

How to Observe the Feast of Trumpets

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How do Christians observe the Feast of Trumpets, when the New Testament offers us little information on how to keep this festival? By examining the Old Testament instructions about this festival, primarily found in Leviticus 23, through the lens of the New Covenant. We will gain a deeper understanding on how to observe the Feast of Trumpets as a New Covenant festival.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord” (Leviticus 23:23-25 All scriptures quoted are from the *English Standard Version* unless otherwise stated).

Old Testament References

Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 10:1-10; 29:1-6; Nehemiah 8:1-12; Psalm 81:1-4

First day of the Seventh Month (Leviticus 23:24)

We observe the Feast of Trumpets on the first-day of the seventh month of the sacred calendar¹(Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 29:1; Nehemiah 8:1-2).¹ Biblical days start and end in the evening, or at sundown, not midnight.² For example in 2017, the Feast of Trumpets falls on September 21st. Therefore, we begin observing the festival at sunset on September 20th, and ending it at sunset on September 21st.

Sabbath Rest and Day of Rejoicing (Leviticus 23:24-25)

Resting

Like the weekly Sabbath (Leviticus 23:3), we observe the Feast of Trumpets as “a day of solemn rest,” as we abstain from our “ordinary work” (Leviticus 23:24-25; Numbers 29:1-2).

Rejoicing

Besides resting, the Feast of Trumpets is a day for rejoicing, not sorrow; and a day for sharing our physical abundance with others (Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-12; Psalm 81:1-4). Whereas the weekly Sabbath is not a day for heavy food preparation (Exodus 16:23), extra food preparation is allowable on holy days such as the Feast Trumpets so people can celebrate as God commands (Exodus 12:16).

Blowing of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24)

The Feast of Trumpets, which is also a new moon day, receives its name from the special emphasis on this day for the blasting or blowing of trumpets (Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 10:10; 29:1; Psalm 81:1-4). Under the Old Covenant, only members of the Aaronic Priesthood could blow the trumpets on this holy day, as well on other special occasions (Numbers 10:8).

Blowing Symbolic Trumpet

Under the New Covenant Christians are members of the Holy/Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:5,9). We symbolically blow a trumpet, calling ourselves, and others to repentance (Isaiah 58:1), by

¹ Most Christians who observe the biblical festivals use the Calculated Hebrew Calendar. Modern Judaism uses this same calendar.

² In the Bible days start and end in the evening or at sundown. The Book of Genesis describes the days of creation with the term, “there was evening and there was morning,” then the descriptive words “the first day,” or “the second day,” all the way to seventh day. For whatever reason we fail to see the term “there was evening and there was morning,” used in reference to the seventh day, which scripture identifies as following the sixth day (Genesis 1:4-5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; 2:1-2)

preaching or proclaiming repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:46-49). As priests, we have a responsibility to blow our trumpets, proclaiming “the praises” of God (1 Peter 2:9 *New King James Version*).

Blowing Literal Trumpet

On all the other feast days, we have actions to perform:

Passover - Eating unleavened bread, drinking wine, and washing feet (Leviticus 23:5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:3-17).

Unleavened Bread - For one week the eating of unleavened bread products, while abstaining from leavened bread products (Leviticus 23:6; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Pentecost - Count fifty days and seven weekly Sabbaths until we come to the Day of Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-16).

Day of Atonement - Fasting (Leviticus 23:27, 32).

Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day Assembly - Living or spending time in temporary shelters for a week (Leviticus 23:34-44).

Since we have actions to do on every other festival, why not the literal blowing of trumpets on the Feast of Trumpets?

A Memorial or Remembrance Day (Leviticus 23:24)

Old Covenant Memorial

The Feast of Trumpets is a memorial day. The reason for blowing trumpets was to help the people remember, but Leviticus 23 doesn't tell us what Israel was to remember. One possibility is the feast was a memorial to the years Israel spent wandering in the wilderness. Numbers 10:1-10 gives instructions on the use of trumpets to communicate messages to the camp of Israel during their exodus/wilderness experience. A day of trumpet blowing might have been a reminder of this time.

In addition, the blowing of trumpets by Israel was intended to cause God to remember them. The sounding of an alarm of war was a reminder to God that He should save Israel during their time of crisis (Numbers 10:9). Blowing trumpets during the festivals, and on the first day of each month over burnt offerings and sacrifices, where also meant to bring Israel to God's remembrance (Numbers 10:10).

New Covenant Memorials

By examining the use of trumpets in the Bible, we gain a better understand of the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets. As well as what God may want us to remember each year during this festival.

A trumpet announces Jesus' second coming (Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:28). Christ' return is a Feast of Trumpets theme, and a yearly reminder Jesus will return to the earth.

The earthly establishment of the Kingdom of God occurs with the blowing of a trumpet (Revelation 11:15-18). The establishment of the Kingdom of God is a Feast of Trumpets theme, and a yearly reminder the future kingdom of God will rule this world.

The resurrection of the dead in Christ occurs at the sound of a trumpet (Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The resurrection is a Feast of Trumpets theme, and a yearly reminder of the coming resurrection.

The trumpet calls people to repentance (Isaiah 58:1; Ezekiel 33:1-9; Joel 2:12-17). The Book of Revelation's seven trumpets (Revelation 8:7-9:21; 10:7; 11:15-18) and the seventh trumpet's, seven bowls of wrath (Revelation 16:2-21), are meant to bring mankind to repentance, but many will refuse (Revelation 9:13, 18-21; 16:1, 8-11). Repentance is a Feast of Trumpets theme, and a yearly reminder that God wants all of us to repent of our sins.

Holy Convocation (Leviticus 23:24)

God commands that we observe this festival by gathering with others in a "holy convocation" or "sacred assembly" (Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 29:1). From Hebrews 10:23-25, we see that "assembling together" (*New King James Version*) helps us to motivate and encourage one another. According to 1 Corinthians 14:26-31, what transpires when we "assemble" (*New American Standard Version*) must lead to our edification, learning, and encouragement. We see an Old Testament example of this edification, and learning during the observance of the Feast of Trumpets described in Nehemiah 8:1-12.

Present an Offering to the LORD (Leviticus 23:25)

Old Covenant Feast of Trumpets Sacrifices

Daily Offerings (Numbers 28:1-8)

New Moon Offerings (Numbers 28:11-15)

Feast of Trumpets Offerings (Numbers 29:1-6)

New Covenant Spiritual Sacrifices

As Christians and members of the new covenant Holy/Royal Priesthood we no longer make physical sacrifices or offerings as dictated by the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:1-14; 10:1-14); we now offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Romans 12:1-2), involving personal acts of sacrifice to God and fellowman. Sacrifices such as prayer (Psalm 141:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:8), verbally expressing praise and thanks to God (Hebrews 13:15), doing good for others (Hebrews 13:16), sharing what we have with others (Hebrews 13:16; Philippians 4:18), being humble (Psalm 51:16-17), martyrdom (2 Timothy 4:6; Philippians 2:17), and making converts (Romans 15:15-16). The Feast of Trumpets reminds us we have a responsibility to offer ourselves in service to God and fellowman.

Although the New Testament offers little information on how to observe the Feast of Trumpets. We have seen that by examining the Old Testament instructions about this festival, through the lens of the New Covenant. We can learn how to observe a New Covenant Feast of Trumpets.