

Later Than It Has Ever Been....Feast of Trumpets

Welcome and Intro June 1974...summer band...Atwell Jr High School...Home of the Mighty Archers I found myself....clearly against my will...in the trumpet and horn section...in...of all places...the band I knew that I was out of place...You see I was the quarterback on the football team The band in my mind only existed so that we could go to the bathroom at halftime

I came from a very musical family...a tradition of excellence My brother was first chair in the clarinet...I thought it was first come first serve...pick any chair you want My Sister was all city...all state...all country...all world in count them 5 instruments

Yet I was clearly a mutant.... I failed the recorder...the recorder in 3rd grade Was dismissed on a mercy clause from my first piano lesson Failed guitar...failed choir...

Yet there I was...the first day of summer band practice.... Sitting in the trumpet section...Holding of all things...a trombone I might have been a musical mutant...but I was pretty smart...or so I thought Mom and Dad...made me go to band camp that summer So I told the band director I could play the trombone

I figured I would just sit with them...and when the anticipated time came I would fake it..I could move my horn by watching the guy next to me move his

For a little while...it worked... I walked around that first day...telling everyone...I could play the trombone I looked like I was part of the band.... Some of the girls thought it was cool that a quarterback...had a softer musical side For a few minutes this actually seemed to work

But then it came time....and the trumpets blew... I will not bore you with the details of my band failure... But lets just say...when the trumpets blew...everyone knew I was not ready The Sound of the Trumpet....changed everything. When the Trumpet Sounded....my charade ended

There are a lot of parallels.... Between my experiences with the Might Atwell Archer Band and a day...on God's Prophetic Calendar...an Appointed Time Yet to Come When the trumpet sounds...and everything changes

Today we are going to unpack the 5th Feast of 7 That God outlines in Lev 23 We move into the Fall feasts **The Three Remaining Feasts**... Feast of Trumpets...Day of Atonement...Feast of Tabernacles

These 3 Fall Feasts point to events...foreshadow what is to come... in the life of the Messiah...Jesus By studying these feasts....we can paint a picture of the future... Just like the Jewish nation could used the Spring Feasts to point to Jesus' first coming. We can study the Fall feasts and begin to understand His Second Coming Jesus wanted to make sure we knew what in the world is going on.

Jesus said we should be able to read the signs There are signs everywhere....in the heavens....on earth....among people... In the hearts of people... there are signs in the Bible... Through the OT prophets The Red Letters of Jesus Himself... And the promptings of the Holy Spirit

But when it comes to the Fall Feasts...the ones yet to come... We have other signs...the fulfilment of prophecy.. Signs we can see...all around us... The predictions and truths of the Bible....being played out Right in front of us...in Headlines...on TV and in newsfeeds

Let me share with you some of the things God told us would happen... Things visible in our world...that shout to us... Jesus' return is very near. TIME OUT>>>> I know...It is at this point the rumblings start... "Every generation has thought He was coming back very soon..." Crazy people have even tried to predict the date....

I heard a story once of a little girl.... Daddy It is later than it has ever been before! That is how I approach those comments.... It is later than it has ever been in the prophetic clock Jesus warned us...not to be complacent. So let me share with you some signs...that should be a wake up call for us. A wake up call for all of us about the prophetic timing of the Fall Feasts..

I am going to list them now, but later as the series heads toward Revelation, we will go into these in more detail.

Knowledge will increase without rest. We will have a cashless society based on microchips. A Rise in the interest of the Occult. Instant visual communication around the world. Marked Increase in Natural disasters, wars and pandemics. Christian Martyrdom will increase. There will be a lack of concern for the value of life. Rise in Spiritualism and New Age Religions. People will worship creation and not the creator. Disregard for the sanctity of marriage. World events will center around Jerusalem.

Israel will be its own independent nation. There will be fear and a preoccupation with the end of the world. There will be moral decline. Scoffers will be very popular and bring doubt to the masses. People will doubt the creation story. People will doubt Noah's story.

There are also prophecies of a one world government. One world military. One World Religion. Rebirth of the Old Roman Empire. An army of 20 million from East China.

World Islamic armies turn against Israel. and that is just the top 25 or so.

Our world today is almost perfectly described in writings from over 2000 years ago. Hundreds of prophecies...each one correct. Not one wrong yet.

There is no way you can truly study this book... With an open mind... And deny that God wrote it. God went to great extremes to make sure that His followers would know What in the world is going on

Jesus said that we should know the lesson of the Fig Tree.

Matthew 24:32–33 (ESV) 32 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Matthew 24:36–44 (ESV) 36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

No one knows the day and hour...only the Father But we should know the lesson of the fig tree... We should recognize the season... The Appointed Time

People will scoff.... But it is later than its ever been. Jesus said..He who has ears..let Him hear He said it would be like in the Days of Noah People scoffing and leading others astray.. While the sprinkles turned to showers I firmly believe...the waters of prophecy are sprinkling on us. Jesus is very near...at the very gates And we will see...that the Fall Feasts Add huge pieces to the puzzle..about Jesus' Second Coming

Before we dive into the Fall Feasts... Let's **consider the time** between the Spring Feasts and the Fall Feasts...

As we have discussed....Feasts represented God dealing with the Jewish People as a nation Major encounters between God and His covenant People But during the long hot summer months...there were no feasts..

These summer months painted a prophetic picture for the Jewish People.... Of a time when God would not be dealing with them on a national basis. They had intimate fellowship with God....Passover....Unleavened Bread...Firstfruits...and Weeks....They have traveled to Jerusalem twice so far...almost back to back....The Barley Harvest...The Wheat Harvest....and now....nothing.

These three long summer months where there is no feast...are prophetically significant. We are living in them now.

It is the time prophetically between the First Coming of Jesus and the Second. A time when God would be turning away from the Jewish Nation for a while...A time when He is grafting in the Gentiles to the vine. Some call the time that we are living in right now...the Church Period or The Time of the Gentiles.

Feast Photo It is a time of God primarily calling the Gentiles into His Kingdom When the full harvest of Gentiles is complete...this era ends...

But on a future day...the day foretold by the Fall Feasts... The trumpet will sound...the Gentile period will close..... And God's attention will once again turn to the Jewish Nation As He fulfils the Appointed Times of the Fall Feasts

The Three Fall Feasts.... Like the 4 Spring Feasts....foreshadow major prophetic events... In the life of Messiah Jesus.

Lets take a broad overview of these **Three Fall Feasts.**

The First Fall Feast is the Feast of Trumpets. The trumpet sounds a wakeup call for Repentance.

Ten days later...the Second Fall Feast...The Day of Atonement. It is the Holiest Day of the Year. They have had ten days to think about and atone for their sins....Now the High Priest enters the Holy Of Holies to atone for those sins of the Jewish People.

The Third Fall feast and final feast of the Year is the Feast of Tabernacles. When the work is done...The Harvest is over and everyone comes together to celebrate and live in tents.

Prophetically it is the ingathering of all believers both Jewish and Gentile forever.

7 Feasts So this is the first time in this series that I have outlined the entire prophetic picture given to us in the Appointed Times

Passover= the Lamb of God is sacrificed for the sins of the world.

Unleavened Bread...He is sinless, buried and taken away.

First Fruits...He is risen and has overcome death.

Weeks...The arrival of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the mission of the new covenant and ushering in the Time of the Gentiles.

Trumpets...the Trumpet sounds...I believe the Rapture occurs. The Gentile period is over....The focus turn back to the Jewish People. Prophetically the Jews begin to realize the depth of their sins and begin to turn to Jesus. I also believe another trumpet will sound at Jesus' Second coming later after the rapture....we will cover all of this.

Day of Atonement...The Jews come back to Jesus...The repent and acknowledge Him as Messiah.

Feast of Tabernacles...The Gentile and Jewish Harvests are over. Everyone comes together to celebrate and live together.

So today we continue with the Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:23–25 (ESV) The Feast of Trumpets 23 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.”

Numbers 29:1 (ESV) Offerings for the Feast of Trumpets 29 “On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets,

The Blowing of the Shofar **PHOTO SHOFAR** Shofar blows Occurred at various times and for various reasons A call to assembly.....command for Israel to move out.... A Call to war....Preparation for an announcement A warning of judgment to come....a call to celebrate or worship Announcement of the arrival of a wedding party Whenever the trumpet blows..God's People are to stop and take notice

The Jewish author Ari Goldman, in his book Being Jewish, says, “... the sound of the shofar, the ram’s horn ... is a kind of spiritual alarm clock for the soul”

Priests blew trumpets all the time... But only twice in Scripture does God blow the trumpet And in both cases it is the Shofar

The First time when He spoke to Moses on Mt Sinai

Exodus 19:18–20 (ESV) 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. 20 The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

And the next time will be upon the return of Jesus

Zechariah 9:14–16 (ESV) 14 Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. 15The LORD of hosts will protect them, and 16 On that day the LORD their God will save them,

This Feast was very unique

1. It occurred in darkness

Each new month began with the new moon **New Moon Picture 1**

Out of darkness came a sliver of light 2 or more Priests had to agree that the New Moon had Come Sometimes it was hard to tell...other times clouds were an issue Each month the Priests would make a short blast from the Shofar to let people know the new month had started

But on the Last month of the year...the 7 th Month They made a long and loud blast of the Shofar... To let everyone know...The light had penetrated the darkness And the Feast of Trumpets was beginning...A Holy Sabbath day

Every other feast occurred in the light...**Photo 3 MOONS**

2. No one knew exactly which day it would be

They were never sure...It was usually one of 2 days. The new moon always came 29.5 days after the last new moon It could be the 29th it could be the 30th

Those who lived in Jerusalem celebrate one day..because they could hear the shofar But those living outside of Jerusalem.. Were never quite sure when the holiday actually started

Those in other nations celebrated 2 days to make sure they got the right day The Feast of Trumpets became known as "The Day no one knows for sure"

3. It was a Sabbath but with no preparation day

They never knew when the actual day was going to be They knew the season...they knew within a few days... But they did not know the exact day and time

So they had to be ready...the had to prepare for this day in advance Each day of the month prior...after the morning prayers... The Rabbi would blow a short blast on the shofar It served as a call to repentance and a solemn reminder That the Holiest Days of the Jewish Year are approaching

The Week Prior to the time of this feast.. Is marked by reciting the Prayer of Repentance Heart rendering prayers...asking for forgiveness of sins

So when we think of the Feast of Trumpets... Light breaking through darkness Expected...but time not certain No preparation day...had to stay ready Waiting for the trumpet blast

The Feast of Trumpets...begins to paint a prophetic picture... It is the trumpet that signals this new Fall season of Appointed Times. The Book of Revelation opens with John saying...

Revelation 1:10–11 (ESV) 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches

As we go a bit further into Revelation... We begin to see the literal fulfilment of this Feast

Revelation 4:1 (ESV) The Throne in Heaven 4 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

The Prophet Joel... **Joel 2:1 (ESV) 2 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,**

Jeremiah said it this way.. **Jeremiah 6:17–19 (ESV) 17 I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!'**

The Trumpet is a warning...a wake up call We are to be watchmen...paying attention

The Three Fall Feasts signal Jesus' Second Coming

The next event on our prophetic calendar is the shout of the trumpet

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (ESV) 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (ESV) 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 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.

Let me share with you... Why so many, including myself, believe..... That there is strong Biblical support for the Rapture occurring at the Feast of Trumpets

1. All 4 Spring Feasts were filled specifically and intentionally in the Life of Jesus

It is reasonable to assume that the Fall feasts will follow suit It seems unlikely that God would appoint 7 times... With only the first 4 filled by the Messiah

2. The Phrase "on the day that no one knows" commonly referred to The Feast of Trumpets

Matthew 24:36–44 (ESV) 36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

3. While no one knows the exact day, time and year Paul tells us that the Day of the Lord should not surprise us

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (ESV) 5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

Paul said that Christ Followers should not be surprised..... Yet Jesus said...No one knows the day and time..only my Father

To understand completely What Jesus was saying... We need to better understand Jewish Wedding Feasts.

The phrase " No one knows the Day only my Father" Was the expected response when a Groom was asked When will your wedding be?

When a Groom became engaged to His Bride... He came to her and gave her a gift That gift was to sustain and provide for her while he as away....Then he would go away but he promised to return as soon as the Father said it was ok. He would leave to go to his father's house And build an addition to the home...where they could live Only his father could decide when the preparations were complete.

When everything was done and the Father said it was time The Groomsmen would assemble and lead the Groom to go get His bride

As they went through the streets...usually at night...to surprise the Bride They blew the ram's horn to tell the whole town that the Groom was coming And everyone should begin to get ready for the wedding.

These processions were usually in the dark of the night I suspect because the groom couldn't wait... So the Bride had bridegrooms who were to stand ready.. With lamps to light the way back to the Bride's new home The Bride was swept away by the wedding party To be taken to her Fiance for the wedding

The Wedding Ceremony was a great celebration Once they were married...the Groom would steal away the Bride And they would consummate their marriage and celebrate a honeymoon for 7 Days Then they would return to join the celebration on the last day.

Jesus constantly uses marriage language... To speak about His relationship with His followers He is the Groom...His followers the church...His bride They ask about the end times... He says No one knows the day...only my Father

He tells them He is going away To prepare a room for them in His Father's House He promises to return when everything is complete On a day that no one knows

He warns them to stay ready for his return He tells them that they will receive a gift He sends His Bride...His church... the Gift of the Holy Spirit.. A gift that will sustain them and provided for them until His return

His return is to be signalled by the blowing of the trumpets His bride..the church..His followers.. Will be swept away to be taken to Him For a great wedding ceremony He repetitively warns that this moment will come with surprise "Like a thief in the night"

After the rapture the bride is taken away for 7 Days On a honeymoon. Those 7 Days are what I believe the 7 years of Tribulation While followers are away with Jesus... The world will be in a time of tribulation Jesus returns at the end...to rescue Israel, and defeat Satan and his armies

With that context...listen to Jesus' parable Jesus told this parable in the middle of his discussion about recognizing end times

Matthew 25:1–4 (ESV) 25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

Three main characters... Jesus the Bridegroom One group on prepared for the groom They were anticipating His return They not only had oil...they had extra oil... Just in case Another group not prepared for the groom They looked like believers...acted that way on the outside Claimed to be believers....may worship like believers... They are not truly prepared

Note that they were all virgins Usually 12-20 years old.. Bridesmaid in Jewish culture were not yet married.. They had one function in the wedding celebration... They were to be prepared for anything...to give the Bride whatever she needed. But their primary job was to light the way for the wedding processional

And they all looked prepared They all thought that they would be at the wedding One group knew their responsibility, prepared for it, and were anticipating it. The other group took shortcuts, did things their way, and weren't prepared

Matthew 25:5–9 (ESV) 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'

The Bridegroom was delayed...all slept The Groom came in the night unexpected... All 10 are surprised... 5 awoke prepared...5 did not Not all were ready to come out and meet the Bridegroom

Those that were not prepared... Tried to use the preparations of others But without success.

As Christians we share generously with one another... But there is one thing we are unable to share Our own preparations for the coming of the Kingdom Each believer must stand or fall based on their own preparation and resources

Matthew 25:10–13 (ESV) 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Those who were ready went to the wedding Those who were not...were left behind
Note that there is a door...and it will close "I do not know you"

So what are we to do with all this? The Feast of Trumpets...will usher in the next great event..in the Appointed Times of God

Every indication from Scripture is that the Rapture of the Church will occur during that Feast Jesus told us to know the signs...and to be ready.... So are you?

One day in our future...One Solemnly Appointed Day....Jesus will come for His bride.... I believe along with many others... That His return will occur during the Feast of Trumpets I don't know what year... But Paul says... You are not in darkness for that day to surprise you like a thief

Let me help shape your reflection time a bit The Feast of Trumpets...Rosh Hashanah... Will occur this year beginning on Sept 25th and Ending on September 27. If this is the year.....are you ready? What do you need to do between now and then? How is the oil in your lamp? Where will you be when the door closes? With the wedding party or on your own?

The Rapture of the Church...on our day planner Does that change your week at all? Does it amp up your urgency for sharing this message? Increase your desperation? Does it send you into a time of repentance..and self examination To make sure you have trusted Jesus...and your name is in the Book of Life?

That reality changes everything doesn't it? No one knows when Jesus will return... But we are supposed to live...every day... With the thoughts you are having right now... Ready and watching I believe that this Feast serves as an annual reminder

A foreshadowing...of one day in the future.. The The light of the World..Jesus..Penetrates the Darkness.... The trumpet signals the Appointed Time for His bride... we will be caught up in the clouds with Him We are to stay prepared...and to be reminded It is later than it has ever been.

Many will discover.... Just like I did...pretending to be part of the band... That at the Appointed Time..when the trumpet blows It is obvious who is prepared and who is not Who has been faking it...and who really knew Jesus All ten looked the part..but only 5 were really ready

Jesus is at the gate...the conductor has started the music Soon it will be the Appointed Time for the Trumpets to play Are you sure that you and everyone you know are ready for that moment?

All you need to do...to join the Wedding Party of Jesus Is to know that God loves you and sent His Son Jesus as a gift for you God loved....God gave To believe that He took the punishment you deserved for your sins... That He died on the cross and was resurrected. He died your death...the one you deserved...so you could have life We believe To accept...to receive...to trust that what He did on the cross will save you.. We receive God loved...God gave...We believe...We receive

John 3:16–17 (ESV) For God So Loved the World 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

We are going to spend some time reflecting... Prepare yourself to meet God. It is later than it has ever been When you see the signs...He is at the gate

People ask me a lot... When do you think the rapture will come? When the only thing left that will get non-believers to turn to Jesus... Is the Rapture.

Is it really going to take the rapture....to get you to believe? Please bow your heads... God has brought you to this moment...right now.. And if you want to make sure...you are ready...

Please pray this prayer with me right now..