



Sermon: Celebrating the Feast of Trumpets

Preached at Cloverdale Church and Maxwell FPC September 2023

Next week is Rosh HaShanah or referred to as the Feast of Trumpets. For most Christians this doesn't mean much and we might consider it just a Jewish holiday. But that is not the case. Every believer needs to be prepared and ready for this holiday. It is not just for the Jews, it is for every believer.

Leviticus 23 outlines the Lord's Feasts or His plan for all of us. These are His appointed times when He will show up.

⁴These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

⁵In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

¹⁰Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

¹¹And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

¹⁶Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.

²²And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the Lord your God.

²⁴Speak 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.

Translated Feasts = set or appointed time; convocation = rehearsal

The Feast of Trumpets is the 5th feast in the 7-feast cycle. Occurs in the fall. Part of the latter rain feasts.

These are not only the Lord's set times or appointments that He practices, they are also our appointments and process steps we must take in the proper order. This is the expectation that few Christian truly understand and realize.

- There is a process and specific steps that we need to practice and rehearse just as God follows this same process and lays it out for us.



The feasts are ultimately about how to be in perfect alignment with God. These feasts or steps provide understanding of what God through Christ has already done, and a clear foreshadowing of what He will do....and is doing. Just follow the steps.

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Col. 2:16-17 (ESV)

In other words, every single feast was really about one of the major works that Jesus would perform.

The fulfillment of the Spring Feasts.

Christ fulfilled the first three feasts through his death, burial and resurrection which all happen on an exact festival day.

- Dies on Passover
- Buried on Unleavened Bread
- Rose during First Fruits
- Pentecost is the exact day in Acts Chapter 2 that the Holy Spirit is poured out.

Why I believe the rapture will occur on Rosh HaShanah.

- Why? Because it is the fulfillment of these set holidays and fulfillment of the plan of God. Because of God's faithfulness in meeting each of the Spring feasts, I'm confident and my faith is high that Jesus is coming back for us to pull us out of trouble and that will begin at Rosh Hashanah.

This holiday has different names associated with it. A few are:

- Day no man knows or the hidden day
- Opening of the gates
- Yom Teruah, Day of the awakening blast – Isa 26:2, 19-21

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Paul encourages believers by explaining the death of believers. They are asleep, which means at some point they wake up.

The reality is when people who you love die, there is sadness. It is natural, expected, and normal. But I don't think Paul is saying that we don't have sorrow, we just don't have sorrow like those who do not believe in Christ and have no hope.

What does it mean to have no hope in this instance? No hope of ever living again. No hope of a future, no hope of getting beyond death, no hope of seeing that loved one again. You look at what is left and the current condition in the grave and you see a condition that is hopeless.



I still will visit the gravesite on occasion. On occasion I may still experience a degree of sorrow as I miss my loved one, but my moment of sadness doesn't impact my hope.

Paul wants us to understand and be fully aware of the advantages and hope that we have. That hope is an expectation. I have hope that there is still a future beyond this circumstance. There is hope of life after death. There is hope of seeing those who are asleep again. There is that we can get up again after this.

How can I obtain this kind of hope? Simply believe in the work of Jesus Christ. What did Jesus do? He followed the steps and fulfilled the plan. He shows us how to follow these same steps.

He died, was buried, and rose again. If I believe in what Christ did, and I follow Him through these same steps, then I can also receive the reward and benefits that come with being a believer.

This hope is for them who sleep in Jesus. What does he mean to sleep in Jesus? It means to be down with the Savior. To not only believe, but to follow Him and His steps.

What are these steps....they are outlined in the feasts...just follow the process, just follow the steps.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Paul goes on to explain that this is not just his opinion but that it is confirmed in the Word. I wonder where can I find this in the word. I found it in the feasts...and this concept of the feasts runs and is rehearsed throughout the Bible.

There is a still a certain future for those who sleep in Christ. The rest of the story continues with the Lord coming from heaven with the trump of God. This is a clear reference to the Feast of Trumpets.

The dead in Christ shall rise first and then we who are alive are "caught up" and we meet Christ and those who were sleep in the clouds. Notice, this is not the second coming of Christ since He only meets us in the clouds.

Paul then explains this is how we will be forever alive and with the Lord.

Paul states as a result of this biblical process and the plan of God fulfilled through Christ, that we should comfort other believers with these words....part of the plan of God.

What are these words of comfort? It is the plan of God and the process of redemption and everlasting life we receive through our belief in the previous and ongoing work of Christ. It is a continuous process. It is a daily process.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-52

⁵¹ **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

⁵² **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.**

Jesus is coming back. This is our hope on His promise that he would return again for us.

Why do I believe in the rapture occurring with the Feast of Trumpets? Because of the evidence.

- The Bible is not a book of coincidences but of prophesy and the prophesies come true.
- The first four feasts have been fulfilled by Christ on the exact same day, confirmed in the scriptures, this has increased my faith that the next three feasts will likewise happen. He is faithful to complete the plan. The good work He has started in us, He is faithful to complete it.
- It is confirmed in the Holy Spirit and the greater understanding of the scriptures by faith.
- It is confirmed in the stories of the Bible and how He consistently “practices” the process.
- It is evidenced in nature. The feasts follow the seasonal and agricultural cycle.
- It is evidenced in the story and testimonies of others.
- It is evidenced in my life and what He has done for me. The steps work, the plan is still in effect, I don’t have to wait to die to live again....I’m getting up from being down still today.
 - I’m living and practicing the resurrected life today. I have this hope!

How do we obtain this hope? Believe in the plan. Believe that Christ has fulfilled the first part. Follow the same steps in the plan. Encourage others with these words. Practice these steps daily and you will be down with Christ and raised in power. He will meet you in your current situation on earth while we wait to meet Him in air.

Follow the Feasts in order daily. Luke 9:23 – deny self, pick up cross, follow me.

Question: What happens if it doesn’t happen today? No, problem....you can rehearse Jesus coming back for you to lift you out of the depression and circumstances facing you. Just follow the steps and He shows up in your life to be with you.