

The Feast of Trumpets

In the Mosaic Law, God gave the Israelites seven feasts to celebrate throughout the year. They are the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feasts of Firstfruits, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. The Lord required Israelites to celebrate all seven of them each year (which, sadly, they didn't do).

Each one of these feasts pointed to a very important event that God would do in the future, which is why they're sometimes called "God's calendar". When Jesus came into this world He fulfilled the first four feasts within a brief span of time, and did so in their specified order (Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and finally Pentecost). That leaves three that have not yet been fulfilled.

Of the three that are left, the Day of Atonement is understood to be talking about the redemption of the Jews at the end of the tribulation period. The Feast of Tabernacles is looking forward to the millennium, which follows the tribulation. That leaves the most mysterious one of all: the Feast of Trumpets.

In the Jewish year, the first four feasts are referred to as "spring feasts" and take place at the beginning of the year. The last three feasts are referred to as "fall feasts" and take place in the second half of the year. There's a long gap between Pentecost and Trumpets, which is the next one on the list.

That means the next feast which will be fulfilled is the Feast of Trumpets. The problem is no one knows what this feast is about. Unlike all of the other feasts, the Bible only mentions it briefly and provides no supporting information about how to interpret it.

The Feast of Trumpets is mentioned twice in the Mosaic Law. The first time is in Leviticus:

Leviticus 23:24-25: "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.”

This passage tells us that it's held on the first day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. The day is a memorial (however, we're not told what it's a memorial of). The day involves blowing trumpets (but we're not told why they're being blown). The day is holy and no work is to be done. As you can see, that's not a lot of information to go on.

The passage does say that offerings are to be made to God on that day. More details about those offerings can be found in the book of Numbers, which is the last time this feast is mentioned:

Numbers 29:1-6: “And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you. And ye shall offer a burnt offering for a sweet savour unto the Lord; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year without blemish: And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals for a bullock, and two tenth deals for a ram, And one tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs: And one kid of the goats for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you: Beside the burnt offering of the month, and his meat offering, and the daily burnt offering, and his meat offering, and their drink offerings, according unto their manner, for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the Lord.”

On the day of the Feast of Trumpets, three types of offerings were to be made: a burnt offering (which symbolized dedication to God), a meat (flour) offering (which symbolized fellowship with God), and a sin offering (to make atonement for sin).

That's all we know about the Festival of Trumpets. There's no evidence in the Bible that the Israelites ever celebrated it. There

are multiple mentions of celebrating Passover, and even a mention of celebrating the Festival of Tabernacles, but not this one. That means these two passages are all we have to go on.

Now, there are a lot of passages that talk about trumpets. Under the Mosaic Law, God commanded the Israelites to make two silver trumpets:

Numbers 10:2: “Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.”

The trumpets were to be used for calling people to assembly, and for telling Israel it was time to travel to a new location. The trumpets were also used to sound an alarm in times of war:

Numbers 10:9: “And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.”

Since God fulfilled the first four feasts of the Mosaic Law in order, it seems very likely that the next one to be fulfilled will be the Feast of Trumpets. Since each feast was fulfilled on the same day when it was celebrated, that means the Feast of Trumpets will also be fulfilled on that day as well.

Is there any event the church is commanded to look forward to that involves sounding a trumpet? There definitely is. It’s pretty well known:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52: “Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this world at the rapture, a trumpet will sound. That trumpet will signify that it's time for all Christians to gather together (to meet the Lord in the air), and to journey to a new location (Heaven). The trumpet is also sounding an alarm, since it will be sounded at a time when (according to Revelation 12:1-5) the devil will have just invaded the world for the express purpose of attacking the church the moment after it's resurrected. That means the trumpet will be fulfilling all three of the purposes of sounding trumpets.

It's entirely possible (although there's no way to know in advance) that the rapture will take place on the Feast of Trumpets and will fulfill that feast. If that's the case, it explains why we're not given any details about this festival. The apostle Paul referred to the rapture as a "mystery", which means the rapture was an entirely new doctrine that was entirely unknown until he mentioned it. This means that it wasn't revealed in the Old Testament, and it also means that Jesus never referred to it either. Paul was the first one to teach it. If the Feast of Trumpets is connected to the rapture then it would be impossible for us to be given any details about it in the Old Testament because God was keeping the rapture a secret until the days of the apostle Paul.

If the Bible linked the rapture to the Feast of Trumpets then it would be obvious there was only one day each year when the rapture could happen. However, since the Bible doesn't do that we can't make that assumption. There's no way to know for sure what the Feast of Trumpets is referring to until it's fulfilled.

That being said, Jesus did give us a warning:

Revelation 3:3: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Jesus told us that if we don't watch for His return then it will catch us by surprise. However, He seems to be saying that if we *are* watching then we *will* know the hour when He will return.

A wise Christian will know the signs that indicate the return

of Jesus Christ, and will be both watching for Him and ready for His return. As the signs are fulfilled (one by one), it will become clear that the hour of His return is drawing nearer. The final sign (the invasion of the devil, as described in Revelation 12:1-5) will take place the same day (and perhaps the same hour) as the rapture. The Feast of Trumpets seems like a great day of the year to be watching.