

YOM TERUAH 2023

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Well — here we are again ... keeping one of God’s Annual Holy Days.

If the world thinks we’re strange keeping the Weekly Sabbath ... we must be really far out to keep the Jewish Feasts too!! The Seventh Day Adventists keep the Sabbath — but when they come to the Holy Days — they dismiss them. They are ceremonial. Not many — very few — keep these days.

But — of course —there are good reasons to keep God’s Holy Days (rather than say Xmas or Easter).

So — as we always do — let’s review what the Bible reveals about today ... and see what we can learn.

Leviticus 23:1-2 (NKJV)

1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **The feasts of Jehovah ... of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.** (*“Feasts” — better translated as “God’s Appointed Times”*)

What if the world believed just this one verse? How very different society would be. **These are God's Feast Days!!! They belong to Him.** These aren’t the Feasts of Moses or Feasts of the Jews ... **they are God’s Feasts. His appointed times.** We ought to respect them.

Leviticus 23:4 (NKJV)

4 **“These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.** (*“Feasts” ... “Appointed Times” = Moedim*)

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NKJV)

23 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘**In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets**, (*“Blowing of Trumpets” — in Hebrew it is just one single word — “Teruah”. A shout or a blast of war ... alarm — or joy and rejoicing. Therefore ... on the 1st day ...you shall have a Memorial of Teruah*) **a holy convocation**.
25 **You shall do no customary work on it**; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.’ ”

Rather than calling it a “Day of Trumpets” ... we could call it a “Day of Teruah” or a “Day of Alarm or Joy”.

So ... **does God just want us to make a loud noise today? Or — is there some important spiritual truth covered by this day — in its yearly cycle?**

Traditionally: sounds were made with either a ram’s horn (shofar) or at times silver trumpets.

Numbers 29:1 (NKJV)

1 “And **in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation**. You shall do no customary work. **For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets**. (*“Blowing the trumpets” — only 2 words in Hebrew — Yom Teruah ... Day of the loud blasts... the day of shouting*)

The Jews today call it “Rosh Hashanah” ... the Chief Day of The Year. However ... it is not a Biblical term.

To understand the meaning of Yom Teruah **we’ll look at how the term “Teruah” is used in the scriptures**.

There are 3 ways that God uses this word:

1. The alarm of war
2. The shout of joy and rejoicing
3. Warning to us ... today ... to wake up and be alert

Part 1 ALARM OF WAR

Almost all of man's history has been war. Historians estimate that barely 300 years of recorded history have been completely peaceful.

Yom Teruah gives us advance warning of what is to come — of what lies ahead — more war!

Jeremiah 4:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say:

“Blow the trumpet in the land; (*trumpet = shofar ... alarm*) ...

Cry, ‘Gather together,’

And say, ‘Assemble yourselves,

And **let us go into the fortified cities.**’ (*because danger is imminent*)

6 Set up the standard toward Zion.

Take refuge! (*Hide*) Do not delay!

For I will bring disaster from the north,

And great destruction.” (*horrible calamities coming on the people*)

7 The **lion** has come up from his thicket, (*the lion here is King Nebuchadnezzar ... the king of Babylon*)

And the destroyer of nations is on his way. (*A term you could also apply to satan*)

He has gone forth from his place

To make your land desolate.

Your cities will be laid waste,

Without inhabitant.

8 **For this, clothe yourself with sackcloth,**

Lament and wail.

For the fierce anger of the Lord

Has not turned back from us.

Blow the trumpet of coming war — destruction and devastation is imminent.

Jeremiah 4:19-21 (NKJV)

19 O my soul, my soul!

I am pained in my very heart!

My heart makes a noise in me;

I cannot hold my peace,

Because you have heard, O my soul,

The sound of the trumpet, (shofar)

The alarm of war. (Teruah)

20 Destruction upon destruction is cried,
For the whole land is plundered.

Suddenly my tents are plundered,
And my curtains in a moment.

21 How long will I see the standard,

And **hear the sound of the trumpet?** (Shofar)

The watchman in ancient times would use trumpets to warn people of imminent danger.

Ezekiel 33:1-9 (NKJV)

1 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

2 “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them:

‘When I bring the sword upon a land, (*invasion/warfare*) **and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,**

3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, **if he blows the trumpet and warns the people,** (*a warning to escape ... destruction is coming*)

4 **then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning,** if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.

5 **He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning;** his blood shall be upon himself. (*It’s his own fault*) But he who takes warning will save his life.

6 But **if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet,** and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but **his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.** (*the watchman has an important job to do*)

7 “**So you, son of man: I have made you (Ezekiel) a watchman for the house of Israel;** therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. (*Part of a prophet’s role was to warn the people*)

8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

9 Nevertheless **if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity**; but you have delivered your soul.

If we don’t heed ... if we don’t respond to the trumpet warning ... then that is our choice — our fault.

Zephaniah 1:7 (NKJV)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God;

For **the day of the Lord is at hand**, (*soon ... almost here?*)

For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice;

He has invited His guests.

Zephaniah 1:14-18 (NKJV)

14 **The great day of the Lord is near**; (*sprinting towards us*)

It is near and hastens quickly.

The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter;

There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 **That day (the coming Day of The Lord) is a day of wrath,**

A day of trouble and distress,

A day of devastation and desolation,

A day of darkness and gloominess,

A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 **A day of trumpet (Yom Shofar) and alarm (Yom Teruah)**

Against the fortified cities

And against the high towers. (*Against your defences*)

17 “I will bring distress upon men,

And they shall walk like blind men,

Because they have sinned against the Lord;

Their blood shall be poured out like dust,

And their flesh like refuse.” (*The Day of the Lord’s wrath upon those who refuse to listen to Him*)

18 Neither their silver nor their gold

Shall be able to deliver them

In the day of the Lord’s wrath;

But the whole land shall be devoured

By the fire of His jealousy,

**For He will make speedy riddance
Of all those who dwell in the land.** (*Better make sure you are on
God's side!!*)

This is a hard time coming up. We don't want to be in it!

Let's look at The New Testament now. (Trumpets in Greek = Salpigx)

**The Book of Revelation: We have 7 seals ... 7 trumpets ... 7
vials. Seven very special trumpets relevant to us today.**

Revelation 8:1-2 (NKJV)

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 And **I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them
were given seven trumpets.** (*Salpigx*)

Is it good news or bad news?

Revelation 8:6-13 (NKJV)

6 So the seven angels who had the **seven trumpets** prepared themselves to sound.

First Trumpet:

7 The first angel sounded: And **hail and fire followed, mingled with
blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees
were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**

Second Trumpet:

8 Then the second angel sounded: And **something like a great
mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of
the sea became blood.**

9 **And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the
ships were destroyed.**

Third Trumpet:

10 Then the third angel sounded: And **a great star fell from heaven,
burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the
springs of water.**

11 **The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.**

Fourth Trumpet:

12 Then the fourth angel sounded: **And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.**

13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, **“Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”**

(Voice) Woe, woe, woe—horror, disaster, and calamity—to the earth dwellers!

Woe! Woe! Woe! There's worse coming. Utter **calamity** and **destruction** is imminent!

Revelation 9:1-6 (NKJV)

Fifth Trumpet:

1 Then the fifth angel sounded: **And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.**

2 **And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit (abyss) like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.**

3 **Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth.** And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. *(In my opinion: Demonic spirit beings released from the abyss)*

4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, **but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. **Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.**

6 **In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

Revelation 9:10-12

10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. **Their power was to hurt men five months.**

11 **And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Destruction and Destroyer)**

12 **One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.**

These are really grim times.

Revelation 9:13-21 (NKJV)

Sixth Trumpet:

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the **trumpet**, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” *(Euphrates runs through today’s Islamic territory 😊)*

15 **So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. (A very specific time)**

16 **Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.**

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulphur yellow; **and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.**

18 By these three plagues **a third of mankind was killed**—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. *(A third of the whole earth ... or a third of the theatre of the prophecy)*

19 For **their power is in their mouth and in their tails**; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

20 **But the rest of mankind, (the survivors) who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands**, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

21 **And they did not repent** of their murders or their sorceries (“sorceries” = PHARMACIES in Greek — occult ... magic ... or the pharmaceutical industry) **or their sexual immorality or their thefts.** (Even with this punishment and carnage ... you still can't get to these people ... they do not repent)

I think that Trumpets 5 and 6 are demonic.

So ... Trumpet blasts are associated with massive destruction ... 100's of millions of people dead ... much of society in ruins.

The world we know today would be unrecognisable.

God uses the symbol of Trumpets to warn us of what lies ahead just before Jesus returns.

But Teruah does not only picture bad news! Its other meaning is SHOUTING FOR JOY!

Part 2 GREAT REJOICING

Yom Teruah also pictures great news for us. **Today pictures the day when Jesus becomes King over the whole world.** King of Kings. The day ... finally ... **God's Kingdom is established.**

We have read of 6 trumpets in Revelation ... now on to the 7th trumpet ... the last one!!

Revelation 11:15-18 (NKJV)

Seventh Trumpet:

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: **And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”** (If you are a believer ... this is almost the best verse in the Bible. We would be shouting AMEN!)

16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

17 saying:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,

The One who is and who was and who is to come,

Because **You have taken Your great power and reigned.**

18 The nations were angry, and **Your wrath has come** (*came*),

And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,

And **that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,** (*good news for us ... Jesus is back ... setting up the Father's Kingdom*)

And those who fear Your name, small and great,

And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (*For the world ... even more judgment*)

The blowing of the seventh trumpet brings in the fulfilment of many many prophecies ... that one day God's Messiah would reign on this earth.

Daniel 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 “I was watching in the night visions,

And behold, **One like the Son of Man,** (*Jesus most frequently calls Himself the Son of Man — 78 times*) **Coming with the clouds of heaven!**

He came to the Ancient of Days, (*Jesus coming to The Father*)

And they brought Him near before Him.

14 **Then to Him** (*the Lord Jesus*) **was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,**

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:27 (NKJV)

27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,**

And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,

Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

(*The saints share in the administration of God's Government... at the 7th Trumpet*)

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

When? When the 7th Trumpet blows! The 7th Teruah of Revelation.

Matthew 24:11-16 (NKJV)

11 **Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.** (*We had better be alert to that*)

12 **And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**

13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

15 **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’** spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing in the holy place”** (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 **“then** let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

The sign of the end-time is the Abomination of Desolation.

Those in Judea have got to flee — immediately! Why? Look at verses 21 and 22.

Matthew 24:21-22 (NKJV)

21 **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

22 **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.** (*We are talking here about a unique time of trouble and calamity like never before in history ... the Great Tribulation*)

Let’s pick up the good part:

Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)

29 **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** (*6th Seal — The Heavenly signs*)

30 **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of**

Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And **He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.** (*A real shout for joy!! At long last! The best news ever*)

His Angels will gather us together. How will we react when we hear that trumpet? We'll probably have been counting down the days? Waiting for it.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, (*died*) lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For **if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.**

16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, (Teruah) with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (the saints)**

17 Then **we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (*As Jesus returns ... a great shout of joy*)

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 (NKJV)

50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.**

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. (God's trumpet!) For the trumpet will sound, and the dead (the saints) will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (Immortality!)**

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “**Death is swallowed up in victory.**”

I imagine The Father and The Lord Jesus are looking forward to this day ... looking forward to their plan coming to fruition? And we can look forward too?! Our change to immortality.

Does that mean we can just relax till then? Wait ... with nothing to do?

PART 3 A TERUAH TO AWAKE!

Jesus frequently warned His disciples to **stay awake** — **BE ALERT!**

Mark 13:24-29, 32-37 (NKJV)

24 “**But in those days, after that tribulation,** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 **Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.**

27 **And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.**

28 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 So you also, **when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors!** (*You and I should be able to see what is in the prophecies*)

32 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 **Take heed, watch and pray; (Be aware!! Be alert!) for you do not know when the time is.** (*Here is Jesus’ conclusion! Take heed ... watch and pray!*)

34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

35 **Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming**—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— (*Jesus is talking to His disciples!*)

36 **lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.**

37 And what I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!** *(That means you and me! NET: Stay alert!)*

Watch!

Luke 21:29–36 (NKJV)

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 So you also, **when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.** *(If we are not looking for them ... don't know what we are looking for ... then we will pass on by)*

32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will by no means pass away.**

34 “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.** *(Is that possible? It must be — Jesus tells us to watch out)*

35 For **it will come as a snare** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. *(It shouldn't come as a snare/trap to God's people)*

36 **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.** *(Watch Therefore ! KEEP ON THE ALERT. Pray ALWAYS!!)*

This is addressed to Jesus' disciples — you and me!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 (NKJV)

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 **For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**

3 For when **they say, “Peace and safety!”** then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. **And they**

shall not escape. (For when “they” = the unconverted ... the people in the world ... outside the Church)

4 **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.** (“YOU” ... brethren ... the converted)

5 **You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.**

6 **Therefore let us not sleep,** as others do, but **let us watch and be sober.** (Be alert! Be awake!)

Romans 13:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

11 And do this, knowing the time, that **now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. **Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

13 **Let us walk properly,** as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

We’ve perhaps been watching for a long time? Getting tedious? Are we getting weary? Are other distractions coming along? Perhaps it won’t happen for 50 more years?

BE CAREFUL! JESUS SAID “AT A TIME YE THINK NOT”.

So ... **Yom Teruah** is:

- A loud blast of alarm of war
- A shout of joy — for God’s Kingdom
- For us here and now for us today — a blast to stay awake.

So ... let’s look forward to the reality of this day — And the return of The Lord Jesus.

Until then let’s REMAIN ALERT!

