with different “gates” or entrances. The most important gate is called the “Golden Gate” or “Eastern Gate.”

In this picture, you can see a close-up of the “Golden Gate.” However, there is a Muslim cemetery with numerous tombs in front of it. Why? Muslims are aware of “Biblical Prophecy,” indicating the Jewish Messiah will return, and when He does, He will enter through the “Golden Gate.” They also know that “Jewish Customs” forbids Jews to have anything to do with anyone or anything that is “unclean.”

Also, Muslims here have been buried with their feet facing the Jewish Cemetery. Therefore, the Muslims have purposefully and defiantly blocked the entrance with their dead bodies. They believe their “uncleanness” will prevent the Messiah from entering via the “Gold Gate.” They also believe in the resurrection and will be “physically” able to stop Jesus and the Jews from entering the Temple via the “Golden Gate.” So, what will God do?

When Jesus returns, there’ll be another “Great Earthquake” in Jerusalem. But this Great Earthquake will split the Mount of Olives in TWO. And this Great Earthquake will cause the Muslim tombs blocking the “Golden Gate” to be swallowed up into the ground. Then, the Messiah will have a “clean and clear” path into the entrance of The Temple.

The Judgement Seat of Christ

The Bible doesn't tell us exactly when the following events will occur.

Believers will be judged at the “BEMA Seat, “also called the “Judgement Seat of Christ.”

It's important to remember that we are not judged for our sins.
Jesus Christ took away the penalty of our sin on the cross.

However, believers are judged for the “works” performed while we were on earth.

Our works are judged to see if they were performed in the “flesh” or the “Spirit.”

Believers would receive no rewards for “Work” (no matter how great and glorious) if they performed in the flesh's power.

However, believers receive rewards for “Works” performed by the Power of The Holy Spirit.

“For we will all stand before God's judgment seat...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.” Romans 14:10–12

“But each one should be careful how he builds...if any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved.” 1 Corinthians 3:10–4:5

“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile, we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling... So, we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:1–10

The Great White Throne Judgement

Whereas believers are judged at the “Judgment Seat of Christ, unbelievers are judged at the Great White Throne Judgement.

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:11–15

Satan is cast into the “Lake of Fire.”

“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss and locked and sealed it over him.” Revelation 20:1–3

The Marriage Supper of The Lamb

There’s another event called the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb” that will take place in the Heavens. To better understand it, let’s consider the following.

In Old Testament times, when a Hebrew man fell in love with the woman of his dreams, he would go to the woman's house with the “bride's price.” Every woman had a “price.” So, the man would set the “bride’s price” before her father. Then, the man would take a cup, pour some wine, and place it before the woman he loved. If the woman picked up the cup and drank, it symbolized her acceptance of him.

The soon-to-be groom would then say something very interesting.

He would say, **“I go to prepare a place for you.”**

The man would return to his father's house and start building a “room” next to his father’s house for him and his soon-to-be bride to live in.

So, when was the wedding day? No one knew except the Father. It was up to the father to determine if the structure his son was building was ready. So, if a friend of the groom came and asked, “When’s the big day?” The groom would say, “I don't know the day or the hour of my

marriage. It's up to my father." Thankfully, when the father finally "gave the word," his son and the wedding party would go to the bride's house in the middle of the night. You could hear them talking and carrying on the road to the bride's house. As they approached the bride's home, their noise would get louder and louder.

Suddenly, the groom would be at the bride's home without warning. The bride would be stolen in the middle of the night. The bride-to-be had been waiting for some time. The bride-to-be had kept herself pure, going through each day's tasks, wondering if today was the day for the groom's return. She knew that her groom had gone to prepare a place for her, but she didn't know when he would come for her. She also knew the groom would come for her in the middle of the night. But she didn't know which night. However, the bride-to-be was always prepared. Every night, she would keep her lampstand burning. The light from the lampstand would be ready for her when the groom returned. Each night, she would wonder, "Would this be the night of the groom's return?"

Jesus Christ is the groom, and Christ-followers are His bride. Jesus fell in love with you! He comes to "your home" and says, "I love you." He places a cup (The "Cup of Redemption"—the third cup of the Passover, which we looked at earlier) in front of you. And if you pick up the cup and drink from it, you are saying, "I believe you, Jesus. I love you, Jesus! I am yours, Jesus." And like the groom in the story, Jesus pays the "bride's price." Not with money but something dearer and more precious—His blood. On the cross, Jesus "purchased" us from the penalty of sin and death. Jesus said He was going away, but the Holy Spirit's "Counselor" would come down until He returned.

So, when will our groom, Jesus, come to take us, "His bride," to be with Him? Well, we already know the answer to that question. The groom does not know the day or the hour when he will return to get his bride. Only the father knows.

Jesus has gone to prepare a "room" for you.

➤ ["Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."](#) John 14:1–4

Only the Father knows when Jesus will return.

➤ ["No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:36–37](#)

Speaking of marriage, when a "bride and groom" get married, there is a "wedding supper" where the "bride and the groom" celebrate with their friends and family. Likewise, God's "Bride" (The

Church) will be married to His Son (Jesus Christ). And God will also HOST a “heavenly” wedding supper called the “Great Supper of God,” also referred to as the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb.”



“I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice, he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God.” Revelation 19:11-17

The Bible does not provide specific details about the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb.” But it will most likely occur sometime during the “7-Year Tribulation” period, just before Jesus “Returns.”

With that in mind, here is something to consider. We know from God’s Word that when a Jewish wedding took place, the bride and groom took “One Year” off from WORK to celebrate and get to know each other.

“For one year, he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married” (Deuteronomy 24:5).

Therefore, maybe the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb” lasts for “One Year”-the 7th year (the Final Year) of the “7 Year Tribulation” period. And when that “One Year” of getting to know each other is over, we’re ready to go back to WORK- “ruling and reigning” with Our Bridegroom, Jesus, for 1,000 years (Millennial Reign).

We don’t know.

But what we do know is that “Day 1,260” (of the 2nd Part of the Tribulation) is the “Final Day” of the Tribulation and is also referred to as the “Day of the Lord.”

Here's another thought to consider...

- God “worked” and created everything in 6 literal days. Then God rested on the 7th “Day”-the “Sabbath.”
- The genealogical and historical evidence of the Bible supports “Creation” beginning about 6,000 years ago (“creationist” or “young earth” worldview). The timeline from the day of creation to the day Jesus Christ returns will be 6,000 years. We are indeed living in the “Last Days.”
- Since its creation, MAN has existed and “worked” for about 6,000 years.

Therefore, when this “Present Age” ends, Jesus Christ returns. The “Millennial Reign” (of the next 1,000 years) can also refer to as the “Sabbath,” a time to rest.

I'm ready!

Are you?

Sound Trumpets, God's Eyes are Fixed on ZION

“All you people of the world, you who live on the earth, when a banner is raised on the mountains, you will see it, and when a trumpet sounds, you will hear it. This is what the LORD says to me: “I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling place, like shimmering heat in the sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.” For, before the harvest, when the blossom is gone and the flower becomes a ripening grape, he will cut off the shoots with pruning knives and cut down and take away the spreading branches. They will all be left to the mountain birds of prey and to the wild animals; the birds will feed on them all summer, the wild animals all winter. At that time, gifts will be brought to the LORD Almighty from a people tall and smooth-skinned, from a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers— the gifts will be brought to Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the LORD Almighty. Isaiah 18:3-7

“A people tall and smooth-skinned, from a people, feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers” refers to the “Ethiopian People.”

There is a long history between the Ethiopians and the Jewish people.

Interestingly, today, many Ethiopian Jews live in Israel.

In the following familiar passage, an Ethiopian “eunuch” believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way, he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship and on his way home, was sitting in his chariot reading the book of

Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation, he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” **Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.** As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. “Acts 7-8

Sound Trumpets— A New Believer Has Entered Into God’s KINGDOM



I hope you’ve enjoyed learning about the soundings of God’s Trumpets. However, there is ONE event “we “should begin celebrating with the sounding of Trumpets. In the previous passage, the Ethiopian “eunuch” believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and he...

“Went on his way rejoicing...preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.”

Therefore, whenever a Jew or Gentile person believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we MUST Sound Trumpets.

While We Wait for Jesus' Return, Sound Trumpets

In conclusion, here are Jesus' final words as He closes out Revelation.

- **“Behold, I am coming soon!** Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book. **Behold, I am coming soon!** My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David and the bright Morning Star. **Yes, I am coming soon.”**
Revelation 21:1-22:20

Jesus wants us to know that He is coming soon because He tells us three times.

He did this to give us hope that he will return.

John then adds, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus,” and Revelation is complete.

“Sound the Trumpets in Zion.”

God has chosen to use His Trumpets to “connect” many of the people, places, and events associated with Israel's history and to unveil and reveal the Messiah. However, NOW our NEW Prayer is:

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”



As we wait for Jesus' return, sound Trumpets, especially in ZION.

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.” Psalm 98:1–9