

THE FEAST OF YOM TERU'AH / TRUMPETS

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Date in Hebrew Calendar: 1st of Tishrei (September-October)

Scriptural references: Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 10:9-10, 29:1.

The Bible says less about the Feast of Trumpets than any of the other feasts; it was simply to be a holy day celebrated with trumpet blasts, on the first day of the seventh month. The blowing of the trumpet as associated with the calling of a solemn assembly; a warning of danger and action to be taken (such as gathering of the troops to war) or the arrival of a king.

Over the centuries this feast-because it was the first in the series of three fall festivals considered to be the holiest time of the year-came to be called "Rosh Hashanah" (literally "Head of the Year"), or New Year's Day.

While this feast is not specifically mentioned in the New Testament, at least two extremely important prophetic events are described there as beginning with a trumpet blast-the "rapture" of the church (1 Thes 4:16-18), and the return of the Lord (Matthew 24:31).

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated today with several different blasts of the "Shofar" (trumpet made from a ram's horn). It is a very solemn time, just preceding the holiest day of all-the Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur"). On Yom Kippur God's atonement (forgiveness) is sought and His judgment is feared. The 10 days from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur are called the "Days of Awe," when one considers his/her sins before God, and enters into a period of repentance; asking for forgiveness from God and those one has harmed; and of restitution.

While there is no special celebration of this feast in the Church, a time of repentance, asking for forgiveness and of restitution certainly would not be out of place, especially as we await the last trump and the coming of the King of Kings.