**The Feast of Trumpets & The Day of Atonement**

**1) Being selective about God’s word**

1a) Today’s Christians are very selective about which bits of God’s word they feel are important to keep and which they feel it’s ok to completely ignore. For example, in the 10 commandments, everyone agrees that we shouldn’t murder. Most would agree that we shouldn’t commit adultery. However few believe its important to keep the 4th commandment, “Keep the Sabbath day holy… on it you shall not do any work …” (Exod. 20, 8-10).

1b) Celebrating the Biblical feasts is another Biblical command that most Christians today would never even think about.

1c) But there are 7 Biblical feasts that God commanded his people to celebrate every year without fail. The purpose of these 7 high points in the Biblical calendar was to focus the minds of God’s people on the 7 great highpoints in God’s redemptive history.

**2) What are the Biblical feasts?**

2a) In the Bible, God commanded His people to celebrate 7 feasts (Lev.23).

1) Passover. 2) Feast of Unleavened bread. 3) Offering the First Fruits 4) Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). 5) Feast of Trumpets. 6) Day of Atonement. 7) Feast of Tabernacles.

2b) There are 7 feasts because 7 is the number of completeness in the Bible.

2c) **Jesus didn’t come to start a new religion separate from Judaism, with its own Christian feasts.** The apostles and the first believers didn’t celebrate Christmas. The year 326 is the first recorded mention of Christmas as a feast day.

Easter and Pentecost are Biblical feasts that found their perfect fulfillment in Jesus.

2d) Around the 4th Century AD, as Christianity became more accepted in the Roman empire, the church deliberately stripped all the Jewish elements out of the Christian faith to make it more culturally acceptable. For example, Sunday replaced the Sabbath and Easter replaced Passover.

2e) The Roman Church took the mid-winter festival which honoured the Roman God Saturn and super-imposed it with the birth of Jesus, even though the Bible actually tells us that Jesus was born around the time of the feast of tabernacles (Sept or Oct).

 “In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly **division of Abijah”** (Luke 1, 5). 1 Chron 24, 10 tells us that the **descendants of Abijah** were on the rota to serve in the temple in the 4th month of the Jewish year. “When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant” (Luke 1, 23-24).

Jesus was conceived in the 6th month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy (Luke 1, 26), and born 9 months later. If you add 15 months to the 4th Jewish month, you come roughly to the feast of tabernacles in the 7th month. “The word became flesh and tabernacle amongst us” (John 1, 14).

**3) Four Feasts have been fulfilled**

**3a) Passover**

Passover remembers how the Israelites killed a lamb and daubed its blood on their doorposts so that the angel of death killed all the first-born of the Egyptians but passed over the homes of the Jewish people. Jesus was nailed on the cross at the exact time that the first of the daily sacrifices was killed in the temple, and he died at the exact time of the second sacrifice, which on Passover was the exact time that the Passover lambs were killed.

**3b) The Feast of Unleavened bread**

The festival of unleavened bread is celebrated for 7 days, starting on the day after the Passover. It remembers how when the Israelites left Egypt, they didn’t have time to add yeast to their bread dough, so they ate unleavened bread. (Exod. 12, 34).

In the Festival of unleavened bread, the Jews go throughout their houses and clean out everything that contained yeast. Including sweeping the crumbs out from under the cupboards and bed. Then they eat unleavened bread for 7 days.

Yeast throughout the New Testament refers to sin. (1 Cor. 5, 7-8), and the unleavened bread reminds us how we need to live without sin in our lives.

This feast finds its fulfillment in the fact that it was impossible for believers to be free of sin before the Cross. But on the cross, Jesus broke the power of sin and death in our lives and made us a new creation. The day after the cross was the first day since Adam that it was possible for God’s people to live free from sin. That’s the day of that the festival of unleavened bread was celebrated.

**3c) The Feast of Firstfruits**

Firstfruits is celebrated on the second day of the festival of unleavened bread or the 3rd day after Passover. On this day, the first sheaf of corn is cut and presented to the Lord as a first fruit offering. On the 3rd day after the Passover, Jesus rose from the dead, “the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep”(1 Cor. 15, 20).

**3d) The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost**

It’s called the feast of weeks because the Israelites were told to count every day for 7 weeks. 7 x 7, the number of completeness. On the day after these 7 weeks, (or the 50th day after Passover) they were to celebrate the feast of weeks or Pentecost. Pentekoste is the Greek word for 50.

Why did they have to count and wait for the perfect time before celebrating this feast? Jesus said; “Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift that my father promised” (Acts 1, 4). Then “When the day of Pentecost was fully come” (KJV Acts 2, 1), the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church..

**4) The Autumn Feasts**

4a) Between the spring feasts and the autumn feasts is a long gap with no biblical feasts. That gap represents the church age, which we are now living in. Then suddenly at the start of the autumn, the remaining 3 biblical feasts happen, all very close together, within 15 days of each other.

4b) The autumn feasts all fall in the 7th month of the Jewish year. The Jewish year starts around March-April, so the 7th Month is in Sept/Oct. 7 means fullness or completion. When this age reaches its completion or fullness, these 3 remaining feasts will be brought to completion.

4c) The **feast of trumpets** is on the 1st day of the 7th month, the day **of atonement (Yom Kippur)** on the 10th day and the **feast of tabernacles** on the 15th day of the 7th month.

4d) These 3 feast look forward to the second coming of the Lord and foreshadow different aspects of what the Bible tells us is going to happen when the Lord comes back to the earth.

**5) The Feast of trumpets**

5a) "The feast of trumpets" took place on the 1st day of the 7th month. It was a day of rest, a day to blow trumpets, and to offer sacrifices over and above the usual sacrifices. (Lev. 23, 23, Numbers 10, 9).

5b) Trumpets were used in the Bible days i) to announce a special festival, ii) to call the people together for a special assembly, iii) to warn against an enemy, iv) when going into war or v) to announce the presence of a very important person like the King.

5c) So every year they would sound the trumpets and look back at past victories, come together for worship and look forward to a coming deliverer.

5d) The feast of trumpets points to the second coming of Jesus. Jesus second coming will be marked by a great fanfare of trumpets. This is mentioned by several of the Old Testament prophets (Zechariah 9, 14, Zephaniah 1, 14-16, Joel 2, 1). Jesus himself talks about it (Matt. 24, 31), and Paul describes how at the last trumpet the church will be raptured and Jesus will come back to the earth.

5e) The sequence of what happens with the 7 last trumpets is described most clearly in in chapters 8-11 of the book of Revelation. The **7 seals** mark the opening of the last chapter of this world age, with the going forth of the antichrist and all that happens as a consequence of that. The **7 trumpets** mark a new phase of the end time scenario. It marks the beginning of God Himself going stepping into battle against all that is evil in the world. That phase is announced by the sounding of the trumpets.

5f) At the sounding of the last trumpet, the church is raptured and Jesus comes back.

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” (Rev. 11, 15) “We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” (1 Cor. 15, 52. See also 1 Thess. 4, 16-17). ).

This is what the Feast of trumpets is looking forward to the days of the book of Revelation. Every year when those trumpets sound at the feast of trumpets, we should be preparing ourselves for what is to come, preparing ourselves for the difficult days of the end times and the glorious day of the second coming of Jesus.

**6) The days of awe**

6a) There are 10 days between the feast of Trumpets and the day of atonement. They are called **The days of awe.**

6b) The 10 days between the feast of trumpets and the days of atonement are days of **solemn repentance** where people have a last chance to ask God for forgiveness for the things that they’ve done wrong over the year before God renders his final judgment on the day of atonement.

6c) The Jews believe that on the day of trumpets, God opens the books of judgment for every person and that during the 10 day period between the feast of Trumpets and the day of atonement, God reviews the books of judgment and then on the day of atonement he makes his decision as to **whether that person will live or die** during the next year.

6d) The Bible says clearly that there are books for each person who lives on the earth. In that book is written down everything that they do. (Rev. 20, 12. See also Psalm 69, 28 & Psalm 139, 16).

So the trumpets called people to these 10 days of fasting, seeking God and repentance.

**7) Yom Kippur – The day of atonement**

7a) Yom means day. Kippur literally means covering. The traditional Jewish hat is called a Kippa because it covers your head!

7b) Yom Kippur is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. It foreshadows the great and terrible day of the Lord, which will be a day of forgiveness and mercy for the righteous but a day of judgment for the wicked.

7c) This is the day on which the nation of Israel will ask God to forgive all the sins that they have committed during the last year and to wipe the slate clean.

7d) Under the old covenant, this was the **one day of the year when the High priest would go into the Holy of Holies**, the most sacred room within the temple where the ark of the covenant was.

7e) Before he went in, the priests would take 2 goats, and one they will kill and collect the blood from it. When the priest went into the holy place he would sprinkle the blood on the lid of the ark of the covenant as a sacrifice. The priest would then lay his hands on the head of the second goat which was called the “scapegoat”, and confess His sin and the sin of people, so symbolically transferring their sin onto the goat. The goat would then be driven into the desert taking away the sins of the nation with it.

7f) So it was the Holiest day and the Holiest priest would go into the Holiest place to ask for the most important thing of all – the blessing of God for the year ahead.

**The most important day of your life**

8a) The most important day of your life is the day that you stand before God in judgment. “The dead will be judged according to what they have done as recorded in the books” (Rev. 20, 12).

8b) When you stand before God, **you will stand alone.** Every thing that you’ve done in secret will be brought out in the open for all to see. (Luke 12, 2-3).

8c) Some will be welcomed into eternal life. To others he will say; “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25, 41).

8d) Those who are Christian believers don’t need to be afraid of that. The Bible speaks of another book. The lambs book of life. Anyone who has given their life to Jesus has their name written in that book. Like on the day of Yom Kippur, those who have come to Jesus have the record of the past sins washed away.

8e) Yom Kippur doesn’t cover your future sins. Sins that you commit in the future will have to be examined and dealt with at some future time otherwise they will stand between you and God.

And for those of us who are believers, even though we are saved, God will judge our works (1 Cor. 3, 10-15). He will examine the way we have lived for Him or wasted our time with Him and reward us accordingly.

**9) All Israel will be saved**

9a) There’s another day that is also recorded in several places in the Bible, which the day of atonement looks forward to. The day of Israel’s greatest ever crisis, in the sequence of events around the time when Jesus comes back. The whole nation of Israel will be saved.

“I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way **all Israel will be saved**. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” (Romans 11, 25-27).

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be as great as the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”. (Zech 12, 10 - 13, 1).