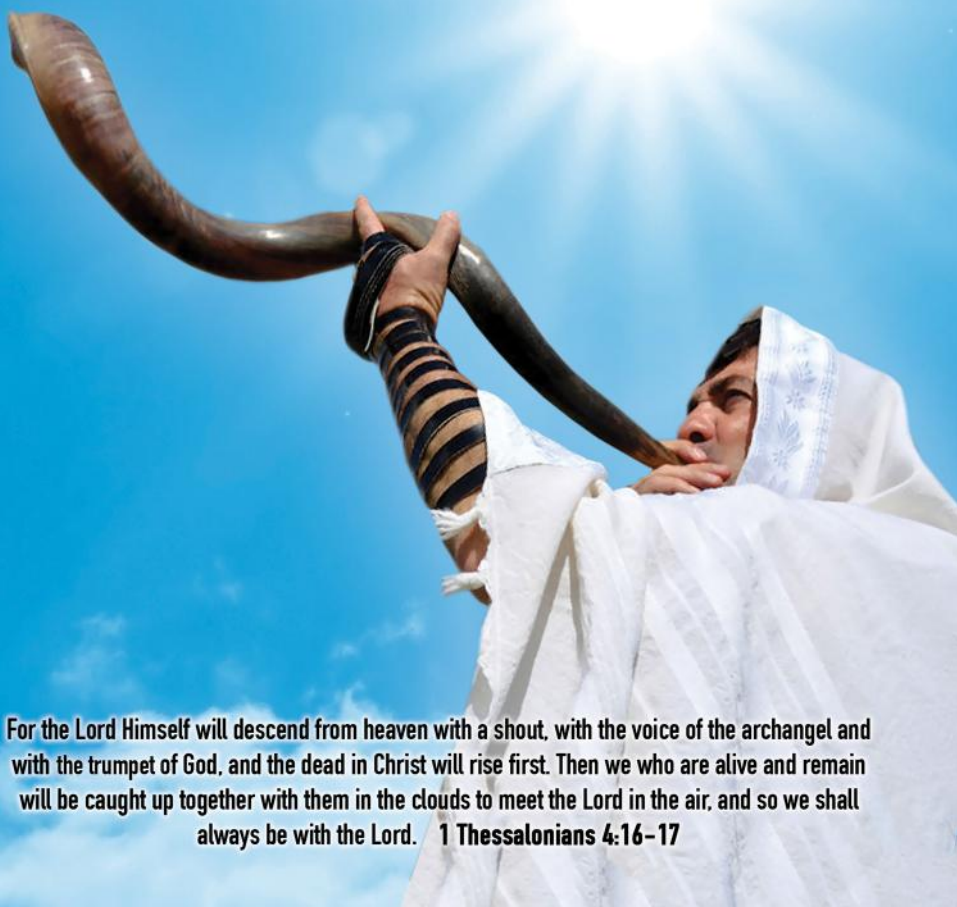




BETHEL AG CHURCH
INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS



For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Feast of **TRUMPETS**

The Seven Feasts of the Lord

These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Col 2:17

The First cycle of Feasts (March - June)

(Fulfilled at Jesus First coming)

Passover	Unleavened Bread	Firstfruits	Pentecost
Crucifixion of Jesus	Burial of Jesus	Resurrection of Jesus	Coming of the Holy Spirit
Nisan 14	Nisan 15-22	Nisan 17	Sivan 7
Exodus 12 Matt 26:17-27	Lev. 23:6-8 I Cor 5:7-8	Lev. 23:9-14 I Cor 15:20-23	Lev .23:15-22 Acts 1&2

The Second cycle of Feasts (September - October)

(Fulfilled at Jesus Second coming)

Trumpets	Atonements	Tabernacles
Rapture & Resurrection of Believers	Second coming of Jesus	Messianic Kingdom age
Tishri 1	Tishri 10	Tishri 15-22
Lev. 23:23-25 I Cor 15:51-52	Lev. 23:26-32 Matt 24:29-30	Lev 23:33-44 Rev 20:1-6

In general, these Last three feasts, teach us about God's rest. God's rest is the place to which Believers come in their walk with God; the place where they find contentment in God, just for who He is in His nature and being. Traditionally, the three set of feasts used to happen towards the end of the busy agricultural harvest.

What is the Feast of Trumpets?

Feast of Trumpets is the 5th feast among the seven feasts of the Lord. The feast was observed on the first day of the 7th month i.e., Tishri (September / October), which ushered in the second, in the series of the set of three feasts. (The number seven signifies completion and rest).

Israel celebrated the Feast of trumpets as a one-day holiday. Israel was commanded to memorialize the day by blowing trumpets (Yom Teruah or Zikhron Teruah) and to keep the day as a Sabbath day of rest. (**Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1**)

It is also known as *Rosh Hashanah*, or Jewish New year, because it began the Jewish Ten Days of Repentance. They blew the ram's horn or the shofar to mark the beginning of prayer, self-examination, and repentance (*aseret yemei teshuvah*), which culminated on the day of Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement. These ten days are referred to as "*Days of Awe*", or the High Holy Days

What is the main purpose of Feast of Trumpets?

Leviticus 23:23-25, And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, "*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.*"

The main purpose of the Feast of Trumpets was to announce the arrival of the seventh month in order to prepare the people for the Day of Atonement (next feast), which was ten days later. The seventh month was special because it was the last month in the religious season. It was the time when God would complete His dealing with the people for that year. It was also the last time they were required to journey to Jerusalem until the following year at Passover.

The Feast of Trumpets was not marked by any special events other than blowing of trumpets and offering of sacrifices (see **Numbers 29:1-6**). The Hebrews always blew trumpets on the first day of each month so everyone would know the new month had arrived (see **Numbers 10:10**). But on the Feast of Trumpets, they blew them extra-long and extra loud throughout the day.

What are the different types of trumpets in the Bible and the significance on the use of the trumpets?

The type of trumpet blown was the ram's horn, for which the Hebrew word is '*shofar*'. The shofar was blown in remembrance of the ram that was sacrificed in place of Isaac (see **Genesis 22:13**). This acts helped the Israelites to see God's mercy that substituted a ram for Isaac, and to anticipate the end of days when a greater Lamb would be slain on their behalf.

Jewish tradition teaches that God blew one of the ram's horns at Mount Sinai at Pentecost and will blow the other ram's horn at the coming of the Messiah. (**Exodus 19:10**)

There are 2 types of trumpets.

- *Silver trumpets* (cha-tzotz-rot) were originally used to signal camp movements during the journey to the Promised Land (**Numbers 10:1-2**). Later, they were used by the Levites during various Temple rituals especially during animal sacrifices (**Numbers 10:10**). They were also sometimes used in times of warfare (**Numbers 10:9; 31:6; 2 Chronicles 13:12-14**).

- *Shofar* (ram's horn) was explicitly commanded to be sounded during the Feast of trumpets and for the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) (**Leviticus 25:9**) and during the Jubilee year of Israel. The shofar was a reminder of the exchange of the divinely-provided ram as a ransom for Isaac's life and of the giving of the Torah to Israel at Sinai (**Exodus 19:16**).

Significance of the trumpets

The trumpet blast was a call for the people to assemble to hear the voice of God just as it was at the foot of Mount Sinai. (**Exodus 19:13**). At every Feast of Trumpets there was an anticipation that the Lord might reveal Himself in power once more, especially to consummate the salvation of His people (**Isaiah 27**).

The Feast of Trumpets and other celebrations of the Jewish people pointed toward certain aspects of Christ's work. **Joel 2:1** predicted, "*Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near.*" The blowing of horns marked a serious time to prepare for the Day of Atonement. This is why this time was also called, "*Ten Days of Repentance.*"

In the New Testament, it is interesting to find that the second coming of Jesus will include the sound of a trumpet.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 states, "*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 imperishable, and we shall be changed.*"

1 Thessalonians 4:16 likewise notes, "*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*" Trumpets are also mentioned in the judgments passages of **Revelation 8—9**.

How did Israel recognize the sound of shofar?

Trumpets were used for a few key reasons in the Scriptures, such as, to gather an assembly (**Numbers 10:2-4**), as a warning or alarm (**Numbers 10:5-7**), and for other joyous occasions..

Blow a **Trumpet** in zion... for the day of the Lord is **Coming!**

Four different sounds of shofar:

TE'KI'AH - a long blast with one or two notes – A call to Praise & Worship

SH'VA'RIM - 3 medium blasts, two tones each – A call to Repentance & Brokenness

TE'RU'AH - 9 short, staccato blasts – A call to Warfare & Celebration

TE'KI'AH GE'DO'LAH : an extra long single blast known as the great last trumpet sound – A call to Healing & Redemption. (It is the jubilee note and represents the great last trumpet sound when the Lord returns as King, when we who are saved receive new bodies and we are all healed signifying the rapture of Church).

What is the rapture of the church?

The rapture is the doctrine that at the return of Christ, the church will be caught up (Greek: Harpazo i.e., *"snatch away or suddenly taken"*) to meet the Lord in the air. The bodies of Believers who were dead will be resurrected, and all Believers, living and dead, will be glorified. A type of the rapture appears in **Exodus 19**, when Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Word of God. A "cloud" descended, and the "sound of the trumpet was very loud" as the "Lord descended" on the mount (**Ex. 19:16-18**). The "Lord came down" and "Moses went up" (v. 20).

It is taught clearly in **1 Thessalonians 4:15–17**, in **1 Corinthians 15:51–55** and in John 14:2. Other passages, such as **Matthew 24:31**; **2 Thessalonians 1:10**; and **Revelation 14:14–16** can be referred too. The date of this rapture is not predicted in the New Testament.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, *"According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."*

- At the Rapture, Lord comes in the clouds and believers go up to join with Him. (**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**) In contrast, at the second coming, Christ returns to the earth and rule Israel and the world from David's throne from Jerusalem (**Zechariah 14:4**)

- At the Rapture, there is a resurrection of all believers who have died up to that time: "The dead shall be raised incorruptible" (**1 Corinthians 15:52-53** *"the dead in Christ shall rise first...."*) (**1 Thessalonians 4:16**)

- At the Rapture, the bodies of living believers (like those who are resurrected) will be changed to become immortal. *"We which are alive...shall be caught up together with them [the resurrected saints]... to meet the Lord in the air."* (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**)

- At the rapture, the Lord's promise is completely fulfilled where He said 'I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.'
(John 14:3)

- There are at least two events that occur in Heaven for which the church must be present and that therefore cannot take place until the Rapture occurs: the judgment seat of Christ, and the marriage of the Lamb to His bride: "*for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*" (Romans 14:10); "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*" (2 Corinthians 5:10); "*The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted [to] be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white [as a result of her cleansing at the judgment seat of Christ]*" (Revelation 19:7-8).

(Even the ancient Jewish wedding is a picture of the marriage of the Messiah. When the groom came to receive his bride, the wedding celebration continued for seven days. Some suggest this is why the Church will be in Heaven for the entire seven years of the tribulation.)

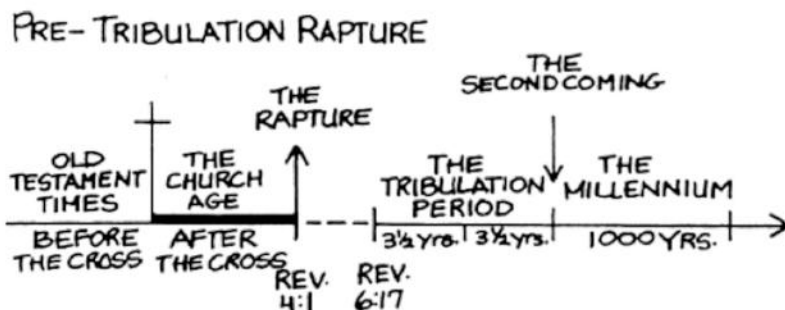
- Rapture of the church happens before Anti-Christ is revealed and before the Great Tribulation. (Revelation 6:8-17, 16:3-21, 19:11-21, Matthew 24:21-22)

The patterns of the second cycle of feasts reveal the rapture.

Christ was crucified on a Passover, was in the tomb during Unleavened Bread, and was seen alive during First Fruits. The church was born at Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-4), and the three fall feasts all have a future fulfillment. The rapture is a pattern of the Feast of Trumpets, the Tribulation is parallel to the events on the Day of Atonement (when the nation of Israel was judged) and Tabernacles represents the future kingdom of the Messiah ruling on earth.

(More details on Judgments and Great Tribulation in the next study)

A timeline of events at the second coming



What purpose does the rapture serve for creation in the overall purposes of God? How does it fit into the big picture of God's redemptive plan?

God's redemptive plan is: to restore what was lost in Adam, to restore to proper functioning His rule in the creation. The resurrection of Believers is also part of that restoration, as Paul teaches in **Romans 8:18–23**. So, insofar as the rapture and the resurrection are associated, the rapture plays a role in that restoration.

At His first coming, Jesus came as a suffering servant, a sacrificial lamb, **“to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26)**, and to inaugurate the Kingdom rule of God. We read in **Hebrews 9:28**, that He *“will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him”* and to consummate the Kingdom in its fullness.

The Scriptures also teach that, before the establishment of the Messianic kingdom; at the return of Christ, God will pour His wrath out upon the world opposed to His rule. The Church is promised freedom from this wrath, and the rapture is the means by which it is protected.

In the midst of various interpretations of Jesus second coming and end times, what are the facts that a Believer must cling to? In other words, what are the essentials and non- essentials in the End time theories?

Things indisputably taught in Scripture and central to our faith are essential; things less clearly taught are non-essential. For example, Lord Jesus Christ coming back again to take His Church is a big essential. When and how He is coming back is non-essential.

There will be resurrection of the dead, some to eternal life and some to eternal suffering (hell) - essential. But how will the new heaven and earth look, and the how will the Kingdom of God be like on earth etc., are non-essentials.

Also, we cannot be date setters for these divine events as our Lord Jesus himself says, *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36)*

**Rapture of the Church is the complete Fulfilment
of our Lord Jesus promise
of RESTORATION**

APPLICATIONS TO DAILY LIVING:

1. Be prepared and anticipate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is our *"Blessed Hope"*!

Titus 2:12–14, *'We wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.'*

2. There is no time to waste, no time to delay to witness, no time to indulge in sin with the idea of being able to repent one's ways later, if Christ could come at any moment.

1 John 2:28, *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming"*

3. Purify oneself as a person who anticipates Jesus coming.

1 John 3:3, *"And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."*

4. Forgive and hope in anticipation, despite the sufferings of the world, because of the power of the One who is coming.

Revelation 7:16-17, *"Never again will they hunger, and never will they thirst; nor will the sun beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to fountains of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

5. Thirst for evangelism as a person who anticipates Jesus coming.

Let us give ourselves to the task of the Great Commission(**Matthew 28:19-20**, **Acts 1:8**), when He returns we will hear him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord"(**Matthew 25:23**)

"Let us settle it then in our minds, for one thing, that the future happiness of those who are saved is eternal." – J.C Ryle

If you have any further questions, please email us at info@bethelag.in or walk into the church office for any counselling regarding this issue.

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