

# **Yahweh's "Yom Teruah" ("Feast of Trumpets")**

## **Day of Remembrance plus shofar blasts, shouts of joy and alarm**

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### **Summary:**

*Usually called "Feast of Trumpets", or "Yom Teruah" in the original Hebrew which means "day of blasts, joyful shouts and acclamation". It is the first of the last four appointed times to meet with Yahweh in the Fall. It is called the Day of Remembrance and a memorial of "teruah". Find out what else happened on this day and what this holyday could be picturing ahead of us. Why we don't call it "Rosh Hashanah". When is the right day for this holyday? All this and more.*

**Key words: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Teruah, Feast of Trumpets, new moon, God's calendar, Hebrew calendar, the return of Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach).**

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Welcome, brothers and sisters to Light on the Rock. This is your brother in the faith, Philip Shields, with the message on the holyday commonly called "Feast of Trumpets" or "Yom Teruah" in the original Hebrew. "Yom" means "day" and "Teruah" means "loud blasts" – as from shofars and trumpets or any loud blast, shouting, acclamation. When this day is first mentioned in Leviticus 23:23-25, the words "of trumpets" is not actually in the Hebrew but probably implied.

This is a day of joyous acclamation for all who worship Yahweh and honor His name and His way. It is a day of dread and terror for all who fight Him, for all who will dishonor His name and teach against His way. Nehemiah calls it "the day of your gladness".

This day has long been associated with the return of our King and Savior – commonly called Jesus Christ – though I normally use His given Hebrew name and the name His mama called Him: *Yeshua*, which means "salvation". "Christ" means "anointed one", as does Messiah. In Hebrew it is Mashiach. So we say "Yeshua HaMashiach" – meaning Yeshua the Messiah.

Let's ask for Father's blessing on this message and meeting. (OPENING PRAYER).

OK – Let's get started, as there's a lot to cover. We'll cover

- the scriptures that mention this day
- that it's a memorial
- what traditionally has been associated with this day
- what the probable meaning is for this day
- We'll talk about shofars and silver trumpets, and why the shofar – the ram's horn – is blown 100x on this day.

In Leviticus 23:1-2, we are given in one chapter all the sacred festivals of Yahweh. **We know without a doubt that the early believers even AFTER the resurrection kept these holydays.** For example:

- The first believers were given the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost/Shavuot in Acts 2 for example. If you were alive back then, but thinking like a lot of Christians today that these days are not necessary, you may have not received God's gift of His Spirit (if you weren't there!). But early believers did believe in keeping the holydays.
- We absolutely know from 1 Cor. 7 and 11 that they kept Passover and days of unleavened bread.
- Then on top of that there are references to other festivals they kept or were aware of. But either we have to keep all the 7 feasts, which I do, or we don't have to keep any of them. I believe scripture is clear we are to keep them. Paul is never accused by His Jewish antagonists of teaching against the holydays.

### FEASTS OF YAHWEH; His divine appointments with His family

#### **Leviticus 23:1-2**

And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The ***feasts of Yahweh***, which you shall proclaim to be **holy convocations**, ***these are My feasts.***'"

Are these the feasts of the Jews – or the feasts of Yahweh? Whose feasts? "These are MY feasts", Yahweh the living God says. Verse 3 describes the weekly holyday – the sabbath – and then the annual holydays, the annual sabbaths of Yahweh. The prophets tell us in Scripture that one of the reasons Israel and Judah went into captivity was because of defiling and not keeping the sabbaths – the weekly sabbath, the annual sabbaths and the land sabbaths. So let's not make the same error.

The word "feasts" is *moedim* in Hebrew – meaning really "***divine appointments***". Be sure you are meeting with Yahweh on the right day, the day He says to meet with Him. Did you show up for your appointment Yahweh set for you and Him? And on the right day?

The words "holy convocations" are *migrah chodesh* – holy rehearsals, commanded assemblies where we rehearse something ahead of time.

The rest of Lev. 23 goes on to list and describe each of the 7 festivals in their order.

#### **Leviticus 23:23-25**

23 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, 24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a **memorial of blowing [teruah] of trumpets**, a holy convocation. 25 You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to Yahweh.'"

(The words "of trumpets" is not in the original)

*I blow my shofar a lot on this day. We're told to. I recommend you ask that trumpets be blown on Yom Teruah, on the Feast of Trumpets. I'll "bet" that most COG groups did not blow any trumpets or shofars. Why not?*

The 7<sup>th</sup> month is an incredibly busy month! There are 4 holydays in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> months, then nothing for the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> months – then suddenly the last four fall in one month: the

7<sup>th</sup> Hebrew month, which usually begins in September. The fall holyday season begins with Yom Teruah on the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, meaning this holyday should fall on the first day you see any sign of the new moon in Israel. That's what makes it, and any other month, the beginning of the month. Remember the Biblical "new moon" refers to the first visible sliver – NOT like our western world's new moons when there is no visible moon. So *don't* go by your western calendars, showing the "new moon" as the dark of the moon.

**Jews refer to this day as Rosh Hashanah**, meaning "the Head of the Year". In essence it ends up being their civil new year. It's nowhere called that in the scriptures. Nowhere. Neither is it the beginning of the year. How could it be? It's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the *seventh* month, not the first month, so obviously it's not the first of the year.

The true first month, the beginning of months, according to Yahweh's own decree, is Abib, in the spring. (See **Exodus 12:1-2**. It's very clear there.)

### **WHY is Yom Teruah "a Memorial" – and a memorial of WHAT?**

**It goes on to say in Lev. 23:24 in the original that this day is a "a memorial of teruah"** – meaning blasts, blowing and shouts. The KJV and NKJV versions add the words "*of trumpets*", which technically are not in the original, but implied. Here's what other translations say about that phrase "*a memorial of blowing of trumpets*":

Apologetics Study Bible – "a day of complete rest, commemoration and **jubilation**"  
Holman Christian Standard Bible says "**of joyful shouting**".  
Young's literal translation says "**a memorial of shouting**".

What it's a memorial of is not clarified in this scripture but many ministers are willing to be ultra-dogmatic about it. I will give my view, but I must tell you - - it's just my view. We'll cover that in 10-15 minutes, so hang on.

It is also mentioned in Numbers 29:1 as a day of Teruah – shouts, blasts of the shofar and so on. There were 2 silver trumpets also blown by the priests on this and every holyday. By the time of Solomon and the House of God, the 2 trumpets increased to 120 silver trumpets. Can you imagine the sound?

#### **Numbers 29:1 Apologetics Bible**

"You are to hold a sacred assembly in the seventh month, **on the first day of the month**, and you are not to do any daily work. This will be **a day of jubilation (teruah)** for you.

NKJV: "a day of blowing of trumpets" – a day of teruah.

#### **Numbers 29:1 Young's Literal Translation**

'And in the seventh month, in the first of the month, a holy convocation ye have, ye do no servile work; **a day of shouting** it is to you

On the holydays, there were 2 special silver trumpets blown by priests. We'll tie these in to the memorial concept shortly.

#### **Numbers 10:1-2**

And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.

Now let's read Num. 10:9-10. Note something is said about the memorial and who is doing the remembering.

**Numbers 10:9-10**

9 "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall **sound an alarm with the trumpets (the 2 silver trumpets is what is meant here), and you will be remembered before Yahweh your God,** and you will be saved from your enemies.

10 *Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets* over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and **THEY [the blowing of the trumpets] shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am Yahweh your God."**

We'll dig deeper into why it's a Memorial. ***For now, my view is that Yahweh wants us to cry out for Him, to look to Him, to seek him in our holydays and in our times of trouble and blessing – and He hears the trumpet blasts and remembers His covenant*** with His friend Abraham, which then extends to all his children, and to His children by faith, as I covered last time.

The trumpet blasts, cries, shouts and our fervent prayers are like a memorial to the promises and covenant made to Abraham, and by extension, to Abraham's children, as you'll see much more as we go along. YHVH is called our Abba, our dear father. Like any great father, when He hears His children calling for Him and crying out, and blowing the ram's horn – He remembers the first ram's horn incident that freed Isaac and Abraham from a very difficult sacrifice! He remembers their descendants – all of us who are of faith now – by extension (Gal. 3:26-29). Be sure you've heard my sermons about Gentiles most recently (Sept 2012). Father – for OUR good – wants us remembering where our help comes from -- HIM! It's a memorial to His promises to Abraham, our forefather by faith.

Not that Yahweh needs reminding – but that WE need to reminding of from whom our help and salvation comes. So when we blow on the trumpets and shofars, we are calling out to Abba our dear father to come save us. THAT is the memorial, as I'll show more and more clearly as we go along starting page 6.

**OTHER TIMES YOM TERUAH IS MENTIONED**

**Where else is this feast day – Yom Teruah/Feast of Trumpets, mentioned?**

- We know it was mentioned in the book of **Ezra 3:1, 6** – how they gathered as one.
- **Neh. 7:73; Nehemiah 8:1-3** –again, they gathered as one and read the Torah.

Some ministers claim it is wrong to be happy on this day. Let's see what scripture says. I want to keep emphasizing that this should be a joyous day to those who love Yahweh, as we're even told in Nehemiah.

**Nehemiah 8:9-12**

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to Yahweh your God;

**do not mourn nor weep."** For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; **for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength."**

11 So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; **do not be grieved."** 12 **And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly,** because they understood the words that were declared to them.

### **BELIEFS AND TRADITIONS ASSOCIATED with this Day of Blasts and Shouts**

**What is said to have happened on this day?** If what I'm about to say is even remotely correct, a lot can be memorialized on this day:

- Tradition says **Adam – and then Eve – were created on this day.** (By the way, if that's so, then you have Yom Teruah on a Friday, followed by the sabbath.). So originally the beginning of the year may very well have started in the Fall with the creation, so there would be fruit and food to eat in abundance. The wording in Ex. 12:1-2 does seem to me to be a change to making the spring the start of the year.
- Traditions also abound that on this day was **when Abraham and Jacob were born.** The sages say Isaac was born on Passover day, by the way.
- Many say the young **man Isaac was delivered from being sacrificed** on this day, but others insist it was on Passover when Abraham was shown a ram caught by its horns (where we get shofars from), signaling deliverance. If so, either way, Abraham and Isaac would have been jubilant, shouting for joy with tears streaming down their faces, that Yahweh had provided the sacrifice for them, by giving them a sacrificial ram tangled in some thorns by his horns. The horn of a ram is what a shofar is! Whenever people with Jewish or Hebraic backgrounds blow the shofar, they remember Abraham's and Isaac's deliverance – and a picture of Yahweh delivering His people for all time. **When the Shofar is blown, we are told Yahweh remembers His covenants and promises.**

It is interesting, isn't it, that the real Sacrifice – the Son of God – 2000 years later or so, also got tangled up in thorns in a way! Jesus had thorns smashed on to His head when HE had to be sacrificed for us. Yeshua was not delivered. In a way, as an aside, we could say Yeshua was crowned on Passover, with a crown of thorns. I'm sure Abba did or will do a proper crowning as well.

- It is also widely accepted that it was on this day when Moses was given the **2<sup>nd</sup> set of 2 tablets** of the 10 Words, the 10 commandments. The first set was given him on Pentecost. He's up on the mountain 40 days, comes down, when Moses promptly broke them in the gold calf incident. That puts that date roughly on or close to the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, a terrible day in Jewish history (See my blog on that).  
<http://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/blog/2012/07/15/33-always-watch-the-9th-of-av-israels-past-and-future.html>

Yahweh's furious, close to wiping out the whole nation, Moses goes back up the mountain for another 40 days while Israel waits in fear, wondering what the verdict will be. This is why the time just before and after Yom Teruah is considered a time of repentance, "the Dire Straits", deep introspection, prayer and getting right with Yahweh. Moses comes back down – at around the time of Yom Teruah, the nation is forgiven, and they have the Torah and the 10 words" restored to them.

- **Many also feel there is a good chance that Yeshua, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam** was also born on Yom Teruah. Others feel He was born during the Feast of Tabernacles and that the "manger" was perhaps really a *sukka*, a booth. Either way, we know Yeshua had to be born in the Fall and it works for me whether it was Trumpets or Feast of Tabernacles. Scripture doesn't tell us so there's no need for us to argue over it either. We know He had to be born in the Fall, so either one is possible. I'll go into depth in that this year again.

### **More on the "MEMORIAL OF TERUAH"**

**There are numerous scriptures where Yahweh actually tells us to cry out to him so that He remembers His covenant. Remember Teruah can mean shouts, cries, blasts, any sharp noise. Sounds strange, perhaps, but let's look at 2-3 examples where the crying out helped move Yahweh to action. He knows our needs before we ask – but He *does* want us to ask, to cry out to Him!**

He wants us to share with Him what's on our hearts; he wants us to call out to Him. The Feast of Trumpets pictures a time when God's nation of Israel will be in captivity in coming years – and we're told to remember to pray and repent, to call out to Him, then He will hear us and deliver us. Some believers also will be persecuted terribly according to the books of Daniel and Revelation. Perhaps it will be the believers who will be leading others to repentance.

Over and over, when God's children cry out, He does hear and act, as He remembers His promises to Abraham. That's the story all through the book of Judges for example.

So this is a Memorial, also called the Day of Remembrance. We tend to think it's something *we* remember, but scripture focuses on the notion that we sound the alarms for OUR good and so Yahweh remembers His promises and His covenant when we cry out to Him. Sounds strange at first, but He says He wants us to remind Him of His promises, just as Moses did on Sinai.

#### **Genesis 30:22-24**

**22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her** and opened her womb. **23** And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach." **24** So she called his name Joseph, and said, "Yahweh shall add to me another son."

**Ex. 2:24 – "So Elohim heard their groaning and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."**

Remember Hannah? When did she get a son? After she groaned in prayer!

**1 Samuel 1:20**

“...in due time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son; and named him Samuel saying, ‘*because I have asked him of Yahweh.*’”

Sometimes, “you have not, for you ask not”. Ask and you shall receive. Sound familiar?

*SO this day I believe is also about reminding us that God Himself wants to be reminded and that He will remember His covenant.*

Even Aaron the High Priest was to wear the ephod and High Priest’s garments with the 12 gemstones picturing the 12 tribes of Israel. He placed it over his heart, as a BREASTPLATE, so that every time he entered the holy place, God remembered His people.

Exodus 28:9-12 describes the 2 onyx stones first with 6 names of 6 tribes...v. 12 calls them memorial stones. Then we read of the breastplate in verses 29-30.

**Exodus 28:29-30**

29 "So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before Yahweh continually. 30 And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be **over Aaron's heart when he goes in before Yahweh**. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before Yahweh continually.

Since the tabernacle was but a shadow of what is really in the heavenly temple, is it possible that our king Yeshua even now, as our high priest, is wearing a breastplate over His heart with the names of the tribes of Israel? I believe so. And then when our people, called by His name, cry out to Him, He will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land. That applies to anyone who is a child of Abraham by faith, as I covered last time.

Solomon, while dedicating the temple dedicated to Yahweh, called the House of Yahweh, ends his prayer by begging Yahweh to never forget His people. Read 2 Chronicles 6:21-39 – please note that and read it on your own time, as I doubt I have time to read it all now – Solomon gives many examples of beseeching Yahweh to hear from heaven when His people call out; even when foreigners – the Gentiles call out to him and to His name – Solomon asks Yahweh to HEAR from heaven....

Then later, in the next chapter, Yahweh replies - - either in person or by a vision:

**2 Chronicles 7:12-15**

12 Then Yahweh appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "***I have heard your prayer***, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 ***if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.***"

*So I believe this day is a MEMORIAL of blasts, shouts, acclamations and shofar blasts and trumpet blasts so Yahweh remembers His covenant with Abraham, remembers that He freed Isaac through the ram's horn stuck in the thorns – and those who are descendants of*

*the son of promise are remembered by God. We are all children of the promises if we believe and prove our belief by our obedience to His way. We're asking him to remember His promises. We're remembering OUR promises as well, of course. It's a day when both camps – us and God – come together and re-set their relationship, just as Israel did when Moses came down the 2<sup>nd</sup> time from the mount.*

### **The Hidden Day**

This holyday is actually somewhat mysterious. Many claim to have the “truth” on its meaning. I’m not so sure anyone on earth has it 100% correct, not even me! It’s also called “the Hidden day” – partly because we won’t know for sure when it will be until we see the new moon rise in the sky. But I think it’s also partly because the day leaves a lot of questions. IF this day is indeed associated with Yeshua’s return to the Mount of Olives to the east of the temple mount, could that be what Yeshua was hinting at when He said, “of that day, no man knows the day or the hour, except my Father in heaven....” Since it begins with the first visible moon, some years they really aren’t sure if the moon is going to be visible or not!

*I'll say again: there's LESS said about this day –where it is mentioned by name – than about any other holyday.*

I’ll speculate a bit at the end of the sermon on the events of this day in prophecy, but I’ll mostly leave that to others. There’s so much more we can say surely about this day without getting bogged down in speculation. And all of you who think you have the prophecies tied to this day nailed down – can be wrong. I know my God well enough to know He specializes in leaving a lot of surprises as we go along. We’re not totally in the dark, true – but neither are we all-knowing. I get nervous when preachers get ultra-dogmatic on prophecy themes.

***So please, preachers, let's show more humility unless you've spoken in person to an angel of God who revealed the heavenly secrets to you.*** Please preachers, stop bashing other preachers by name, who believe things differently than you. Why do you do that? It's OK to have a variety of speculation on prophecy. It's OK! We all are trying to understand and we must start to come together as one and quit the one-upmanship going on. Please.

**The first 4 festivals and holydays happen in the spring-early summer**, and depict events that have largely happened already, and tied to the spring harvest. The spring harvest is about those being called now, or “harvested” now. *The Spring harvest has little to do with the fall harvest and vice versa.* I still personally believe Pentecost has to do with the Wedding Supper of the Bride and the Lamb – and that it will take place in heaven.

**The last 4 festivals – moedim in Hebrew – sacred assemblies or holydays are all squeezed into one month – the 7<sup>th</sup> Hebrew month. They picture events yet in the future – but which are about to unfold** in front of us in the coming years. The Fall feasts picture the Fall harvest of the fruit trees and vines – picturing when the rest of humanity will be called (**“harvested” – when they bear fruit**). The fall feasts have little to do with the spring feasts. It's different people being called and worked with. When the final countdown starts, it will happen relatively quickly, just as there are 4 holydays in one month.



**As to possible events of this day, see Jeff Niccum's sermon that was posted Nov. 2011** and I'll try to repost again Sept 2012. I basically agree with his summary, but frankly I also caution everyone that when it comes to prophecy we will get better and better at it as we get closer to the event. But many of our predictions and understandings have not happened quite as we thought, so ride in the saddle loosely when it comes to prophecy. Having said that, Jeff does as fine a job as any with our understanding on the sequence of events pictured by this day. Some websites totally disagree with Jeff's assessment – but time will tell who's right, if anyone is, on the prophetic things at least. I'll leave most of that for his sermon; mine will be on the other intricacies of this day.

### **THE SILVER TRUMPETS**

Scripture however says that there were **two SILVER trumpets** ordered by Yahweh (Numbers 10:1-10) were to be blown on EVERY holyday, every new moon, and to gather the people. These were to be blown by the priests (Numbers 10:10). By Solomon's day, they had expanded it to 120 trumpets blown by priests (2 Chron 5:12). ONLY priests could blow those. I imagine over time more and more people wanted to be involved in the blowing, and the noise making, so shofars became the norm – but scripture actually mentions the silver trumpets for the holydays. I've seen, at Jerusalem's Temple Institute, the new silver trumpets that have already been created for the hoped-for 3<sup>rd</sup> temple. They also have special **gold-gilded shofars** ready.

Traditionally a priest blew on the gold-gilded shofar a long solemn blast, while a priest on each side of him blew short blasts from the two silver trumpets....all at the same time.

**Psalms 81:4** actually does say, "Blow the SHOFAR (ram's horn) on the new moon..."

### **The Shofar (the curved Ram's horn)**

**The ram's horn – shofar – is blown 100 times on this day.** The shofar is the ram's horn – and we're told that it reminds us of the redemption of Isaac, when Abraham looked and saw a ram provided, locked in a thorn bush. So the ram's horn shofar is seen among Jews to this day as a reminder of God's providence and redemption. (They don't use a cow horn because that reminds them of the sin of the golden calf.) The curved nature of the horn is to remind them of a person bending over or down in humble worship. Over time the rabbis had the shofars used for these services gilded in gold.

**The FIRST time "shofar" is used in the Hebrew scriptures is Ex. 19** – when Israel heard the loud blast of the trumpet (Shofar) of God. The blast was so loud it scared them to death. The word refers to the ram's horn – not a bugle or metal trumpet.

#### **Exodus 19:16 KJV**

16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, **and the voice of the trumpet (shofar) exceeding loud;** so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

#### **Exodus 19:19**

"And when the blast [KJV- the voice] of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice."

**The Hebrew word picture for Shofar is “the prince speaks”.** I find that fascinating! Ex. 19:19 KJV says “the VOICE of the trumpet”; a word used of voice, laughter and can also be used for sounds in general.

The Shofar was what was blown on the Day of Atonement for the **Jubilee** (Lev. 25:9).

The Shofar was also blown by priests as they circled **Jericho** for 7 days, 7x on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

**Joshua 6:2-5**

2 And Yahweh said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 **And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.** 5 It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

It was the shofar – 300 of them – that Gideon and his soldiers blew (Judges 7:22).

The Ezekiel 33 watchman who is to blow the trumpet when he sees danger – it's a SHOFAR that he's blowing. So many times when you read “trumpet” – think “ram's horn shofar.”

They blew the shofar when a king was crowned usually in the spring around Passover (**1 King 1:34,39 for example- Solomon**). It also sounded the battle alarm (**Ezek 33:3-6; Neh 4:18-22**). It also was sounded in times of victory. In June 1967, Rabbi Shlomo Goren sounded the shofar on the temple mount for the first time in almost 1900 years after the Jews won the 6 day war.

When Yeshua returns, we will be shouting – shouting for joy! But those not on Yeshua's side will be in dread. The Day of the LORD in scripture is “a day of clouds and gloominess”, remember. The world will not be welcoming our King; in fact the nations will send their soldiers to destroy and conquer the holy land and the holy city – so we will return with our Master/Husband to set the whole world free from the god of this age, Satan. What a wonderful time it will be – but sobering too. The people being judged and destroyed, however, will not be having signs of joy.

For you, will this have been a day of shouting of joy and excitement for you? A day of jubilation and blowing of trumpets or shofars? It should be!

Because, as Jeff Niccum explains in his sermon on my site, many of us believe that for a year before He lands on the Mount of Olives, there are a whole *series* of trumpets going on. Remember in the book of Revelation, we are given many details, clues and outright statements of what to expect. We're told in 1 Thes 5:2 that God's children should NOT be caught off guard. Maybe we won't know the day or the hour, but we can get closer and closer to what's happening if we've been given the battle plan ahead of time. Let's read it:

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-10**

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of Yahweh so comes as

a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

**4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day.**

We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

### **A brief word about Yahweh's Calendar**

Gotta say something first about the calendar though. Most of you know that there has been great controversy about which Hebrew calendar should we use: the one by the descendants of the Pharisees – the Orthodox Jews with all their rules of when they for convenience's sake openly and knowingly change the dates God said to keep --- or the Karaite Jews, descendants of the priests who did NOT do "postponements" on the holydays in Jesus' day?

Note that we think of a "postponement" as moving to a later date. It just means "moved" in this case. Most of the time they move the right date to an earlier date, so the holydays end up being one day too early.

Remember almost all priests were wiped out in the bloodbath of 70 AD by the Romans when the temple was burned to the ground. So the common Pharisees took over the setting of the holyday dates. The priests were not in favor as a rule, of postponements.

**So in 2012, and most years, I firmly believe most people keeping the Feast of Trumpets kept it on the wrong day.** Why and how do I say that? Because there was no moon visible in Israel or even over here on Sunday night, beginning their official Feast of trumpets on Monday Sept 17.

It can't be the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month if there is no possibility of viewing of the moon on a given night. *Add to that fact that the feast of Trumpets sets the date for all the rest of the fall holydays.* Get Yom Teruah or Feast of Trumpets right, and the rest will be right. Get it wrong, and the rest will be wrong.

I know there are reams and reams of materials that go into the pros and cons of each argument. I will keep it very simple.

- **YAHWEH said to keep Yom Teruah on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Hebrew month** – which just about everyone agrees means the first VISIBLE moon. There was no visible moon Sunday night Sept 16, starting Feast of Trumpets Sept 17. There WAS a visible moon Monday night Sept 17 – so the correct day in 2012 was Sept 18 Tuesday.

My wife and I – and thousands of others – kept the Feast of Trumpets on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

- **If there's no visible moon in the sky on what MAN is calling the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, then it ain't the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month!** The Jews openly confess to MOVING the date – and they call it Postponements (usually moved earlier, however). God himself says in Genesis 1:14 that HE set the moon and the LIGHTS in the sky to show us the holydays – translated “seasons” in English, it's the same word “moedim” – feast days, holy days, divine appointments. It's the LIGHT that was to lead us, not the dark of the moon.
- **THERE'S NO BIBLICAL authority to change God's command about when HIS appointments are.** Those who claim man can do this, I ask you: why not just go back to keeping Sunday then? How is your argument any different than the arguments for changing 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath to Sunday? NONE. There's NO difference.
- **Those of you who rely on the lame argument that the Jews were given control of God's calendar, remember these things:** Jesus condemned them for nullifying God's commands by their traditions. Jesus said “You err, NOT knowing the scriptures” (Matthew 22:29). IF you're going to use the Jewish postponement calendar, then why pick and choose which part of their calendar you will keep and which part you won't? Why not keep Pentecost on their Sivan 6? That's what majority Jews believe (wrongly). Why not observe the footwashing on the eve of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib? That's when Jews keep Pesach (Passover). Why not observe most of the holydays for 2 days? That's what Jews do.

**It will be very hard for people to obey God's word on the calendar.** Why?

Because it will totally disrupt your social contacts. You won't be keeping the holydays on the same day as all the rest of your family and friends who keep sabbaths. You will be ridiculed from the pulpit as claiming you know better than the ministers. You'll be made to look stupid, vain and stubborn. It will be harder to plan, because some months, some years, we won't know when the first day is until the last minute. Some of you will even be disfellowshipped in some areas – for what? For obeying God?

I'm just a simple man: God said 1<sup>st</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> month – not the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month, that men re-labeled “7<sup>th</sup> month”. If there's no moon in the sky – it isn't the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. I'd rather obey God than man. Satan has corrupted even this among people who have so much right otherwise. But remember “broad is way and many there be who find it”. The few follow and do the right path. I am happy to learn that every year dozens and dozens more decide to obey God rather than man.

**Now, having said that, IF you have studied the topic of God's calendar, and IF you have prayed and fasted over it and asked Yahweh to show you,** and then after all that you made a decision that the postponed calendar is the correct calendar, then God knows your heart and I won't condemn you. But IF you haven't bothered learning about the 4 rules of postponements, or understand any of it and are just going along with everyone else – I challenge you, please, learn about it and do what Yahweh shows you.

Brethren, don't disfellowship people or stay away from brethren over this. Yah's spirit will guide us into all truth (John 16:13). It takes time. There's a verse about “UNTIL we come to the unity of the faith” (Eph. 4:13) – meaning we aren't all united in our beliefs just yet. But let's come together as we can and allow for differences of beliefs on some things like this. IF

our hearts are right and we're asking for the leading of the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh), Abba will lead His children. Come together, children of God. Come together.

### **Overview of this Holyday's meaning**

So what's this day all about? Over the years, there has grown to be yet another set of beliefs about this. Remember there is little said directly about Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets). So we tie pieces together and hope we get it right. I'm not as confident as some of you are in terms of prophecy because Yahweh hasn't appeared to me to say what it all means. And unless you have had that experience, you don't know for sure either! So some humility is in order on this matter of prophecy.

Prophecy IS important. But I caution my listeners: prophecies will come and go. The men giving them certainly will. **The byways are littered with the stories and lives of men and women who knew they had it down pat, pointed to 1917, 1972, 1975 and more recently 2008 and then dates were set for October 2009.** Won't we ever learn? If anyone sets a date – and nothing happens like what we prophesied – then that minister or teacher just labeled himself as a false teacher! He's part of a non-prophet organization, that's for sure.

**I won't set dates unless Yahweh speaks to me by an angel or some way.** The men of God who did have those experiences were scared to death! Daniel fainted. Isaiah soiled his pants (Isa.6) in fear. John fell down to worship the angel. So it's not a pleasant experience.

Having said that, I'll leave the details to others and just give an overview – that could also be all wrong. *I suspect that ALL of us will be pleasantly surprised how differently it all works out in the end from our cherished notions.* What's important is that we're becoming better people, learning to love one another, forgive one another, come together as one – even with our differences. What's important is that we are becoming better dads and moms, better husbands and wives by His grace and by His Spirit. What matters is that we're getting better at living His way with bold humility.

But we have itching ears and we grab on to those who claim to know, who have exciting “new truth” on prophecy especially. Let's grow up brethren, in HIM, and He will show us what He wants us to know when He wants us to know it.

### **Having said that here's my synopsis:**

- **Resurrection and Marriage of the Lamb in heaven on Pentecost:** Hear my sermon on Pentecost, and Jeff Niccum's – and the sermon I gave recently on “I Go Prepare a Place for you”. Remember the trumpets were blown on all holydays, not just the Feast of Trumpet. So on the feast of PENTECOST – which is ABOUT the firstfruits, the spring harvest – is when I believe the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds and we get married in heaven. Who else, where else, could this happen? Who else is the King who puts on a wedding for His Son (Matthew 22:1) – except Abba, and we know where HE is. (Hint: heaven).

Before that will be the heavenly signs, according to Yeshua.

**Matthew 24:29**

**"Immediately *after* the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**

Then we read of the 2 witnesses in Rev. 11, they are killed, and then 3-1/2 days later are resurrected (**Rev. 11:11-13**), followed immediately by the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, the last trumpet sounds.

**Revelation 11:15-19**

**15 Then the seventh angel sounded:** And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

**Matthew 24:30-31**

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, *and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* 31 And ***He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.** And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

For years and years we believed this all happened on this day. But the problem was that between Trumpets and Atonement is only 10 days. And after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, there are still 7 last plagues to go through, some of which clearly last *for months* (Rev. 8-9). And why would the first fruits be featured on a day featuring the Fall harvest? It didn't make sense.

I have come to believe, in the last decade or so, **that all this centers on PENTECOST**, since it's about the first fruits! We're changed to spirit (1 Cor. 15:50-51) at the twinkling of an eye. Believers who died "in Christ" are resurrected (1 Thes. 4:16-17). We go to the 3<sup>rd</sup>

heaven to get married (presuming we are part of the Bride of the Son of God), perhaps right on the Sea of Glass, officiated by Abba himself.

It doesn't get any better than that, folks!

- Then after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is blown, there are 7 plagues, with at least 1-2 of them lasting even several months.
- Rev. 19 – after the wedding feast, and after a few earth months have passed, we return on our white spirit chargers with Messiah to confront the armies surrounding Jerusalem – and to destroy them. Zech 14 is all about this.

Scripture does not say when Yeshua's feet land on the Mt. of Olives. Many believe it will be on Feast of Trumpets/Yom Teruah. Others believe we return with him on Yom Teruah – but actually land and judge the armies on the day of Atonement. There are discussion issues no matter which way you slice it. We'll have to wait and see what Yahweh reveals.

**Revelation 19:11-21**

Now I saw **heaven** opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**. (Identified in John 1:1-3,14 as Jesus Christ.)

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

**19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.**

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

This will be the most massive D-DAY invasion of planet earth the world has ever seen. Millions and millions of angels, Yeshua, His bride – all spirit beings now, coming to earth to save Jerusalem, to save God's people from annihilation, to save the whole world from utter

extinction – and to destroy those who refuse to surrender to Him, and who are trying to destroy God's people and God's earth.

At this time, not "the last trump" but **the "GREAT trump"** is sounded – traditionally to be on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement – and the captive and scattered Israelites and Jews are freed, delivered and brought back from the ends of the world.

**Isaiah 27:12-13**

And it shall come to pass in that day that Yahweh will thresh,  
From the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt;  
And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel.

**13 *So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown;  
They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria,  
And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt,  
And shall worship Yahweh in the holy mount at Jerusalem.***

This truly is a day of joy for Yahweh's children – but a terribly tough day for those opposing.

**Psalms 89:15**

15 Blessed are the people who know the [teruah] the joyful sound!  
They walk, Yahweh, in the light of Your countenance.

I have believed for many years that Yeshua returns on the Jubilee year. No one knows for sure when those are anymore. The Great Trumpet is also blown on the Day of Atonement of the Jubilee year. . . so this is a segue into the next sermon, on Atonement. (Lev. 25:9).

**What's the point for all of us? It is to be a day of repentance, of seeking our Father and king. It's a time to re-set our relationships. Our relationship with Yahweh, with Yeshua, with one another. We believers have to become one, now, before the Wedding. Notice what God says to his children:**

**Joel 2:15-17**

**15 Blow the trumpet (shofar) in Zion, Consecrate a fast,  
Call a sacred assembly;**

**16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation,** Assemble the elders,  
Gather the children and nursing babes;

Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar;

Let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

**Joel 3:9-17**

9 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. 10 Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.'"

11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord.

12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;



For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow — For their wickedness is great."

**14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision.**

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.

**16 Yahweh also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem;** The heavens and earth will shake; But Yahweh will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

17 "So you shall know that I am Yahweh your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain.

Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."  
(No foreigners will ever overrun it again" – Apologetics Study Bible)

I believe much of what we just read will happen on Yom Teruah in a soon-coming future year. Jeff Niccum's sermon posted Nov 2011 goes into more details on what could be the sequence of events as he understands it. Some disagree with him, but we'll just have to see.

So again, what's the POINT of all this? There's so much more that can be said.

***This is A TIME OF REPENTANCE AND RE-SETTING OUR RELATIONSHIP with God.*** Now's the time to be sure you are zealous, right with Abba. Right with Yeshua. Be sure you are centering your lives on them. Be sure we are praying often, certainly daily. Be sure you're in His word daily.

You have a high, high calling, brethren. Don't let anything or anyone distract you. Every day the sun sets means we're one more day closer to the return of our King. Pray His kingdom come. Dedicate yourself to Him. Commit to obeying Him, keeping his promises, Keeping his laws – and most of all, repent, turn and go the other way. I've had to. Sometimes we find ourselves wandering off the path Yah gives us. In those times, I've had to deeply repent and get back on the path. I hope you are doing that too.

**The next holyday will be Yom Kippur – Day of Covering.** It will be a day of fasting and solemn repentance. It will be a day of Judgment for the nations around Jerusalem.

If you're learning from this website, tell others about it. I'm glad to share the good news of His word with you.

So until next time, this is your brother in Messiah with the good news of our Savior and of His Kingdom, of which there shall be no end. Hallelujah. Praise His name. May Yahweh bless you, smile upon you and bring you joyous peace.