

Clouds and Trumpets

Today we celebrate the Feast of Trumpets. It is the first of the fall Holy Days that signifies the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to the Earth to establish His millennial Kingdom. God commands us to keep the Feast of Trumpets in:

Leviticus 23:23-25- “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel saying, ‘In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, you shall have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of ram’s horns, a holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*, but you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.’ ”

Numbers 29:1- “And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no servile work. It is a day of blowing the trumpets to you.”

The blowing of trumpets signified a remembrance. They also were used to declare a warning. We have discussed the applications of their use in past lessons. We will get to the warning in a bit.

From scripture and our studies, the First Resurrection will take place around the Harvest Feast (Feast of Weeks, First Fruits) of Pentecost. However, *no verse specifically*, explicitly states this as to *which* Pentecost. Many things of prophecy must be fulfilled prior to Christ's return. The Feast of Trumpets *pictures* His return. No one knows the hour or the day of Christ's return. **NO ONE** but God the Father Himself.

Matthew 24:35-36- "The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall never pass away. But concerning that day, and the hour, **no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, **but My Father only**."

This scripture emphasizes the need and the commandment of "watch" found throughout the Gospel. We are to watch our spiritual condition so that we are ready, not just believing but actively pursuing and working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12-13- "So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God Who works in you both to will and to do according to *His* good pleasure."

For any man, preacher, or church to state such we will be *here, there*, or He will return by this date and time is nonsense.

The phrase “I’ll be back” is a common expression (an idiom) used to indicate a temporary departure with the intention of returning. It is quite common as we probably use ourselves weekly. It is a statement or declaration letting the listener know the speaker will return to the present location or situation. It isn’t complicated, it is just a reminder to a person’s intent.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to have been taught true U.S. History, have all heard of General Douglas MacArthur who was the Supreme Allied Commander during World War II. He made a statement and a promise to the people of the Philippines before he was forced to flee from the advancing Japanese Army. General MacArthur first declared "I shall return" on March 20, 1942, during a speech to the Filipino people before he left. He did return two years later on October 20th, 1944, to the island of Leyte.

Arnold Schwarzenegger used a more recent catch phrase (probably more familiar) when he played the villainous cyborg in Terminator 2- Judgment Day. How fitting.

How did Jesus tell us He would be back? Jesus not only told His disciples how He would return, but He also told all of us what to expect before He does.

Matthew 24:30-31- “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see** the Son of man **coming upon the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Matthew 24:35-37- “The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall never pass away. But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Now as *it was in* the days of Noah, so shall *it* also be *at* the coming of the Son of man.”

Matthew 26:64- “Jesus said to him, “You have said *it*. Moreover, I say to you, in the future you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

Mark 13:23-27- “But you, watch out for them! Behold, I have foretold all these things to you. Now in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened,

and the moon shall not give its light; And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken; And then they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He shall send His angels and gather together His elect from the four winds, and from the extremity of earth to the extremity of heaven.”

Mark 14:61-62- “But He remained silent and answered nothing. Again, the high priest questioned Him, and said to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I AM. And you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Luke 21:25-28- “And there shall be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress and anxiety among the nations, the seas roaring with rolling surges; Men dying of heart attacks from fear and dread of the things that are coming on the whole world; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with great power and glory. But when these things begin to take place, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Sometimes we can overlook multiple applications of words by focusing on their most common usage. This can take away from the context of what the scripture says. Tunnel vision. Modern “Churchianity” has done a fantastic job at rewriting and editing God’s Word to fit their particular narrative. Clouds and trumpets are two examples.

We see the use of clouds throughout scripture. We tend to overlook some of the words in scripture but the deeper we dig, the more meanings we can find. God uses clouds for several reasons. Clouds often functioned as a protection or led the chosen.

Exodus 13:21-22- “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people.”

Clouds also represent the depths of God, concealing and revealing His presence according to His divine purpose.

Exodus 19:16-19- “And it came to pass on the third day in the morning that there *was* thunder and lightning, and **a thick cloud upon the mountain**. And the sound of the trumpet (ram’s horn/shofar) was exceedingly loud so that all the people in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God. And they stood at the base of the mountain. And Mount Sinai was smoking, all of it because the LORD came down upon it in fire. And the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the sound of the trumpet sounded long, and became very strong, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.”

Clouds were used for many purposes. The ones set in the first heaven (sky) are the ones we are most familiar with.

Genesis 9:13-16- “I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be *the* sign of *the* covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the rainbow shall be in the cloud. And I will look upon it so that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”

As we just read, Christ will return “**in** the clouds” projecting an image of Jesus using the clouds as a vehicle. Just as a speculation and something to consider, re-reading Mark 14:61-62, Jesus said, “you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and **coming with the clouds** of heaven.”

If we break this down, the location has changed to being seated at the right hand of power and “coming ***with the clouds***.”

Mark 14:61-62- “But He remained silent and answered nothing. Again, the high priest questioned Him, and said to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I AM. And you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and **coming with the clouds** of heaven.”

If we search for word meanings, one of the meanings of “with” is “inclusive of.” Clouds can also mean *people*. Was He speaking of His return with His chosen saints?

Again, He is returning “**with** the clouds” in Revelation 1.

Revelation 1:7-11- “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* Ending,” says the Lord, “Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come—the Almighty.” I, John, who *is also* your brother and joint partaker in the tribulation and in the kingdom and endurance of Jesus Christ, was on the island that *is* called Patmos because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the day of the Lord; and **I heard a loud voice like a trumpet** behind me,” Saying, “**I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the First and the Last;” and, “What you see, write in a book, and send *it* to the churches that *are* in Asia: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17- “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep Because **the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven** with *a* shout of command, **with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God**; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught

up together with **them in *the* clouds** for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord.”

Scripture tells us of the “pecking order” of those who will be resurrected. There will be no cutting in line and to each his own order. This is another “twisted scripture” that is used to justify “going to Heaven for all eternity.”

Revelation 3:12- “The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and *he shall not go out any more*; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God; and *I will write upon him* My new name.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 says we shall *always be* “with the Lord.” In Revelation 3:12, Christ says He will make us a pillar in the temple of His God. Pillar means citizen (pillar of society), and we will never leave His love. New Jerusalem shall descend from Heaven and be *on the earth*.

When Jesus Christ ascended to the third Heaven, He didn’t need to say any quirky catch phrases. He wanted us to focus on our future when He returns. His life and

ministry established all He came to do. He gave us His Word, His example, instructions to be carried out.

Acts 1:5-11- “For John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit after not many days.” So then, when they were assembled together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You restore the kingdom to Israel at this time?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has placed in His own authority; But you yourselves shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth.” And after saying these things, as they were looking at Him, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. Now while they were gazing intently up into heaven as He was going up, two men in white apparel suddenly stood by them, Who also said, “You men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, shall come in exactly the same manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.”

Jesus ascending in a cloud exemplified how He would visibly return where every eye will see Him. The Two Witnesses will ascend in the same manner when they are resurrected.

Revelation 11:12- “And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, “Come up here!” And they ascended into heaven *in a cloud*; and their enemies saw them *rise*.
(this is speaking of the two witnesses who were martyred)

We always associate a trumpet with a musical instrument (or shofar/ram’s horn) but often it carries greater meanings like describing the voice of the Lord. In Revelation 1:10 (**I heard a loud voice *like a trumpet*** behind me,” Saying, “**I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the First and the Last,” and also Revelation 4:1-2), John describes Christ’s voice, “like a trumpet.”

Revelation 4:1-2- “After these things I looked, and behold, a door opened in heaven; and the **first voice that I heard *was as if a trumpet*** were speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you *the* things that must take place after these things.” And immediately I was in *the* Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *One was* sitting on the throne.”

Trumpets were used to alert people to danger, warning, the approach of an enemy, a remembrance, or to announce an arrival (these are just a few). We have shared numerous lessons on “The Lord’s Day” and how misused the term is. When Jesus Christ returns, the Lord’s Day will not be what so many believe or choose to

celebrate as the Sabbath. The sound of the trumpet also signaled a warning. It announces the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to the Earth to establish His Millennial Kingdom. In the future, the earth will have been ravaged by the tribulation, and Christ's return will put things in order under His government. It announces the Day of The Lord! God has poured out His wrath and judgment upon mankind for his continuous rebellion.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17- “Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* **trumpet of God;** and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for the meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so, shall we always be with *the* Lord.”

This will be the “wake-up” call we have been striving for our whole lives.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55- “Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed, In an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet; for the trumpet shall sound,** and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility, and this mortal must put on immortality. Now when this

corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”

Jesus is coming back the same way He ascended as described in Acts 1:11. This description merits discussion as it depicts the first resurrection and precedes Christ’s actual return to earth. These things are taking place in the air. We are meeting with the Lord in the air! We must participate in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and be presented to God on the Sea of Glass.

Revelation 19:9- “And he said to me, “Write: Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

When the trumpet sounds, we will be raised to eternal life. We will be returning with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to rule with Him here on the earth (Revelation 1:6., 5:10).

Revelation 19:11-15- “And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse; and He Who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and

make war. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; *and* He had a name written that no one knows except Him. And *He was* clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is The Word of God. **And the armies in heaven were following Him on white horses;** *and* they were clothed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He shall shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury and the wrath of the Almighty God.”

The Feast of Trumpets is a celebration with multiple meanings, it is our confident hope to fulfill God’s calling on our lives and be a part of His First Resurrection and return with our Savior to establish His Kingdom here on earth. This is the pivotal Holy Day that will put the resurrected saints to work and begin the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 11:15- “Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.”

Knowing the many facets of clouds and trumpets, we can look up with anticipation.

Titus 2:11-13- “For the grace of God, which brings salvation for all men, has appeared; Teaching us that, having denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live moderately and righteously and godly in this present world, Looking for the blessed hope and *the* appearing of the glory of our Savior and great God, Jesus Christ;” Amen.

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