

Are We LISTENING?

Feast of Trumpets

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Ezekiel 33:1-11,30-33

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

DISTINCT SOUND

Understanding the Truth of God's Word

- A disciple:
 - ① Has a plan to read through his Bible **through** (completely) continually since he is commanded to live his life on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Luke 4:4)
 - ② **Reading is NOT enough.** God gave us His whole word to be **STUDIED** (2 Timothy 2:15) carefully. The disciple:
 - ① Identifies the writer being moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - ② Identifies the audience and studies to understand what they heard with their understanding and definitions.
 - ③ Applies the truths he learns from 1 and 2 to his life TODAY.

➤ Illustration: The “bridge of time” and finding out the truth.

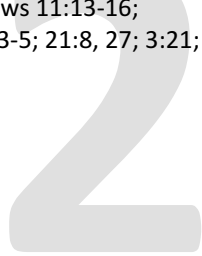
Looking at 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

- ① (v. 50) We CANNOT enter the kingdom of Heaven “just as we are” – we must be **changed**. (1 Cor 6:9-11; Rev 21:8; 22:15; Gal 5:19-21)
- ② (v. 51) It is a mystery (1 John 3:2) but we **all** will be changed.
- ③ (v. 52) The change will happen “in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye” at the “last trumpet”.
- ④ (v. 52) This “last trumpet” will signal a resurrection and a gathering of God's elect. Paul, as a Jew and Pharisee, is referring here to the last of 100 trumpets blown on the Feast of Trumpets.
- ⑤ (v. 57) This **dramatic** change from mortality to immortality; from being corruptible to incorruption happens as a result of the **work of Christ**.
- ⑥ (v. 58) **THEREFORE**, since we have this promise, we are to be **steadfast, immovable, always abounding** in the **work** of the Lord.

Where Have We Been in the Past Month

- For the past month we have been tracking the moon. We started with the **sixth** new moon and have been anticipating the **seventh** new moon that marks the Feast of Trumpets, a feast of the LORD.

- The Feast of Trumpets is a two day feast - Jews were recorded as saying, “no one knows the time of the New Moon”. Consider Matthew 24:36, 42, 44; Acts 1:7; Zech 14:7; 1 Thess 5:2; Deut 29:29.
- (Colossians 2:16-17) These verses tell us that the New Moon, as well as the feasts and sabbaths, “are shadows of things **to come, but the substance is of Christ.**”
 - (Leviticus 23:1-2) ---
 - ① These are the **LORD’s** feasts - NOT Jewish feasts!
 - ② “feast” has nothing to do with food - the Hebrew word is *mo’ed* - “**appointed time**”.
 - ③ “convocations” - “something called out”; “a public meeting”; “a **rehearsal!**”
 - We have pointed out that no where in the NT are we told **NOT** to celebrate the feasts of the Lord. **BUT** we have been told that whatever was written (including the feasts) was written for our learning. (Romans 15:4)
 - The feasts of the LORD and the New Moon are found in God’s Word and we, as **students** (“disciples” - John 8:31) of God’s Word, are **obligated** to **study** them. Many today are too lazy, complacent, or “too busy” to **study** God’s Word – each of these excuses are a demonstration of **arrogance** towards God. We are telling God that there are more important things in life than Him and His revelation of Himself in His Word!!!!!!!!!!
 - The feasts of the LORD are just that – feasts of the **LORD**. Whereas Christmas and Easter are feasts of an **apostate** church. Why are so many who call themselves Christians ignorant of the Lord’s feasts?
- (Luke 12:37) We used the watching of the moon throughout the past 30 days to remind us that we are **commanded** to be **diligent watchers** for the second coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42; 25:13)
 - ★ The consequences of NOT WATCHING (disobedience; sin) is **SEVERE!** (Luke 12:45-48)
- Christians/disciples **watch, look forward, groan and eagerly await** for the second coming of Christ because of the promises of God in His Word. (Luke 12:37; Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-14 1 Peter 1:4-5; Romans 8:16-17; Hebrews 11:13-16; 13:13-14; John 14:1-6; Revelation 19:7, 9; 22:3; 21:3-5; 21:8, 27; 3:21; 1 Cor 15:42-44; Psalm 73:25-26)



- **EVERYONE** who hopes in these promises **purifies themselves** just as He is pure and pursuing holiness. They **ACTIVELY PREPARE** themselves and are ready. They are busy doing the work God saved them. (1 John 3:3; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Cor 15:58; 2 Cor 7:1; 1 Tim 6:14; 2 Peter 3:14; Luke 12:35, 37, 43; Ephesians 2:10; James 2:14-26)

The Feasts of the LORD (Leviticus 23)

- God's Calendar. God reveals His plan for history in His Word. (Noah, Abraham (Genesis 15), Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2), Daniel 7-12, The Book of Revelation)
- God established SEVEN feasts to share His joy with HIS ELECT. His joy is His Son! (Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 3:17; 17:5)
- These are the LORD's FEASTS (**appointed times**)!
 - ★ God is the Host and prepares everything and does all the work.
 - ★ The ELECT bring NOTHING to the feast – they are guests!
- God HONORED/FULFILLED the first four of His feasts:
 - ★ He crucified His Son on His feast of Passover. (Isaiah 53:10; Luke 22-23; 1 Corinthians 5:7)
 - ★ God accepted His Son's PERFECT (sinless; "leavenless") sacrifice of Himself marking His feast of Unleavened Bread. (1 Peter 2:22; 3:18; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 John 3:5)
 - ★ God raised His Son on His feast of Firstfruits. (Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)
 - ★ God sent His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, on His feast of Weeks or Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-41; John 14:15-29; 15:26; 16:7-15; Exodus 34:22 with Romans 8:23; Acts 20:16)
- In sending His Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost, God established His Church AGE – **the Harvest season on His calendar**! This "Harvest Season" and the time of the Gentiles will come to an end! (Ezekiel 30:3; Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25; Jeremiah 8:20)
- The **end of the harvest season** was marked by the seventh New Moon and the blowing of trumpets. This day is the feast of Trumpets on God's calendar.
- At the end of the Church AGE – "**the Harvest**" (Luke 10:2) – there will be two in gatherings:
 - ① The gathering of His Bride, His Church. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; John 14:1-3) - This occurs on the Feast of Trumpets.
 - ② The saving and gathering of the nation of Israel. (Zechariah 12:1-14; Jeremiah 30-33) - This will occur on the Day of Atonement.
- The feast of Trumpets is quickly followed by the Day of Atonement and, finally, the feast of Tabernacles. ALL of which have **NOT** been fulfilled!

God's Trumpets (Numbers 10:1-10)

- God commanded the blowing of trumpets for:
 - ① Calling an assembly – gathering of His people. (vv. 1, 3, 4, 7)
 - ② Setting out to a new destination. (vv. 1, 5, 6)
 - ③ At the times of rejoicing at the appointed feasts and new moons. (v. 10)
 - ④ Assembling for war. (v. 9)
- EACH of these are prophetic in God's overall plan.
- There were **DISTINCT** blasts for: Assembling (gathering); moving; war; and worship. (See 1 Corinthians 14:8)
- When the trumpets sounded the people were to follow the **command** of the trumpet!

God' Prophets: God's Trumpeters (Ezekiel 33:1-11; Jeremiah 6:16-17; Isaiah 58:1)

- (Ezekiel 33:1-11) God's prophets (God's spokesmen) were called upon to be God's **watchmen**.
- God's spokesmen were called to **warn** the **unrighteous AND** the **righteous**.
- God called upon His watchmen to "blow the trumpet (shofar)" to arrest people's attention to **return** to God's ways! (Isaiah 58:1; Joel 2:1, 15; Hosea 8:1; Amos 3:6; Zephaniah 1:12-18; **Jeremiah 6:16-17**)
 - ☆ (Ezekiel 33:2-5) The consequences of heeding or ignoring the watchman's warning.
 - ☆ (Ezekiel 33:6) BUT if the watchman (God's spokesman) refuses to warn the people ("blow the trumpet") then God will require the death of sinners on his hands!!! (**Acts 20:26; 2 Timothy 4:1-4**)
- Pastors (overseers, watchmen) are called to be serious in the blowing of their trumpet for they watch out for the souls of those whom God has given them and know that one day they will have to give an account of their obedience. (Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28; 1 Thess 5:12-13)
- God's trumpeters are called to be faithful to God no matter whether or not the people hear and obey! SEE Ezekiel 2:1-9.

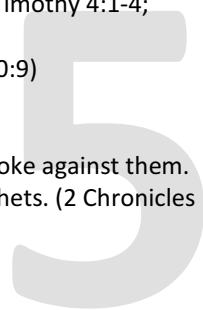
Watchmen NEEDED TODAY!

- We live in a danger zone - in a **war** zone. (Ephesians 5:15-17; 6:10-20)
- TODAY (NOW) is not the time for "feel good shallow" sermons. TODAY is the time for SERIOUS WARNINGS! TODAY, if you hear the Spirit calling YOU to REPENTANCE do not harden your heart. (Heb 3:7-8, 15)

- The enemy is **all** around us.
 - Satan and his demons: Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 5:19; 1 Peter 5:8
 - The flesh (which is always at war with the Spirit and our souls): 1 Peter 2:11; Rom 7:23; 8:13; Gal 5:17, 24; 1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 26:41.
 - The world (which is controlled by Satan): 1 John 5:19; James 4:4.
 - SIN: “the wages of sin is death”. (Romans 6:23; 7:23)
- ★ We are in the midst of a **moral revolution** as has never been experienced in history! (**Isaiah 5:20; Proverbs 17:15; Malachi 2:17; 3:15; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Romans 1:18-32**)
- Those who **know** that they live in a war zone are serious about their lives and the lives of their loved ones. (Consider Joel 1:1-3)
- Those in war zones look to watchmen for warnings and **heed** those warnings.
- ★ We live in a time of history where God has commanded “all men everywhere to **repent**” (Acts 17:30) – **TO REPENT** means to return to God’s ways as **written** in His Word.
- ★ YET, we are living in a time of **complacency, laziness, and deliberate ignoring** of God’s **written** Word. (Zep 1:12; Heb 6:11-12; Amos 6:1)
- ★ YET, we are living in times where men are **demanding** that EVIL be called GOOD and GOOD be called EVIL! (Isaiah 5:20) **We are provoking** God to anger!! (Consider 2 Chronicles 36:14-21)
- ☆ **WAR is not a time to be “playing soldier” but it is a time to “being a soldier”!**

Reactions to Watchmen’s Warnings in the Past (Ezekiel 33:30-33)

- They heard but did not do. (v. 31)
- They talked about the watchman and **not the message**. (v. 30)
- They came to be entertained but not warned. (v. 32)
- They didn’t want to hear about God’s hatred of **their** sins. (Isaiah 30:8-11)
- **They did not believe that God would do what He said He would do because they were God’s chosen people!** (Jeremiah 5:12-13)
- They wanted their ears tickled. (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Isaiah 30:10)
- They did not want to hear about God’s Law. (Isaiah 30:9)
- **They wanted their sins approved of.** (Micah 2:11)
- They wanted to hear **new** things. (Acts 17:21)
- They wanted to kill (words and stones) those that spoke against them. (Luke 20:19) They mocked and scoffed at the prophets. (2 Chronicles 36:15-16)



- They believed that God would not do anything good or evil. (Zephaniah 1:12)
- They were “settled in complacency”! (Zephaniah 1:12)
- They wanted the watchman to stop blowing the trumpet and putting holiness before them. (Isaiah 30:8-11)

What About Today?

- Jesus said, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46; **James 1:22; Matthew 7:21-29**)
- Many make up their own ways of doing things and believe that they are doing things God’s way! (Matt 7:21-23; Jer 3:17; 7:24; 9:13-14; 13:10)
- They believe doctrines of demons. (1 Tim 3:1; Jude 3-4; 2 Cor 11:13-16)
- Many will be and are being deceived. (Matthew 24:11, 24-25)
- They do not want to be uncomfortable. (2 Tim. 3:1-7)
- They want their ears tickled and hear “smooth” things. (2 Tim. 4:1-4)

Learning from the Feast of Trumpets

- ① God gave us His feast to remind us that Christ is coming for His Bride, the Church. (John 14:1-3; Ephesians 5:22-33)
- ② God gave us His feast to remind us to listen to God’s messengers as they continuously “blow the trumpet”, to repent and do things God’s Way! (Jeremiah 6:16-17) Will we ignore the trumpet? If yes, then we will perish despite any personal testimony! (Luke 13:1-5)
- ③ God gave us His feast to help us to be prepared and ready for Christ’s return. (Luke 12:35-43) How are we to do this? By ---
 - ★ Continually examining ourselves to see if we are in **THE** faith. (2 Corinthians 13:15)
 - ★ Continually repenting of our sins. (Luke 1:14-15; 13:1-5; 1 John 1:8-10; Acts 17:30)
 - ★ Actively pursuing holiness without which no one will see God. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:13-16)
 - ★ Purifying ourselves perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor 7:2; 1 John 3:3)
 - ★ Watching and praying always that we may be counted worthy to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:34-36)
 - ★ Doing the will of God. (Matthew 7:21-29; 12:49-50; Luke 8:21; John 14:15; **Hebrews 5:9**; 1 John 2:17; 3:23-24)
- ④ God gave us His feast to remind us that He is coming only for a REMNANT! (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 11:5)
- ⑤ God gave us His feasts to remind us that He has a plan for His people and that He is working out that plan for their good. (Romans 8:28)