



MATT BLACK, Sun, June 3, 2018
livinghopechurch.net

6 | LEVITICUS 23:23-25

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Outline

The Tornado Sirens

God Wants our Attention

1. Be Awakened to His Word (Exo 20:18-19)

A Holy Convocation

A Call for Christian Growth

Trumpets at Sinai

The Trumpeting Conviction of the Holy Spirit

Trumpets for Feasting on God's Word

Feasting on God's Word brings Comfort

Feasting on God's Word brings Conviction

Hear from God's Word Every Day

2. Be Awakened to His Guidance (Num 9:15-23)

Guided Personally

Guided Corporately

The High Cost of Prayer

3. Be Awakened to His Victory (Num 10:8-9)

The Victory of Joshua at Jericho

What About Your Victory?

Take Hold of God's Power!

4. Be Awakened to His Appearing (Joel 2:15-17)

The Days of Awe

The Coronation of Kings

The Final Coronation

Announcements

1. Welcome visitors!
2. Elders' Retreat: Friday for Elders, 7pm to 10pm – Sat for all leaders, 9am-3pm
3. Church Picnic: June 16, Riverbend Park in St. Charles, 11:30 to 4pm
4. Pray for Dr. Alex Peace. His final hearing for asylum is tomorrow. Alex would you come forward? We would like to pray for you.

Open your Bible if you will to **Leviticus 23:23-25**. We are in a series called “The Feasts of Israel.” Today we are looking at the fifth feast, and our message is entitled: “The Feast of Trumpets.” This begins the fall pilgrimage for Israel. The Feast of Trumpets is a reminder that God wants our attention. He want’s us to listen to him.

The Tornado Sirens

When I was a child of seven years (October 7, 1981), we looked up in the sky from our back porch in Oak Forest, Illinois, and we spotted some funnel clouds. I remember earlier in the day how windy it was. We felt like we were going to get blown away. Little did I know, not far from our home (15 miles away), there was a tornado touching down. We heard the sirens and we took cover in the basement. We listened!

Now God wants our attention too. He doesn’t sound alarms or sirens, but in ancient Israel, he would have a time every year where trumpets were blown to get the people’s attention.

God Wants our Attention

Every year in Israel in the fall, God reminded his people that they needed to listen to him. They would hear the long blast of trumpets. It was the beginning of the New Year. It was a time to seek after God. It was the beginning of the Fall Pilgrimage. They needed the reminder to actively listen to God and re-evaluate their relationship with God. We need that reminder more than ever, don’t we?

We serve an infinite Almighty God that **we often ignore**. This world and our own flesh are so against us, that we need constant awakening. God would awaken Israel anew and afresh during the Fall pilgrimage. The Feast of Trumpets began a 21-day spiritual awakening that included Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Let’s stand and read God’s holy Word. Our passage today is **Leviticus 23:23-25**, “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴“Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation.²⁵ You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord.”

This is God’s Word.

Outline

1. Be awakened to his **Word**.
2. Be awakened to his **Guidance**.
3. Be awakened to **Victory**.
4. Be awakened to his **Appearing**.

The question for this morning is: are you listening to God? Are you listening for his voice? We can read the Bible without hearing God's voice. We can be hearers only and not those awakened to follow God's voice. I want to hear and follow God. How can we do that? The **feast of trumpets** gives us four ways to hear his voice.

1. BE AWAKENED TO HIS WORD (EXO 20:18-19)

A Holy Convocation

In ancient Israel, the trumpet (often a ram's horn, i.e. shofar) would be used to gather the people to a public assembly to hear God's Word. Sometimes this was directly from God himself. This was most certainly to happen at the Feast of Trumpets. This feast is called a holy convocation. The word **convocation means dress rehearsal**.¹ Our gatherings should be a dress rehearsal for when we meet Jesus at his second coming. The trumpet sounds, and we will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. We should be looking for that level of joy in God while we walk on this earth.

A Call for Christian Growth

The yearly blowing of the trumpet was a call to **godly maturity** for Israel. It was a time for deep inspection. The feast of trumpets was the beginning of ten consecutive days of repentance called the "**Days of Awe**" where there would be a call for deep introspection both personally and nationally.

For us today the feast of trumpets is a call to **Christian growth**. To be mature in Christ, we must be ever **responding to God's Word**. Another way to say this is if you want to grow in Christian maturity, you must **respond** to the **Lordship of Christ**. This is the first use of the trumpet in Israel.

TRUMPETS AT SINAI

The most dramatic event where a **trumpet sounded** was at **Mount Sinai** where God's people were there to receive his covenant. We know Exodus 20 best as God giving his people the 10 commandments. They heard his voice that day, and they feared and trembled. Look over at **Exodus 20:18ff** if you will.

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die" (Exo 20:18-19).

The trumpet sounded with a **long blast** at Sinai, indicating God's Word was being given (Exo 19:13, 16, 19; 20:18). The people trembled. God called his people to the base of Mount Sinai. And God himself spoke to his people who were in Egypt just 50 days before.

¹ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), 4744, *miqra*'.

The Trumpeting Conviction of the Holy Spirit

We have **no physical trumpets** to call us to God's Word, but we do have the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Are you hearing the long blast of the Spirit's trumpet in your life? Are you experiencing the trumpeting and alarming conviction of the Holy Spirit calling you to examine yourself? Do you have the walk with God that he wants for you? Don't you want greater intimacy?

This weak as I was asking God for greater intimacy and communion with him, he gave it to me in ocean waves. So much joy and peace awaits us if we just ask. Do you feel that you have grieved the Holy Spirit with so little communion lately? Let the Spirit blow that trumpet of conviction. He's calling you to a feast! He's calling you to his joy and the pleasure of his presence.

Remember, at **Sinai** they were given the Word of God, their covenant with God. It was so intense and so powerful **they asked if Moses could speak to them instead of God.**

We've got it better than they did! Every Christian has the empowerment like Moses had to speak to God face to face.

TRUMPETS FOR FEASTING ON GOD'S WORD*Feasting on God's Word brings Comfort*

They would read Psalm 81 on this feast day. Look over there at **Psalm 81:3, 10-11, 13, 16**, "**3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day...**

10 I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. 11 But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me...

13 Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!...

16 He would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

The Feast of Trumpets is an invitation to feast on God's Word. Don't you know that God's presence is like honey coming out of the Rock. Whatever hard, dry, impossible rock you have in your life, awaken to God and the voice of the Spirit in his Word. His communion is like **honey from the rock**. Feasting on God's Word will bring you joy.

Feasting on God's Word brings Conviction

Every year on the Feast of Trumpets, the people would read **Psalm 27** as a prayer of introspection. Let's look at several verses.

" 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

" 7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! 8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." 9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

“¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

You need this intimate communion with God every day. You cannot do without it.

HEAR FROM GOD’S WORD EVERY DAY

Do you want to hear from God? You’ve got to get alone with God. I mean really alone. This is not an option for the Christian life. God did not save you to barely survive or to limp along in your own strength. He’s got power for you today. You can’t keep trying to live on yesterday’s power.

Every day the people would gather enough Manna in the wilderness for just that day. If they tried to store enough Manna for tomorrow, it would turn rotten. Look at **Exodus 16:19-20**, “And Moses said to them, ‘Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.’
²⁰But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank.” What does that tell you saints? We can’t live on yesterday’s manna. I need fresh power for today. Let’s be done with rotten manna. Yesterday’s power is not sufficient for this hour. We need fresh food from his presence. Stale manna won’t cut it.

What are you hearing from God today? You should read the Bible, but you need to hear from God when you read. What is he telling you?

Brothers and sisters, God still speaks! “The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb 4:12). The Word of God is life giving (Heb 4:12). It’s living and powerful. It moves you by cutting into your heart.

You can’t depend on yesterday’s manna. It will go rotten.

So the feast of trumpets reminds us of the power of God’s Word. Hear God’s voice each and every day. Listen to the trumpeting voice of the Spirit in the Word.

Now, if you look over at Numbers 9 and 10 we find a fascinating way God wants us to listen to us. We need to awaken to his Word, and the second way he wants us to listen is to be awakened to his guidance. This is so amazing.

2. BE AWAKENED TO HIS GUIDANCE (NUM 9:15-23)

In **Numbers 9:15-23; 10:2-6**, we read an amazing way that the people were guided. Whenever the presence of God would move, the trumpets would blow and the camp would follow the leading of God.

GUIDED PERSONALLY

What’s the next move? Don’t you often ask yourself that question? It would be so much easier if the Lord would just blow the trumpet and tell us the next thing to do and the next place to go. Well God literally did that in the Old Testament.

Look over at **Numbers 9:15-23**, “On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered

it by day and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped. ¹⁸ At the command of the Lord the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the Lord they camped. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued over the tabernacle many days, the people of Israel kept the charge of the Lord and did not set out. ²⁰ Sometimes the cloud was a few days over the tabernacle, and according to the command of the Lord they remained in camp; then according to the command of the Lord they set out. ²¹ And sometimes the cloud remained from evening until morning. And when the cloud lifted in the morning, they set out, or if it continued for a day and a night, when the cloud lifted they set out. ²² Whether it was two days, or a month, or a longer time, that the cloud continued over the tabernacle, abiding there, the people of Israel remained in camp and did not set out, but when it lifted they set out. ²³ At the command of the Lord they camped, and at the command of the Lord they set out. They kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by Moses.”

Then in **Numbers 10:2**, “Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp.” Whenever the Shekinah presence, the manifest presence of God moved, so the trumpets would sound.

What’s your next move in life? You had **better not move** unless God moves you. The only way to have that kind of guidance is to dedicate yourself to a **life of prayer**. Are you seeking God’s face in prayer and hearing the trumpet of God in the decisions that you make? Or are you just hoping you are doing his will? Do you have direct answers to prayer and guidance for what you are doing from day to day?

Brothers and sisters, we need to be people of real power and answered prayer. Sometimes I think we are bashful Christians, like we don’t know God very well. Listen God is the Almighty infinite God of the universe. Don’t live your Christian life in the power of what you can do. Live a life that displays the power of an Almighty God!

The people of the Old Testament were guided by the Spirit who was manifesting God’s presence in a glory cloud.

Today, we have the Spirit guiding us, “walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (**Gal 5:16**). We need to hear the voice of God in his Spirit.

GUIDED CORPORATELY

God is calling his people to go forward, as never before in the history of the Church. Only those who have ears to hear will hear the call of the Spirit. The Trumpet is blowing, and many have heard the call. And we need to pick up God’s trumpet and blow! We need to call others to a deeper walk with God and prayer. We need to call our family and our church. We can’t stay in the wilderness. We need to enter the Promised Land.

Brothers and sisters, God is calling us into the Promised Land. He’s asking us to cross over into the **fullness of the Spirit**. Won’t we have the fullness of the Spirit in heaven? Don’t you want that fullness here on earth? It will come at a cost.

The High Cost of Prayer

It comes through prayer. We will only feel the winds of the heaven sent Comforter if we humble ourselves and pray. Jesus calls us to find a quiet solitary place like he did. If he needed to pray, so do we. We need to shut our door every day and pray like he taught us.

We need to put worthless things away and give ourselves to soul satisfying prayer.

If you have children, you need to get down on your knees with them. Put the remote control down. They need to hear their daddy's prayers for them. Put work away. Stop folding the laundry. Get down on your face before God with your children.

Intercede as well for your brothers and sister in this church and around the world.

Ask for God to move with power on the lost around you.

Ask specific requests and dare to see God work in powerful ways. We don't serve a God who works in vague generalities. He wants to show you his power and glory by answering specific requests. Ask for God to work in hearts and do impossible things and he will. **Jeremiah 33:3**, "Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and surprising things which you know not" (*author's trans*).

Listen, don't be content with your own personal revival. Invite your family your church, and your world to join you.

We thank God for the manna which has sustained us throughout our wilderness journey, even until now. Thank God for the water out of the rock, to quench our thirst. Thank God for the Holy Spirit, the glory cloud who has gone ahead of us, and directed us all through this great and terrible wilderness.

But there are better things ahead! We must leave the manna, and the water out of the rock, and enter into a new realm, a new experience. Instead of manna there is the milk and honey and grapes of Canaan. Instead of water out of the rock, there are ceaseless, perpetually flowing waters from springs and rivers and lakes of the land of rest. Instead of drought there is the dew of heaven every morning, and rain in due season. Instead of barrenness and heat there is fertility and life and blessing in the realm of the Spirit. Let us go forward into our inheritance.

3. BE AWAKENED TO HIS VICTORY (NUM 10:8-9)

We need to hear God and listen to him. God's voice is a voice of victory!

In **Numbers 10:8-9**, we read about how the trumpets called God's people to warfare: "The trumpets shall be to you for a perpetual statute throughout your generations. 9 And when you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the Lord your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies."

THE VICTORY OF JOSHUA AT JERICO

We see this in Joshua 6 in Jericho. One of the clearest demonstrations of the use of trumpets in warfare is the story of Joshua at the battle of Jericho. Moses had died, and the leadership passed to Joshua, who became responsible for leading the people into the Promised Land.

Joshua encountered one who identified himself as the commander of the army of the Lord (*cf* Josh 5:13-15). This commander of God's army gave Joshua a strange battle plan. It is one that Joshua would have never thought of himself. And if he had, he certainly wouldn't have told anyone. They would have thought he was crazy. But God doesn't do things the way man does.

Are you ready for this? The angel told Joshua to march his army around the city of Jericho once each day for six days. Seven priests were to follow the army, each blowing a shofar. They were followed by another group of priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. They were followed by a rear guard. All were to march in absolute silence. No one was to say a word. The only noise was the sound of the **shofars** blown by the priests.

On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. Everyone was to be quiet. Then at a certain point, Joshua was to give a command for the priests to blow one long, loud blast on the shofar. Then everyone was to shout! At that very moment, according to the commander of God's army, the walls of Jericho would fall down, enabling the Hebrews to take the city (Josh 6)

Joshua carried out the battle plan given to him by the commander of God's army. It all happened just as God said, and the Jews soundly defeated their enemy.²

WHAT ABOUT YOUR VICTORY?

What would have happened if Joshua would have lead God's people to try and make weapons and attack Jericho? They would have all died and we would never hear of Israel again. Israel wasn't this intimidating army. They have an intimidating God. Amen?

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 Jn 4:4).

Dear child of God, there are things that are absolutely impossible that God wants you to do. You cannot do them in your own power. "Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord" (Zech 4:6).

Remember what Jesus promised us: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father" (Jn 14:12).

Take Hold of God's Power!

What is it that is impossible to you right now? You know it's God's will, but you feel totally weak and inadequate to do it? What area of your life are you failing in right now? The feast of trumpets is all about grabbing hold of the power of God and the presence of God and watching him right your ship.

² Booker, Richard. Celebrating Jesus in the Biblical Feasts Expanded Edition: Discovering Their Significance to You as a Christian (p. 114). Destiny Image, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

4. BE AWAKENED TO HIS APPEARING (JOEL 2:15-17)

THE DAYS OF AWE

This blowing of the trumpets began ten days of preparation for the Day of Atonement, called the “Days of Awe.” The “Days of Awe” are ten days of national repentance concluding with the Day of Atonement. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the personal and national sins of the previous year, seeking a revival of our relationship with God. Then on the Day of Atonement, the trumpet would be blown again (Lev 25:9).

It was so important for Israel to wake up that one day they would meet God face to face. These Days of Awe were a time of national repentance. They needed a day of Atonement because like they, like us, are sinners. We need to realize that one day we are going to meet God face to face. We need to be woken up regularly. The trumpet was blown not only for the Days of Awe but for any call for national repentance, as in Joel 2.

Joel 2:15-17, “Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord...’”

Every year they would need to stop what they were doing and go to Jerusalem to meet God. It was a yearly reminder that Judgment Day is coming, and we need mercy.

THE CORONATION OF KINGS

Trumpets were blown for the coronation of kings (1 Kgs 1:34, 39), like at Solomon’s coronation. When the ultimate King comes, the last trumpet will blast, and all will bow before King Jesus. Jesus is coming again! “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at **the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality” (1 Cor 15:52-53). This will be the last trumpet, the ultimate coronations. All kings will cast their crowns before Jesus. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord and King over all.

One day we will see Jesus face to face. One day the last trumpet will sound, and then everyone will be listening. Are you listening to God?

The Final Coronation

Jesus’ coronation as King of kings will be the end of the world as we know it. There will be no more political campaigns. No need for any candidates. No more royal weddings, as beautiful as they are.

So much is hidden from our eyes right now. Let God open your eyes to his greatness. The Feast of Trumpets is traditionally the day the rabbis believe God created the world, and it is a reminder as well of the end of the world. The end is coming. The Feast of Trumpets was an important time for personal and national introspection to remind us that we are going to meet God one day. We need atonement. We need mercy.

There is coming a day when, according to **Revelation 11:15**, the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, and the loud voices of angels in heaven will shout: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” I can’t wait for that day.

Conclusion

Are you ready for Jesus to come again? Are you ready? It could be at any moment. It could be right now when we hear the last trumpet sound. That last shofar will sound.

[Play shofar... 45 seconds]

How would you live if you knew that last trumpet were to sound a week from now? Let’s live and worship in him and set ourselves on fire for him in light of his Second coming! Come quickly Lord Jesus!