

## **Q7: Capture Our Hearts And Purify The Altar**

### **Yom Teru'ah / Feast Of Trumpets**

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*"These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons." Lev 23:4 (KJV)*

*"ON THE first day of the seventh month [on New Year's Day of the civil year], you shall have a holy [summoned] assembly; you shall do no servile work. It is a day of blowing of trumpets for you [everyone blowing who wishes, proclaiming that the glad New Year has come and that the great Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles are now approaching]." Num 29:1 AMP*

#### **Yom Teru'ah Israel's New Year**

- A. Yom Teru'ah: The Day of Sounding / Festival of Trumpets.
- B. Rosh: Beginning or head.
- C. Hashanah: Year or Head of the Year also believed to mark the beginning of Creation.

#### **Jewish Traditions Hold Meaning For Christians**

Elul 1 (August 21, 2009) begins the traditional thirty days of Shofar blasts warning Israel to prepare. This is a season that is about returning, penance and fasting prior to Yom Teru'ah and the Great Day of Yom Kippur also known as Atonement. Why thirty days prior to Yom Teru'ah? One reason might be because thirty (30) is the prophetic number for consecration and spiritual maturity in the bible. These thirty days in the nation of Israel are considered a spiritual preparation time in order to make sure that every individual is obeying the commandments of the Lord and preparing for the return of the Messiah. I have learned that the Fall Feasts are about the Appoint Time of His return. The traditions of Israel help the church understand the fullness of this joyful event and also the seriousness of each believer being ready for the Messiah's return.

Being ready for the return of the Messiah is not just about our salvation. It is also about righteous deeds, and will they follow us or burn up during the fiery test at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1Cor.3:13). As a spiritual leader I believe one of the greatest challenges for the church in the "New Millennium" is for leaders to assist the body of Christ in understanding that *investing* into heaven with *righteous deeds* is as real as buying stocks, bonds and precious metals for your earthly future.

Jesus said it this way; *"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."* Luke 12:20-21 KJV

The Fall Feasts speak to the realities of Jesus Christ returning and personal readiness in every area of life. This is why the traditions of Israel during the Fall Feasts makes so much

sense for a born again believer. Many think that such traditions are just Jewish....., but Israel is where the root system of Christianity comes from, so why would it be so strange to think that the biblical feasts and Jewish traditions connected to these specific events shouldn't reveal spiritual truths to the church today? These traditions are full of insight and wisdom (Rom. 11).

Israel has always believed that the Messiah will return during the Fall Feasts of Trumpets, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles. In *Christianize* these feasts represent the Rapture, Judgment Seat of Christ, Marriage Supper of The Lamb and Eternity.

The Apostle Paul said it this way; *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 1 Thess 4:16 KJV.*

It would be short sighted to think that the Apostle Paul was talking about a different last Trump other than Yom Teru'ah (Num 29:1). Paul was most certainly referring to the biblical feast day of Trumpets, because these are the Appointed Times of the Lord. They have been celebrated for thousands of years by the nation of Israel and a remnant of Gentile believers.

The Hebrew word *Moedim* means Appointed Times, while the Hebrew word *Miqra* means a rehearsal practice for future events. So the entire month of Elul 1 (8-21-2009) to Tishrei 1 (9-19-2009) is thirty days of preparation for an event known in the Old Testament as the Feast of Trumpets and in New Testament as the “Last Trump of God.” This entire month has a holy significance of its own with the Shofars blowing daily in the Synagogues to remind Israel that The Great Days of Trumpets and Atonement are fast approaching and mankind should be prepared to meet the Messiah. Christians we know that we must not be found sleeping (backslidden) or lukewarm when the last trump sounds!

Jewish rabbis stressed that the forty days from Trumpets to Atonement is to be a time of spiritual preparation know as *Teshuvah* which is Hebrew for return. Why? One teaching says it is based on the belief that it was on Elul 1 that Moses ascended Mount Sinai in order to receive the *second* set of Tablets of the Law and that he descended on Yom Kippur (*Pirke DeRabbi Eliezer* 46).

In short don't grow weary of waiting for the Messiah to return and begin to disobey or become lukewarm about the commandments of God. Remember Israel had become *weary* and *impatient* while waiting *forty days* for Moses to descend the first time from Mt. Sinai with the Word of God. In the same way Jews and Christians need to be sure we have not allowed the spirit of this world to penetrate our lives and make us weary of obeying and waiting for the Word of God Himself to return and dwell with us for eternity (Jn. 1:14).

We need to be sure our names have not been blotted out of the Book of Life because of self made *golden calf's* we have served while waiting for His return (Rev.3:5). So thirty days prior to Yom Teru'ah is the traditional days of heart preparation. The Feast of Trumpets is then followed by the Ten Days of Awe preceding Yom Kippur for a total preparation time of forty days to return, prepare, and find grace and mercy just like the second chance Moses received for the people at Mt. Sinai. God said hew out and prepare

two *new* stones and *return* to me and I will re-write My laws on them a second time. Rabbis teach Moses returned to the people with these new tablets on Yom Kippur.

Hebrew *tradition* teaches that it was believed that “Three Books” are opened during the Fall Feasts and that inscriptions are *made* in them on Yom Teru’ah. Then there is the waiting period known as the Ten Days of Awe which end on Yom Kippur. This tradition of Israel indicates the inscriptions were then *sealed* on Atonement for the coming year. And what is inscribed and sealed is how a person begins their New Year. This has specific meaning to the Christian life because we know that we can only live out our faith in *three* possible ways. All three of these ways are *indicated* in this Jewish tradition about the three books.

Let’s say that this year actually was actually the Last Trumpet blast that the Apostle Paul refers to (1Cor 15:52). What book would most accurately reflect your behavior best, book number one, two or three?

1. Book for the righteous.
2. Book for the wicked.
3. Book for the lukewarm (in-between).

The exciting news is that by celebrating the Fall Feasts we find encouragement to be *prepared* for the Last Trump of God and the Judgment Seat Of Christ. Because the Jewish people have served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for thousands of years we can understand the importance the tradition of Teshuvah (returning) prior to the “Final Trump of God.” If we *Miqra*, rehearse and prepare for these future events on the *Moedim*, Appointed Times of The Lord we will never be caught slumbering or unaware of the Messiah’s return. In actuality we will be prepared, looking forward to because we are celebrating these Holy Convocations, thus no one should be caught unaware at the Messiahs return.

### **Teshuvah Gamurah Means Complete Returning**

Here are four steps of preparation and returning to consider during the forty days preceding Yom Kippur (Lev. 23:4).

#### **Step 1: Stop**

Stop whatever destructive action you are engaged in. If, for example, you are breaking the commandments....stop, repent, forsake and return.

#### **Step 2: Regret.**

You should indeed regret and grieve errors of ethical and moral judgments that led to sin. You should correct the harm you have caused if at all possible.

#### **Step 3: Verbalize**

Repent. Talk to God in at least an audible voice, not just in your head; of course, God knows already, but you need to think, speak and hear it. If your actions harmed other people then go and make amends even if they reject you.

#### **Step 4: The Returning - Make a Plan**

How can you be sure that the mistake won't happen again? Make a practical plan of action to forsake and improve your life by setting spiritual and natural goals of returning. The

completion of the above four steps is called *teshuvah gamurah*, or *complete* return. This occurs when God restores you back to the same position as you originally were in before you made the mistake. Now forsake those actions and remember you look much better in the future than you do right now.

During these forty days I would like to suggest that you set spiritual and natural goals for the New Year. Have these goals prepared and ready before or on Yom Teru'ah. Follow up by asking the Lord in prayer to seal them in your heart during on Yom Kippur. Then enter the New Year Tabernacling and partnering with the Lord around these goals. You will be amazed to see what great things God will do *with* and *for* you during the remainder of this year.

Kris and I focus our goals at this time of the year around the "Greatest Commandment."

*"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment."* Matt 22:37-38 KJV

Together we review our past year by considering our challenges, failure and successes. We then discuss the coming year and set goals based on the above commandment. We set goals that will increase spiritual, emotional and physical improvement. We also consider how we will increase our relationships with our fellow man. We are amazed every year to see just how we grew in our goals. Many years we have declared some of them fully completed. I want to encourage you to consider returning and focusing on Kingdom goals.

I remember making a silicon wafer sale to the IBM computer division in upstate New York. The sale was for more than a million dollars per month. This was a huge career accomplishment. During this same trip I developed a relationship with one of our East Coast Account Managers; I was assigned to him because no one in the corporation could work with him. Two years after this relationship developed he was diagnosed with cancer. After he left the company due to his illness I called him faithfully and sent correspondence with my testimony, scripture and special poetry. One night he took a walk and asked Jesus to forgive him. During my next phone call he revealed this to me. I continued to call and pray with him in the hospital, he died six months later. A month after his death I received a phone call from his sister in Florida. She had read my letters and cards to her brother and wanted to personally thank me for being a friend and sharing with him my faith in Jesus. She said it was such a comfort to learn this about her brother. The Fall Feasts are an Appointed Time to remind us that we are just passing through and this is our temporary dwelling place.

Let each of us ask ourselves what will remain if all of my worldly possessions, career successes and personal works were tested by fire on Yom Kippur this year? My million dollar sale to IBM will become a flash fire flare up, but I know I will meet Arnold in heaven.

Just what have you invested into heaven that can survive the fiery test?

*"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." If any man's work*

*abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” 1 Cor 3:12-15 (KJV)*

The forty days are a reminder of the *Moedim*, Appointed Times of Yom Teru'ah, Atonement and Tabernacles. To Moedim and Miqra is to consecrate and restore holy living before Atonement. Why forty days, maybe it is because forty is the biblical number for probation, testing and always ends in victory or defeat. We must ask ourselves are we ready for Jesus to return and am I prepared to stand before Him and give account of my life and will any of my works follow me?

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Cor 5:10 (KJV)*

Yom Teru'ah is Tishrei 1 (9-19-2009 USA) *“And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you Num 29:1-6 .*

### **Summary**

Yom Teru'ah, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles are the “DAYS OF AWE”. In short the last trump sounds (Yom Teru'ah), then Judgment Seat of Christ (Yom Kippur) where the books are opened including the book of life and those found in it will Tabernacle with Jesus for eternity with their righteous deeds following. Are you ready? Will any deeds follow you?

Jewish tradition teaches us some wonderful truths about the Fall Feasts. Especially that no one need be caught unprepared at His return. It is prudent during the Fall Feasts to take time and ask just how we stand in the Lord spiritually. How are we perceived in the spirit realm? How does the heavenly host observe us? Do they observe us as righteous, wicked or lukewarm? If the Fall Feasts this year were to bring the final “Last Trump” how might we be recorded in the three books and what works would follow us into eternity? Do we have the markings of God upon us?

*“And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” Ezek 9:1-4 (KJV)*

Yom Teru'ah to Yom Kippur is inclusively considered “Ten Days Of Penitence”. It is also referred to as the “The Day Of Judgment, The Day Of The Sounding Of The Shofar And The Day Of Remembrance.” I hope the above discussion helps us understand the importance of the thirty days of preparation prior to “The Feast of Trumpets,” and why the Ten Days prior to Yom Kippur bring to completion the forty days of Teshuvah Gamurah (repenting steps 1-4). As a fellowship we are preparing to set aside this time in order to ask the Holy Spirit to “Capture Our Hearts and Purify The Altar” ([www.rhm-net.org](http://www.rhm-net.org)). I encourage you to set aside the High Sabbaths of Yom Teru'ah, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles and remember that we are just passing through and our final home is not here.

The rehearsal of these feasts is not about our eternal destiny right now, but they are about a season of time that encourages and commands us to reflect on our salvation, character and righteous deeds before “The Last Trump Sounds.” These forty days of capturing our hearts and purifying the altar of our life is *about revealing* who we are becoming in Christ.

Paul said it this way, “[*it is my one aspiration*]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.” Phil 3:13-14.

It is a season to set goals for new levels of spiritual and emotional maturity. Take time to set ministry goals so righteous deeds go before you into the Kingdom of Heaven. It is very simple; Jesus the Son Of God and our returning Messiah see’s you transitioning into the fullness of your salvation. The Word of God says we are changing from “glory to glory,” not from *regret to regret*.

*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” 2 Cor 3:18;*

We are in the process of being changed into His image and many times we do not see the daily alterations from where we began, to whom we are becoming in Christ. The Holy Spirit is revealing the “Sons of God.” Take a forty day focused journey of returning, preparing, weighing, measuring and embracing. I end this exhortation with the words of the Apostle John.

*“And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”  
1 John 3:2-3 KJV*

*Blessings, Pastor Bob Hill*

#### **Additional Scriptures**

*Psalms 47 is read 7 times, Num 10:1-10, Lev 23:24, Num 10:9-10, Isa 27:13  
Micah 7:18-19 18, Deut 30:1-*