

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

SUMMARY

The Feast of Trumpets is prophetic of the abomination of desolation that occurs in the middle of Daniel's 70th week.¹

This interpretation is not conventional wisdom in the body of Christ. There are some who want to connect the trumpet blown in this feast (by a Jewish priest in a temple with a silver trumpet [not a shofar] on earth) with the call of God [shofar] from heaven to raise believers in Christ from the dead (1 Thess. 4:16). The voice of the Lord does sounds like a trumpet (Rev. 4:1). However, when he shouts from heaven to raise us from the dead, he will make the sound that assembles the camp. We show in this paper that the trumpet sound made at the Feast of Trumpets is the alarm sound which Scripture tells us can't be the sound issued for the purpose of gathering the people.

When will the rapture occur? It will happen when the fullness of the number of Gentile believers comes in (Romans 11:25). What is the full number? Only the Father could possibly know who is even saved, and so only he knows what our number is and what the full number needs to be. As a result, we will never know how close we are. The timing of the rapture is a mystery. What we do know is we will be gone before Daniel's 70th week because God cannot renew the Old Covenant while the New Covenant is still in effect.

The spiritual numbers in the gematria of the Torah passages relating to instructions given for the Feast of Trumpets confirms our interpretation of the prophetic significance of the feast. The gematria study is provided at the end of this paper.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS – 1ST DAY OF 7TH MONTH

We observe that Feasts of the Lord that are celebrated on one day on the calendar have a prophetic fulfillment on that same calendar day. The Passover is on the 14th day of the first month: the prophetic fulfillment (the death of Christ) occurred on the exact same day on the calendar. The same is true for First Fruits (the resurrection of Christ) and Pentecost (the birth of the church). Seven day Feasts are prophetic of long periods of time, or ages. For example, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is prophetic of the time in history when saints celebrate the Lord's Supper.

The Feast of Trumpets occurs on one calendar day so assuming the pattern continues, its fulfillment ought to be on one fateful calendar day.

Daniel's 70th week is divided into two parts:

"He [the ruler who will come] will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' but in the middle of that 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes

¹ The Feast of Trumpets is not prophetic of the rapture. Please see separate paper on the rapture that will explain.

desolation will place abomination on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” (Daniel 9:27)

The reinstatement of sacrifice and offering is what initiates Daniel’s 70th week. Service and worship continues for three and a half years. Assuming the temple service and worship begins on the first day of the first month, which is the first day of the Jewish religious calendar, it follows that **temple sacrifice and offering ends on the first day of the seventh month: the date of the Feast of Trumpets.**

Temple Anointed: (1st Day of 1st Month) Beginning of Religious Calendar

	Month											
Year 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Year 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Year 4	1	2	3	4	5	6						

Temple Desecrated: (1st Day of 7th Month) Feast of Trumpets

The key assumption to the dating of the Feast of Trumpets at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th week is the date of Daniel’s 70th week temple being anointed must be on the first day of the first month of the Jewish calendar. If the tabernacle in the desert was anointed and made ready for service on the first day of the first month, it stands to reason the temple that will stand at the time of Daniel’s 70th week will also be anointed and made ready for service on the first day of the first month.

THE DATE THE DESERT TABERNACLE WAS ANOINTED

Evidence suggests the service and worship in the tabernacle in the desert began on the first day of the first month. The date the worship and service began in the tabernacle in the desert is not explicitly stated. In Numbers 7:1 it simply says “When Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed it and consecrated it”. Yet it also says in Numbers 9:1 “The LORD spoke to Moses in the Desert of Sinai in the first month of the second year after they came out of Egypt. He said “Have the Israelites celebrate the Passover at the appointed time.” Passover is the 14th day of the first month. No work could be done that day, so the tabernacle must have been consecrated before that. On the 15th day burnt offerings for the Feast of Unleavened Bread were required, so the tabernacle needed to be fully functional by the 13th of the month. But we know for 12 days the leaders of the tribes presented offerings to the Lord after the tabernacle was anointed (Numbers 7:10-11). That pushes the date the tabernacle was anointed back to the 1st day of the first month of the second year since the Israelites departed from Egypt.

“The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ‘This month [Abib] is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.’ (Exodus 12:2)

The month of the Passover is counted as the beginning of the religious year.

THE NATURE OF THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS – A STATE OF ALARM

The instructions for the Feast of Trumpets say:

“It is a day for you to sound the alarm [terouah ‘alarm’]” (Numbers 29:2)

There are two trumpet sounds: one is the alarm sound [terouah] and the other is the loud blast [ruwa]. There are important distinctions between the sounds: (Numbers 10:2-10)

(1) The Trumpet Alarm Sound: [terouah]

- a. It is the sound made for breaking camp and going on a journey;
- b. At the first alarm, the camp from the East (Judah, Issachar, Zebulon) set out;
- c. At the second alarm, the camp from the South (Reuben, Simeon, Gad) set out;
- d. It is a communication to the people from the priests.

(2) The Trumpet Loud Blast Sound: [ruwa]

- a. It is the sound of gathering and assembling the community;
- b. The community is to assemble at the door to the Tabernacle;
- c. One blast is to assemble the leaders;
- d. Two blasts is to gather the entire assembly;
- e. It is a distress call out to the LORD for help when you are under attack from enemies;
- f. It is part of the ritual of all the feasts and New Moon festivals;
- g. It is a communication to God from the priests.

The regulations for the Feast of Trumpets specify to make the trumpet alarm sound. It is a time of mass migration into the wilderness. In the Book of Numbers the migration was a journey through a desert, a time of extreme trial and testing. The record tells us in the wilderness march in the days of Moses everyone died except Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb.

EVENTS WHICH PRECEDE THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

The teaching of Jesus regarding the sequence of events in the last days is provided in Matthew 24. In the Olivet Discourse he clearly lays out the events which occur prior to the Abomination of Desolation:

“As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, “Tell us” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?[3].” (Matt.24)

“Jesus answered: “Watch out the no one deceives you [4]. For many will come in my name, claiming ‘I am the Christ’ and will deceive many [5]. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come [6]. “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places [7]. All these are the beginning of birth pangs [8]. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me [9]. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

[10] and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people [11]. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, [12] but he who stands firm to the end will be saved [13]. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come [14].” (Matt.24)

We take it when Jesus says “and then the end will come” he is referring to the end of the church age. It cannot be his second coming because the Abomination of Desolation hasn’t happened yet. The church age will end with the rapture. The rapture of Christians out of the world must take place before Daniel’s 70th week begins because the new covenant must terminate in order for the old covenant with temple worship and service to be restored. During the first three and a half year period there will be a time of peace for the Jews in Israel. Their covenant with the Lord provides them with spiritual protection. Their covenant with the Antichrist provides them with safety in the world. However, this will end abruptly when the Abomination of Desolation occurs. In his teaching the Lord picks up the story in verse 15 of Matthew at that point in history:

“So, when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation’, spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand – [15] then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains [16]. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house [17]. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak [18].” (Matt.24)

THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS – SEAL JUDGEMENTS

The period of time Jesus calls “the beginning of birth pangs” (Matt. 24:8) includes:

- wars between nations (Matt. 24:7a)
- famines (Matt. 24:7b)
- martyrdom (Matt.24:9)
- earthquakes (Matt. 24:7c)

Jesus tells us explicitly “such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” (Matt.24:9).

These events correspond to the Seal judgements (Revelations chapter 6):

- wars (1st and 2nd seals: rider on white horse and rider on fiery red horse)
- famine (3rd seal: rider on black horse)
- death (4th seal: rider on pale horse)
- martyrdom (5th seal)
- earthquake (6th seal)

We have it on the authority of Jesus, the Word of God, that when these things occur “the end is still to come.”(Matt 24:9). The “end” is the “Day of the Lord”, the period of God’s judgment of the world.

THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS – RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS

Popular prophetic interpretation says the church is raptured in Revelation 4:1 and is removed before anything nasty happens to us. This is not what Jesus taught nor is it the historic Christian faith concerning the end times². The church will not be raptured in Revelation 4:1 when the Lord said to John “**come up here!**” because on his arrival there are no great crowds of saints in heaven. The crowds in heaven appear between the sixth seal and the seventh seal (Rev. 7:9-17). That is the when the rapture of the saints occurs. It says: “**a multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language**” (Rev.7:9). Whenever the Bible deals with the Jewish nation there is always careful measurements and a census. But when the Bible speaks of those redeemed by faith it is the uncountable number of descendants of Abraham, the man of faith: “**Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them...so shall your offspring be**” (Gen 15:5).

BOOK OF REVELATIONS – TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

The great apostasy, the great persecution, the rapture, the revealing of the Man of Lawlessness, the turning over of the sovereignty of world nations to the Anti-Christ, and the covenant between Israel and the Antichrist are all events that must take place before Daniel’s 70th week. All the Jews in the world are gathered to the holy land, the battle of Gog and Magog has happened, a tabernacle of worship has been set up, a priesthood anointed, all the holy things prepared, and all other requirements of worship and service are in readiness before Daniel’s 70th week. Just prior to the beginning of that week there will be peace and safety on earth. Nation will no longer fight against nation because the Antichrist and his military are in supreme control.

Everything will not be perfect for the Jews in Israel. Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles for the first half of the Daniel’s 70th week (Rev. 11:2). The historic location of the temple will not be available because the Dome of the Rock will continue to sit upon it. The Jews will set up a tabernacle likely at some location in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem. The Jews will put all their hopes in the coming of the Messiah. They believe the millennial temple will soon be built and all nations will come to worship the LORD there.

When sacrifice and offering are made in the temple, the Jews will enter back into covenant with the LORD and Daniel’s 70th week will begin. It will also signal the 7th Seal and the beginning of the God’s trumpet judgements upon the earth. When the Antichrist becomes the ruler of the world, it will be to the sound of trumpets, the customary announcement of kings. The trumpet judgements from heaven will send the message that the Lord Jesus Christ is the King of all the earth and will presage the downfall of the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and Babylon (the world system).

Like the judgments that fell on Egypt, the trumpet judgments will fall on the rest of the world but not on the Jewish People. They will be in covenant with the true King, and the Lord will spare them. Just as

². This thought was started by Darby in the 1800’s – it never had been the historic faith of the church yet today it is accepted as settled doctrine.

Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh, there will be two witnesses who will make it plain to the Antichrist that the bad things happening are judgments from God. The faith of the Jews will rise as a distinction is made between Jew and Gentile.

One theory is the message of the two witnesses to the Antichrist will be "Get out of the holy land and let my people worship me here!" This is the same message as Moses and Aaron, but at the opposite end of history it is Pharaoh who has to do the moving: The Jews are already in their land. Needless to say, the Antichrist will harden his heart in spite of terrible losses from the judgments.

It won't take the Antichrist long to conclude the Jews are causing his woes. In his evil imagination he reasons he must cause their religion to cease and wipe them out in the same way he wiped out the Christians. He destroys the two witnesses, defiles the Jewish holy place, and sets up an image for false worship. It may have been his plan all along to betray the Jews, but the severity of the judgments of God forces his hand.

EVENTS WHICH FOLLOW THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

When the abomination that causes desolation stands in the holy place, sacrifice and offering cease.

Fellowship between God and the Jewish nation also immediately ceases. Similar to every other time the temple or tabernacle was desolated or destroyed, it is a national crisis.

The Antichrist will demand that Jews worship him. They will not. They will head for the hills.

This was prophesied by Jesus:

"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation' spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand – then those who are in Judea flee to the mountains...For there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equalled again" (Matt. 24:15-16 & 21)

The Book of Revelations describes this event:

"The woman [Jewish people] fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days" (Rev. 12:6)

In the spiritual realm there will be radical consequences to the abomination of desolation:

"And there was a war in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. He was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole earth astray." (Rev. 12:7-9)

In heaven there will be great rejoicing over this victory:

“Now have come the kingdom and the salvation and the power of our God and the authority of his Christ...Therefore rejoice you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows his time is short.” (Rev. 12:10-12)

Heaven has been cleaned up. It is now only a matter of time until the earth is purified (with fire).

The Book of Galatians tells us that present day Jerusalem is spiritual Hagar, the Egyptian slave woman, and represents the Old Covenant given on Mount Sinai (Galatians 4:24-25). Galatians also says the church of Jesus Christ corresponds to Sarah, the free woman, and corresponds to the Jerusalem that is above (Galatians 4:21-23). The account of Hagar in Genesis provides us with a clue surrounding the prophetic events foreshadowed by the Feast of Trumpets:

“The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said ‘Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.’” (Gen. 21:10)

“Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered into the desert of Beersheba.” (Gen. 21:14)

Note that the casting out of Hagar from Abraham’s house happened on a feast day. Note also that Hagar wandered into the desert. Both these things match the description we have of what happens to the Jewish people on the date of the Feast of Trumpets in the middle of Daniel’s 70th week.

WHAT DESERT DO THE JEWISH PEOPLE FLEE TO?

God started his program with Israelite slaves in Egypt. They became a nation at the Passover while still in Egypt and then God took them out of Egypt “on eagle wings” (Exodus 19:4) to Mount Sinai. From there the LORD brought them into the Promised Land. After some centuries the Messiah came to Jerusalem and the Jews rejected him. When the Jews rejected their Messiah Jesus they regressed spiritually back to the foot of Mount Sinai (Galatians 4:24-25). They ceased to be a nation in covenant with God because the new covenant in Jesus’ blood was in effect. Even after the rapture and after the old covenant was renewed, the Jews will still did not enjoy sovereignty in the Promised Land while the world was under the control of the Antichrist. They will be foreigners in their own land hoping the Messiah will come and rescue them.

When the Antichrist desolates the sanctuary and the Jews flee to the mountains, the Jews will lose their covenant connection with the LORD. Spiritually they will regress again back to being merely slaves in Egypt. They started their spiritual journey in Egypt, went to Mount Sinai, and from there went on to Jerusalem. When they rejected Christ, they regressed to Mount Sinai, and after the abomination of desolation they will regress completely back to Egypt. The book of Revelations states:

“The woman [Jewish people] was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly [the word ‘fly’ refers to the aerial flight of birds] to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times, and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. Then the mouth of the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of its mouth” (Rev. 12:15-16)

Just as God parted the Red Sea to let the Jews out of Egypt, there will be another water miracle to let them back in. This time the land will be dry and the devil will attempt to stop them by spewing a river of water. But the land in the place where they are going will swallow the water. The Jewish people will be miraculously saved from destruction again.

There is tremendous irony in these events. God will bring the Jews right back to where they started. The humbling message to them will be only too clear and is echoed in the prophecy of Amos:

“Are you not you Israelites the same to me as Cushites?” (Amos 9:7)

Spiritually they are slaves in Egypt again. Will it physically be in Egypt? Or will it be in another desert?

It could very possibly be physically in Egypt. The Book of Deuteronomy says:

“If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere the glorious and awesome name – the LORD your God – the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. The LORD will also bring every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law until you are destroyed. You who were numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God. Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess”(Deut. 28:58-63).

“The LORD will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourself for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.” (Deut. 28:68)

When Israel enters back into covenant with the LORD at the beginning of Daniel’s 70th week, they are protected from the LORD’s judgements so long as they continue to keep the words of the Law. When the Antichrist eliminates temple worship the Israelites cannot keep the regulations of the Law pertaining to sacrifice and offering. The Israelites come out from under the protection of the LORD and are sent back to Egypt as punishment.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE DESERT?

That is the subject of the prophetic fulfillment of the next feast: the Feast of Atonement.

GEMATRIA STUDY:

This section looks at the gematria of verses in the Torah relating to regulations pertaining to the Feast of Trumpets. Verses that make general statements such as “The Lord said to Moses” are excluded. Only verses with information specific to observing the Feast are included.

There are only two passages of 8 verses in the Torah relating to the regulations for this Feast:

	Passage	Gematria	Factors
(1)	Leviticus 23:24-25	7,310	2 x 5 x 17 x 43
(2)	Numbers 29:1-6	<u>20,228</u>	2 x 2 x 13 x 389 [77 th prime]
	Total:	<u>27,538</u>	2 x 7 x 7 x 281 [60 th prime]

The spiritual interpretation of the gematria of the three passages:

- (1) The number 170 (2 x 85) means “division (2) of holy communion (85)”. The number 43 means “public humiliation”. In the second commandment it says “**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow thyself down to them, nor serve them**” (Exodus 20:4). The word ‘graven image’ has a gematria of 170! When the Antichrist sets up the idol (‘graven image’) in the tabernacle of the Lord, it will cause worship and sacrifice (‘holy communion’) to cease. An idol in the temple is humiliation to God.
- (2) The number 77 has the factors are 7 times 11. The spiritual meaning can be interpreted “The End (7) of Protection (11)”. It can also be interpreted “The End (7) of The Mystery (11)” and is associated with the False Prophet. The number 52 (2 x 2 x 13) means “Gospel” or “Message (4) to the Rebellion (13)”. When worship and sacrifice cease the covenant is broken and the Jewish people come out from under the protection of the LORD. They will be treated like other people on the earth, objects of wrath in the bowl judgments. At the same time, the Jewish people will realise the Prophet they listened to is false. The False Prophet is the “**Beast out of the Land**” (Rev 13:11). The ‘Land’ is the ‘Land’, the ‘Holy Land’, meaning the False Prophet is a Jew. From his description “**two horns like a lamb**” (Rev. 13:11) it is clear he appears like a member of God’s flock, which at that time in history will be the Jewish people. The False Prophet will lead the whole world to worship the image of the first Beast, the Antichrist. Part of the horror of the whole experience of the abomination of desolation for the Jews is that the mystery will end: everyone will know who the False Prophet is. He will be exposed it will shock the Jews that they put their trust in him. In the Book of Revelation it is written: “**I saw an angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those living on the earth...he said in a loud voice “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come”**”(Rev.14:6-7). In the midst of this chaos it will become clear to the Jews that they are now caught up in the judgment of the last days that will fall upon the whole world.

(3) The spiritual meaning of the gematria of the two passages combined is chilling. The number 98 (2 x 7 x 7) means “Blind Religious Leader” and the number 60 means “Earthly King”. The message is the False Prophet (‘Blind Religious Leader’) and the Antichrist (‘Earthly King’) will be of one accord. The Jewish people will have no one to pray to God for them and they will be pursued by the Antichrist who seeks to destroy them. At the same time, as they flee into the wilderness, they will experience no protection for God, yea they will come under the same judgments falling on everyone in the world. As the prophet Amos said “**Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light – pitch dark, without a ray of brightness**” (Amos 5:18-20).