



# biblestudy

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**The Feast of Trumpets**  
The Return of Jesus Christ

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## THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

### *Introduction*

The fourth of God's seven festivals points to the most anticipated and pivotal event in the history of the world, the return of Jesus Christ. The festival encompasses **only one day, yet it is a day that will change the course of history. Its coming will be announced with the blast of a trumpet that will be heard around the world.**

Trumpets have been used for thousands of years to herald important events. The sound of trumpet blasts can gather an army, assemble a mass of people, or signal the arrival of a king. Likewise, trumpets will signal a future event so magnificent, it will alter the lives of everyone who is alive, and eventually the lives of ALL people who have ever lived.

Let's take a moment to rehearse the meaning of the first three festivals that lead up to this fourth amazing festival. We encourage you, if you have not done so already, to request your free copies of the first three Bible Studies in this series.

In Leviticus 23, God lays out his master plan for man through seven annual festivals. Each festival or feast day represents a step toward God's ultimate purpose of building a family. We are commanded to continue rehearsing these days as an annual reminder of God's great purpose for His creation.

The first festival, Passover, was fulfilled when the perfect lamb of God, Jesus Christ, laid down his

sinless life to pay the penalty for sin in our stead, opening the way to salvation for all who accept him as their savior.

The second festival, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, that immediately follows the **Passover**, **points to our need for repentance and baptism once we have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment for our past sins.**

The third festival, Pentecost, is a memorial of the day God first gave **His holy spirit to His Church**, thus beginning the New Testament era. It also recalls the giving of the Ten Commandments. It points to the need for all Christians to receive God's Holy Spirit so that we can obey His law, not only physically but in the spirit.

In the book of Acts we are told Christ sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. as a Helper for His disciples:

**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**  
**Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:8-11)**

As His disciples were watching, Jesus Christ did in fact ascend to heaven in a cloud. The disciples' hearts must have been heavy as they stood there watching their teacher, friend, and Lord ascend. However, two angels comforted them by delivering them the good news Jesus would return again.

Shortly after His ascension, the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem. Immediately upon receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples began to speak of the future rulership of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:29-31). During his ministry, Jesus prophesied of God's coming Kingdom (Mark 1:14). This gospel message has since been preached worldwide (Matthew 24:14). Yet this pinnacle of Christian faith remains a future event and is rehearsed in the fourth festival, the Feast of Trumpets.

The Feast of Trumpets is a festival that looks ahead to the time when Jesus Christ will return to the earth. Although highly anticipated by disciples of Christ, His return will also present a devastating blow to the world as we know it. Not everyone will desire His second coming; however, the power of God and Christ will prevail. With this, let us begin our study of this awesome festival. We encourage you to look up every scripture in this study. Some of them you will want to read in context to get the full meaning.

### **The Feast Of Trumpets**

We will begin this study by taking a look at a portion of Leviticus 23. This chapter of the Bible outlines God's holy days for us.

**“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.” (Leviticus 23:23-25)**

### **QUESTION**

***What is the significance of the trumpets in this fourth festival?***

In the Bible, God uses trumpets to signify three distinct things: a call to convene (Numbers 10:7), a call to war (Numbers 10:9), and an announcement of a ruler or the presence of the ark which was a representation of God's throne (1 Chronicles 15:24-25). The Feast of Trumpets incorporates all three of these meanings into its Festival.

### **QUESTION**

***When is the Feast of Trumpets kept?***

Leviticus 23:24 tells us the Feast of Trumpets is to be observed on the first day of the seventh month on God's holy calendar. God's calendar is different from our calendar. The first month on God's calendar begins in the spring and follows a lunar cycle of 29 or 30 days for each month. The Feast of Trumpets occurs during the Fall, usually in late September or early October and is mentioned on our modern calendar by the name Rosh Hashanah.

**QUESTION*****How is this day to be honored?***

Leviticus 23:24-25 tells us this feast is to be observed as a special Sabbath, different from the regular weekly Sabbath, as it is observed as a memorial, or a special day of remembrance. No customary or routine work is to be performed on this High Day. The Feast is to be a day dedicated to God: it is a convening of His people that points to major future events.

**QUESTION*****Who commanded that we observe God's Feasts? Moses?***

Leviticus 23:1-2 tells us the Sabbath and feast days spoken of in Leviticus are not festivals of the Jews or Israelites. God proclaimed these days as "My feasts." After announcing all the festivals, God reiterated these are "the feasts of the Lord" (Leviticus 23:44). Even though Moses told the Israelites to observe these days, he was only doing what the Lord had directed him to do. He was delivering God's edicts to the Israelites so that they could learn to be obedient to God. They did not, however, fully learn the meaning of these days. That was hidden from mankind until Christ came to reveal his Father's plan to man (1 Corinthians 2:7-8; Daniel 2:47; Revelation 1:1).

**QUESTION*****Were the people commanded to gather together on Trumpets?***

Leviticus 23:24 states God commanded a holy convocation on the Feast of Trumpets. Only God

can make a particular day holy. He does that by being present in his spirit on the day he has commanded. In this way **He** participates with those true believers who are observing the day in the way **He has instructed them. This day was set apart or sanctified as a special day forever.** Throughout chapter 23 of Leviticus you will notice that the feasts are to be observed forever. On this day all the people of Israel were to assemble in honor of the Feast of Trumpets.

**Comment:** The Israelites who were led by God in the wilderness are actually considered a type of God's church (Acts 7:37-38). Jesus Christ was also the God who led Moses and the people of Israel through the wilderness and into the Promised Land (1 Corinthians 10:4). Notice the wilderness assembly is referred to as a congregation or church. The word "church", in fact, comes from the Greek word "ekklesia" meaning assembly or chosen ones.

**QUESTION*****What event occurs during this feast?***

Leviticus 23:24 tells us trumpets were to be blown as a memorial or reminder. One major thing God wanted the ancient Israelites to remember was that He and He alone was their God. They were to always remember that! That, in part, is why **He established His feast days.** For as long as the Israelites observed them, they knew who their God was, and they could differentiate between their true God and the false pagan gods of the people around them. Unfortunately, they all too often compromised by observing feasts God had not commanded (Deuteronomy 32:15-18), and thus they forgot Him;

and because they forgot, their nation came to its bitter end (Lamentations 1:1-4). Matthew 24:30-31 tells of a future trumpet blast that will summon God's people to be with him again. This scripture presents to us the real significance of the Feast of Trumpets. It makes it clear, Jesus Christ is coming again!

**“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”**

**(KJV Matthew 24:30-31)**

**(Also review 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)**

**Comment:** The trumpet was not only used in the festival ceremony, it was used as an integral part of daily life for God's people Israel. God commanded two silver trumpets be fashioned of hammered work (Numbers 10:1-10). These trumpets were used to guide the people through the wilderness, call the division leaders to assembly, and organize the camps. Only the sons of Aaron were allowed to blow these trumpets. Notice the protection afforded by them when Israel went to battle against their oppressors. Numbers 10:9 states, "...you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and you will be saved from your enemies." These are the same trumpets that were to be blown during the Feast of Trumpets (Numbers 10:10).

The silver trumpets are symbolic of the trumpets that were heard at the base of Mt. Sinai when Israel came before the Lord as He came down upon Mount Sinai in a cloud to deliver the Ten Commandments to them. You can read about this in Exodus 19. Like the blast that called the Israelites to order at Sinai, the silver trumpets, blown only by the Levitical priesthood, symbolized God's authority and leadership over His people. Remember, God is building a spiritual family from physical people. He sometimes uses the physical to help us understand spiritual concepts. Just as physical Israel was called to God before Mt. Sinai with trumpet blasts, so also will spiritual Israel be called to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, at His return with the blast of a trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

#### **QUESTION**

***Did the Feast of Trumpets coincide with another day of blowing the trumpets?***

Numbers 10:10 tells us that trumpets were blown by Watchmen to signal the beginning of each month. The Watchmen were placed strategically so they could observe the moon and avoid making any mistakes. According to the Hebrew calendar, each month begins on a new moon. The priest anticipated this event. Properly announcing the beginning of months was crucial for correctly timing the festival dates. Coincidentally, the Feast of Trumpets begins on the first day of the seventh month on God's calendar. On this day the trumpets **were to announce the new moon, to begin the month and to commemorate the feast.** No other feast begins on the first day of the month.

**Comment:** Just as the priest anticipated the arrival of the new moon, true Christians look forward to the fulfillment of this festival – the return of Jesus Christ. Throughout the New Testament scriptures there is a sense of anticipation and watchfulness. But not every new moon brings the Feast of Trumpets. Thus true Christians must continually watch in order to be prepared to meet Christ at His second coming.

**“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:34-36)**

#### **QUESTION**

***Why are Christians to watch for the time of Christ’s return?***

Matthew 24:37-39 tells us the return of Jesus Christ is compared to the days just before God flooded the earth. Except for Noah and his family, life was going on as usual for the rest of humanity. Noah, who had been instructed in what was to come, was not given a specific time when the flood would begin until seven days before it began to pour down rain (Genesis 7:1-4). God determined when Noah should enter the ark, and He also determined the start of the flood. Notice Matthew 24:42 states we are to watch for Christ’s return because the specific time of His return is not revealed to us. Others,

those people not anticipating the return of Jesus Christ, are compared to people who are sleeping. Conversely, the Christian is to watch for the time in a sober, disciplined manner (1 Thessalonians 5:6). Christ used a parable in Luke 12:35-40 to illustrate the importance of being ready. Please review this parable.

#### **QUESTION**

***Will Christ’s return catch many people unaware?***

Luke 21:34-35 tells us that for those caught up in “carousing” or the entertainments of this world, Christ’s second coming will be a complete surprise. (Also read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

#### **QUESTION**

***Who determines the time of Christ’s second coming?***

Matthew 24:36 tells us only God the Father knows the time of Christ’s second coming. Not even the angels are given this information. The apostles asked Jesus himself for the time of His return (Acts 1:6-7), but Christ responded that God the Father reserves the knowledge of that day to His own authority.

#### **Sign of The Times**

As we have seen, Christians are compelled by the scriptures to watch for the return of Jesus Christ. They must watch in a vigilant and sober manner. Yet, as already stated, no one knows the date of His return, not even Christ Himself. Therefore, what are God’s people to watch? Will there be events

occurring in the world that will indicate the soon-coming return? Even the apostles wanted to know the signs of Christ's second coming:

**“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and the end of the age?” and Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.” (Matthew 24:3-4)**

Read the entire chapter of Matthew 24, which outlines the events that will precede Christ's return. The description begins with world events that have been common throughout man's history and gradually narrows to the very specific events that will precede Christ's return. These very end-time events are the ones we should be watching for now (see also Luke 21). Also, the Book of Revelation was written to give Christ's disciples a major outline that would help them understand their place in history. While it is a difficult book to read, it becomes more relevant with each passing day as world events lead up to Christ's imminent return.

#### **QUESTION**

***Who could deceive the apostles?***

Revelation 12:9 states Satan the Devil is the great deceiver of this world. Satan is the father or originator of lies, as shown in the Garden of Eden encounter (John 8:44, Genesis 3:4). Lucifer wanted to remove God from His throne (Isaiah 14:12-15). He also wanted to rule the Kingdom of God. Before his fall, Lucifer was a cherub created perfect in all

ways. However, when Lucifer sinned, he was no longer a cherub angel – he became Satan (Ezekiel 28:14-16). Satan's attempt to overthrow God was an attempt to destroy the very plan of God. Even though Satan's attempt to overthrow the throne of God failed, he still wants to deceive God's people concerning the future.

#### **QUESTION**

***What are the signs of Christ's return?***

In Matthew 24:5-12 Jesus Christ describes a world closing in on the brink of disaster. The world's state will decay socially, religiously, and politically. “Lawlessness” or disobedience will fill the minds of many people, destroying their natural affection and concern for others' well-being. Some areas of the world will experience large food shortages and the spread of diseases. False prophets will deceive many. Even those faithful to God will be persecuted and put to death for their obedience to Him. Nations around the world will engage in war.

#### **QUESTION**

***How do the events just before Christ's return compare to any other time period in the history of mankind?***

Matthew 24:22 tells us that just prior to Christ's return the world will experience such chaos that it could utterly be destroyed. Mankind will, in a manner of speaking, force the return of Christ. Otherwise, man would completely annihilate all life from this planet. The time right before his return, called the great tribulation, will be followed by unnatural cosmic events (Matthew 24:29).

## QUESTION

### ***Are these events referenced elsewhere in the Bible?***

In Revelation 6-9 (entire chapters) end-time events are described and sequenced as a series of seals being opened (In ancient times scrolls were sealed shut by a drop of wax stamped with an insignia). Each successive seal that is opened brings more sorrow and destruction to the earth. The opening of the final seventh seal reveals seven angels with seven trumpets. The sounding of the first six trumpets again bring more devastation to the earth.

## QUESTION

### ***What occurs at the sounding of the seventh trumpet?***

1 Thessalonians 4:16 tells us when the seventh trumpet sounds, the Lord Jesus Christ will descend from Heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. When the last of the seven trumpets sounds, Christ will bring the time of man's world rulership to an end (Revelation 11:15). The "kingdoms" of this world will come under the authority of Jesus Christ. Revelation tells us Christ will punish the world for its evils (Revelation 15:1) and then bring an end to the chaos caused by the religious deception, wars, famines, and epidemics that have continually wreaked havoc on the earth.

## QUESTION

### ***Will Christ's return be welcomed by everyone on earth?***

Revelation 6:15-17 and Revelation 11:18 inform us the wrath of Christ will be fierce at His return. Man will have virtually destroyed much of the earth making it uninhabitable, thus people will be full of fear and self-preservation will dominate their thinking; it will be a time of lawlessness. The Biblical laws given to us by Christ will be virtually lost. Warring nations will turn their rage fueled by Satan toward Jesus Christ as He returns to the earth. (Revelation 17:12-14)

## QUESTION

### ***Will Christ fight against the nations?***

Revelation 19:11-15 explains that at his return, Christ will wield his power to overcome those who fight against Him. He is pictured on a white horse carrying a sharp sword and is crowned with great authority. Christ will wear the name "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

**Comment:** The return of Jesus Christ will have a two-fold effect. First, man's inability to rule himself will almost result in worldwide destruction. From the time of creation, God never intended man to follow a course of self-government; His law was to be every nation's fundamental creed of conduct. Yet, we can see the rejection of God's laws as the basis for governance has become almost universal in our time. As God's laws of peace and concern for others have vanished, greed and war have become more prevalent. Christ's return will remove man's self-willed governments.

Secondly, by bringing a halt to war, the world will be guided into real peace. As the nations are gradually

brought under the rule of the Kingdom of God, they will be educated in the way of give, not get; and the knowledge of God's word will engender an attitude of peace that will permeate **their nations** (Isaiah 11:9).

#### **QUESTION**

***Does Christ return to save the world from destruction?***

Matthew 24:22 reveals that before Christ returns times on the earth are going to become so dangerous, that utter destruction of the entire world is possible. Yet, verse 22 also tells us those evil times will be shortened because there is an "elect" or body of faithful Christians who Christ wants to save. This is similar to the days of Noah when Christ saved Noah and his family from utter destruction. It also parallels the circumstance in which Lot and his family were spared when angels came to Sodom to destroy it because of its total depravity (Genesis 19).

The return of Christ will save the elect, and the rest of the world will be at least partially spared in order for the nations to learn about God's ways and come under the rule of God's kingdom. Jesus Christ will return to gather His elect. Those who have died in Christ will be resurrected to meet Him first. Then, those who are alive at the time of his return will also rise to meet with them in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Rather than taking the resurrected saints off to heaven, he will return with them to stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4-5). The saints will work with him to set up the Kingdom of God on the earth (Revelation 20:6).

#### **QUESTION**

***Will those who meet Christ in the clouds remain as physical human beings?***

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 tells us when the elect meet Christ in the air, their bodies will no longer be physical. At the sounding of the last trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise in an incorruptible, spiritual body. The living will instantly change from having a physical body to possessing a spiritual body. Death will no longer be a threat to the resurrected elect.

#### **QUESTION**

***Is the return of Christ a secret event?***

Revelation 1:7 states Christ's return will be witnessed by everyone on the earth. The brilliance of Jesus Christ is likened to the sun shining at full strength (Matthew 24:27, Revelation 1:16). Matthew 24:27 talks about lightning flashing from the east to the west, and states Christ's return will follow an east-west circuit around the earth, much like our sun. Therefore, the return of Jesus Christ to this earth will be as public as the rising sun.

**Comment:** God's ultimate purpose for creating man is to give him a future beyond this physical existence. Our free booklet, *Why Were You Born* explains exactly what that future existence means. (Please order your free copy from our website, [wonderfulworldtomorrow.org](http://wonderfulworldtomorrow.org).) The first resurrection, which occurs at Christ's return, involves only a relatively small number of people, symbolized by the spring harvest of Pentecost. Just as God assembled the congregation in the wilderness

with trumpet blasts, He will also gather His people upon His return with a trumpet blast. The Feast of Trumpets truly is the crowning event for those who will be resurrected or changed at Christ's return. But that is not the end of the story. Please read our Bible Study regarding the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day to find out how all humanity will have a part in God's kingdom on earth.

### **God's Kingdom on Earth**

#### **QUESTION**

***Was the Kingdom of God present on the earth during the time of Christ and the apostles?***

John 18:36 tells us that when He was brought before Pilate, Jesus clearly explained the prophesied Kingdom was not on the earth at that time. He made it clear that if the Kingdom had been on earth, he and his servants would have defended it.

In Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 13, Christ used parables to present various aspects of the Kingdom. These parables were difficult to understand because he was not making the details of the kingdom widely known to everyone at that time. He knew that doing so would cause the people to rise up and demand that he establish the kingdom there and then, or they would stone him on the spot for uttering what they **might consider blasphemy**. Therefore, as he spoke about the coming kingdom, most just thought he was using parables to teach some bit of wisdom, much like most Bible scholars do today. In fact, the disciples had to ask him to explain the

meaning of the parables to them, which he did in private (Matthew 13:36).

#### **QUESTION**

***Who is given understanding of God's word?***

John 6:44-65 tells us that God calls many to a knowledge of the Kingdom, and then selects among those who **respond seriously to His** call. They are those who will serve in the Kingdom under the leadership and authority of Jesus Christ.

Not everyone can understand God's word completely unless God actually opens the mind to understand that knowledge. That is part of what happens when we are baptized and receive God's holy spirit. It takes God's spirit to deeply understand His mind and His way. Nevertheless, God's word is clear enough that all can understand the moral principles God has provided for mankind to live by. God's laws, especially His Ten Commandments, are clearly stated so that if followed, humanity could live a decent moral life on this earth, without knowing all the other details covered in the Bible. Therefore, mankind is responsible for choosing to disobey the moral law that can save them from so much pain and hardship. The societies that are well familiar with the Bible bare an even greater responsibility for which they will be held accountable. That is why Christ will deliver a very strong punishment to the warring nations that are about to destroy the earth **when He returns**. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that hatred, vengeance, lust, and greed are wrong, and he will punish those who follow that way.

## QUESTION

### ***How important is the Kingdom to a Christian?***

Matthew 6:31-34 tells us that seeking and preparing for the Kingdom is of paramount importance to a Christian. The pursuit of the kingdom by following the way of righteousness should be a true Christian's highest priority.

## QUESTION

### ***Will those who qualify rule with Christ upon his return?***

Daniel 7:22, 27 and Revelation 5:10 tell us Jesus Christ is bringing an everlasting Kingdom to the earth. Once he is on the earth, those the Bible refers to as saints, who are those who have qualified for eternal life in **God's coming kingdom**, will hold rulership positions under Christ. Those given the reward of the Kingdom will serve as kings and priests under Jesus Christ at Jerusalem (Revelation 20:6, Jeremiah 3:17).

## QUESTION

### ***Will there be a re-education of the world in the Kingdom?***

Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14 state that under the rulership of Jesus Christ the desire to hurt and destroy will be suppressed among the nations. The word of God will completely cover the earth. Peace and good news will flow from Jerusalem (Isaiah 52:7-9). It will be a time of joy, prosperity and true happiness.

## Conclusion

The Feast of Trumpets represents a turning point for humanity. Christ will bring the Kingdom of God to replace our current world of greed and destruction with a government focused on peace guided by God's law. Understanding and applying God's instructions will melt the hard-heartedness of this present world. Jesus Christ will set up the headquarters of God's Kingdom in Jerusalem where He will rule with the saints who will serve the world as kings and priests (Zechariah 14:16, also vs. 5 last part, and vs. 9; Revelation 20:6).

The trumpet blast signaling the return of Christ will bring God's master plan one step closer to completion. **True Christians are told to first seek the Kingdom that will bring true peace** and harmony for mankind. Up to the time of Christ's return, most of humanity will be blinded to God's purpose. Soon, however, these blinders will be removed. God will open the eyes of the world to a better tomorrow. Throughout the Bible are prophecies foreshadowing a better time to come. It will be a new chapter for the future of man. God will be our God, and all those who come willingly under His rule will be His people.

This completes our Bible Study on the subject of the Feast of Trumpets. To further understand what is in store for this world, please take the next step and study about the Feast of Atonement. The material contained in this next study is vital for you to understand. Once Christ returns there is some very important work that must first take place before he can set up the kingdom. Read all about the Feast of Atonement to understand what must surely take place if the world is to ever find true peace.









For additional information on this vital subject, we invite you to visit our web site at [wonderfulworldtomorrow.org](http://wonderfulworldtomorrow.org) or send your requests and questions to:

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