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## **Trumpets...*the years ahead***

**The Biblical holy days depict the divine plan. The Day of Trumpets, in the autumn, is a pen-portrait of the end-time**

by Bill Faith

After spending forty days with Jesus following his resurrection from the dead, and while they were standing upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples witnessed the resurrected Jesus Christ rising from the earth and ascending to heaven. As He disappeared behind a cloud two men in white apparel stood by them and 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 1:11).

From that day forward, the disciples expected Christ to return at any time. Only after several years did they finally understand that He would not return in their lifetime.

### **Predictions**

Many prophecies in both Old and New Testaments tell of His return, when God's government will be established on this earth. Daniel, explaining Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerning future world governments, said that finally, "*The God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms [all previous kingdoms] and it shall stand forever*" (Daniel 2:44).

The prophet Isaiah, speaking of this Kingdom wrote, "*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain [government] of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains [over all governments], and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it*" (Isaiah. 2:2).

Just before Jesus' ascension into heaven the disciples thought that He would fulfill that prophecy then. "*They asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'*" Jesus replied to them saying, "*Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'*" Jesus replied to them, "*It is not for you to know times or seasons*

*which the Father has put in His own authority*" (Acts 1:6-7). This prophecy was not to be fulfilled at that time, but for a time yet future.

Jesus himself previously had given them insight regarding that time in the future when He would return. He told them.

*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. 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* (Matthew 24:29-30)

### **A Troubled Future**

The Bible teaches us that just before the return of Christ to this earth, "*...there will be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation*" (Daniel 12:1). Jesus speaking of this same time told His disciples, "*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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened*" (Matthew 24:21-22).

It is at this same time when Jesus returns that He will also gather His people. Those who are still alive will be instantly transformed while those who are dead will be resurrected to eternal life. "*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...*" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Jesus told us that the exact time this will happen is only

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known by God the Father. (Acts 1:7) The Apostles Peter and Paul both make reference to this time when Christ will return. Peter warned,

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,...Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless* (II Peter 3:10-11,14)

Paul, however, added that that day should not take Christians by surprise. *“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so come as a thief in the night... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober”* (I Thessalonians 5:2, 4-6).

### **Divine Plan**

The return of Christ and the resurrection of the saints are important events yet to be fulfilled. To help remind us of such events concerning salvation, God has instituted holy days that are to be shadows of things to come (*refer to Colossians 2:16-17*).

In fact, the Feast of Trumpets is the holy day that foreshadows the return of Christ and the resurrection of His people. The Bible states that there will be *seven* trumpets which will signal calamities that will happen upon the earth in the latter days.

The seventh and last trumpet will signal the return of Christ and the resurrection of the elect. For we are told in I Corinthians 15:51-52, *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

In conclusion, there is a time yet future when our Lord Jesus will return to this earth and establish Himself as King of kings and Lord of lords (*see Revelation 19:16*). This will usher in a time of great peace, often called the millennium. *“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea”* (Isaiah 11:9).

It will be a time when, *“...They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore”* (ch. 2:4). It will come at a time that will surprise the world, yet will not surprise those who know God’s plan for salvation. That plan is revealed by the holy days that God gave man to observe.

The *Feast of Trumpets* is the day that foreshadows the return of Christ to this earth and the resurrection to eternal life of the saints.

*Request the booklets (no charge):*

### **God’s Holy Days Tabernacles - *mankind in the flesh***

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