

Israel, America And The Last Days

Chapter Fifteen - The Shofar And The Rapture Of The Last Days

Leviticus 23:24 - Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Not too terribly long ago a certain individual wrote a book concerning the rapture of the Church. In it, he outlined specific dates that he felt would be the dates of the rapture of the church and the Tribulation period spoken of by Daniel and the Apostle John. He listed several hundred reasons why he believed his timetable was correct and even put an exact date in the book when he felt Jesus and the saints would return to Earth at the end of the Great Tribulation. Most people dismissed this work (as they should have) because only the unwise try to put a date on God's timetable. ***If Jesus Himself didn't know here on earth the timetable of coming events and of His own coming, why should we think God is going to grant that to someone today?*** The reason I even mention this book is that one common denominator in this man's work was the parallel he sought to draw between the Feasts of Israel AND coming events in the prophetic calendar for the church and the world. That part of this man's work was not faulty because I too believe that when you look and study the Feasts of the Lord we see a beautiful outline of God's prophetic timetable of events He plans for His Bride, along with His chosen people Israel.

The first feast of the year was Passover that celebrated and commemorated Israel's exodus out of Egypt. In type it also represented the church's exodus out of the world through our Passover LAMB - the Lord Jesus Christ. His death on Calvary was the fulfillment of the Passover. Paul himself even wrote "YESHUAH IS OUR PASSOVER, slain for us." It all starts with the CROSS-! Nothing we do as Christians can be done except through the power of the CROSS of YESHUAH. Calvary was not the greatest defeat of all mankind - it was the greatest victory.

First fruits took place 3 days after Passover on the Jewish calendar just as Jesus arose from the dead THREE days after Calvary. The pattern is simple - Passover-Calvary; Firstfruits-Resurrection. Some 50 days after Passover, another Jewish Feast was celebrated – Pentecost. Pentecost, which literally means "50," celebrates the giving of the Law by God to Moses and the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai. When the Lord came down upon the Mount, the mountain burned with fire and shook. Anyone touching the mountain at that time would surely die. Before He gave them the LAW, they celebrated Passover in Egypt. Again, a beautiful type or picture of what happened through CHRIST.

Sadly, God would have rather brought GRACE and DWELT among His people. He gave Moses two things at Sinai - THE LAW and A PATTERN FOR A TABERNACLE. Israel chose THE LAW and when we choose the LAW we must

live under the LAW. While the Law is just and holy, we as sinful humanity do not have a prayer of survival seeking to justify ourselves before the Lord under the Law. Pentecost was a foreshadow of yet another great event on God's prophetic calendar for the Church - the day the Holy Ghost was poured out upon 120 people gathered on the Temple square in Jerusalem. In beautiful fulfillment of the original type, the Holy Spirit fell 50 days after the Resurrection of Yeshuah. Pentecost took place 50 days after Passover. The pattern for the believer is the same - first the cross, then the Holy Spirit. The blood saves us, and then we're baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues.

Acts 2:1-4 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The fire that made Mt. Sinai quake was now sent to inhabit the hearts of the New Covenant believer! There was no mistake on Luke's part by his mentioning of the Feast day itself – PENTECOST. Pentecost was a key in seeing the development of God's redemptive plan for man through His CHURCH. The fire, the wind, the sound from heaven all were types of what we in the church need so much of today to keep us on the path of life. We need the fire of God to purify us. We need to HEAR FROM HEAVEN so desperately, especially now in America's darkest hour since World War II. We need to feel the mighty rushing wind touch our lives and energize us as we seek to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. The same elements of the Glory of God coming down upon Sinai was again repeated at Pentecost.

He came down on Mt. Sinai with "fire, thundering and a great sound." The word "thunder" in Hebrew has a connotation of a word that means, "a loud blowing of wind." Again, the progression of God's revelation of His plans for the believer and the Church were laid out in motion - Calvary - redemption; Firstfruits - resurrection; Pentecost - the Holy Ghost.

All of these feasts took place in the spring of the year. Several months would take place before Israel would celebrate her feasts again. The second set of feasts began in the fall of the year. The only "celebration," if you wanted to call it that, took place in the summer called "The Fast of the Fifth Month." This feast called for a national day of mourning and fasting to commemorate the destruction of Israel's two previous Temples - during the days of Nebuchadnezzar and when the Roman Emperor Titus destroyed the second temple in A.D. 70.

The next feast after Pentecost and the FIRST FEAST of the fall was and is Rosh Hashanah or more commonly referred to as the FEAST OF TRUMPETS. The Lord commanded Israel under the Old Covenant to keep this feast each seventh month of the year with the **blowing of trumpets**. It was to be a holy convocation! The seventh month of the Jewish calendar clearly stood out above the others in the eyes of Moses and Israel. According to God's instructions and the Hebrew calendar, the people were to punctuate the arrival of each new month with a celebration and the blowing of trumpets.

The command for this feast came from Sinai: "**you shall have a REST, a REMINDER by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation (Lev. 23:24)**" It is interesting that when God gave the prophetic calendar of feasts to Moses He Himself named the other appointed feasts such as the Sabbath, the Passover and the Day of Atonement. But this feast received no actual title. It was simply called "Yom T'ruah" - the day of blowing. The blowing of the trumpets became THE distinguishing characteristic of the day, calling the people's attention to the awesome festival that was to follow - THE DAY OF ATONEMENT.

On the first of Tishri at the call of the **shofar**, an instrument made from a ram's curved horn, all "servile" work was to cease. This set the FEAST OF TRUMPETS apart from the first day of any other Hebrew months. The blowing of the shofar was a memorial. Its call reminded Israel that the seventh month had begun. One may be reading this and say well what does it represent in the prophetic plan of God? Well think. Passover represented Calvary. Firstfruits represented resurrection. Pentecost represented the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What in God's prophetic promise is tied into the blowing of a trumpet? You got it – THE RAPTURE!

1 Thes. 4:14-18 - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. [15] For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. [16] 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: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Cor. 15:50-58 - Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. [51] Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

[55] O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? [56] The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

In Israel's economy, the shofar was used to sound over "burnt offerings" speaking to us that when the trumpet sounds and we are taken out of the Earth it will not be because of anything WE'VE done - it will all be because of the SACRIFICE of our Lord Yeshuah! Everything centers on sacrifice and offerings in God's economy. Without the shedding of blood even the trumpet will not sound.

Numbers 10:10 - Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, you shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the Lord your God.

The Shofar

The shofar has always held a prominent role in the history of God's chosen people. Jewish tradition states, "*The shofar was created for the WELFARE of Israel.*" Some interesting facts about the shofar include:

- **The Torah was given to Israel with the sound of the SHOFAR-**

Exodus 19:19 - And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

- **Israel conquered in the battle of Jericho with the blast of the shofar –**

Joshua 6:20 - So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets; and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

- **Israel will be advised of the advent of the Messiah with the sound of the shofar**

Zech. 9:14 - And the Lord shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

- **MESSIAH, the HOLY ONE, will sound the shofar at the time of the ingathering of the exiles of Israel to their place**

*Isaiah 27:13 - And it shall come to pass in that day, **that the great trumpet shall be blown**, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

- **The shofar was blown to signal the assembly of Israelites to war**

*Judges 3:27 - And it came to pass, when he was come, **that he blew a trumpet** in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them; 2 Samuel 20:1 - And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: **and he blew a trumpet**, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.*

- **The watchman that stood upon Jerusalem's walls blew the shofar to warn the people of impending danger**

*Amos 3:6 - **Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people shall not be afraid?** shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?*

Jeremiah 6:1 - O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appears out of the north, and great destruction.

Ezekiel 33:6 - But if the watchman see the sword come and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

Trumpets Of Silver

The shofar, along with silver trumpets, were both used in the Feast of Trumpets as recorded in Numbers 10. The Feast was again, a type, a picture, of the rapture of the CHURCH, in God's prophetic timetable. The *hatzozerah*, or *trumpet of silver*, was a straight metal silver trumpet that was flared at the end. It was this type of trumpet God commanded the sons of Israel to fashion in Numbers 10 for the feast of trumpets:

*Numbers 10:1-2 - And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [2] **Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that you may use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.***

The priests sounded these silver trumpets over the sacrifices as a memorial to the Lord:

Numbers 10:10 - Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the Lord your God.

In Solomon's day, the number of silver trumpets in the Temple had grown to a magnificent ensemble of 120 trumpets:

2 Chron. 7:6 - And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the Lord, which David the king had made to praise the Lord, because his mercy endures for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

2 Chron. 5:12 - Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets.

Psalm 98:6 - With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.

Silver was the symbol of the price of redemption of the soul. It was used as ransom or the atonement money:

Exodus 30:11-16 - And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [12] When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the Lord, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. [13] This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the Lord. [14] Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the Lord. [15] The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the Lord, to make atonement for your souls. [16] And thou shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the Lord, to make an atonement for your souls.

It is possible that the two trumpets from one piece of silver came from the atonement money after the numbering of the firstborn. Two trumpets were made for the various callings in Israel. As noted already the number two (2) is the number of testimony, the number of WITNESS. The trumpet in scripture is used to symbolize several things:

- The prophetic voice, the spoken Word of the Lord coming to His people through the ministry; the prophets were told to lift up their voice "like a trumpet."

Isaiah 58:1 - Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Hosea 8:1 - Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.

- The voice of the Lord Jesus is symbolized also by the **SOUND OF A TRUMPET**

Rev. 1:10 - I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Rev. 4:1 - After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

Amos 3:6-8 - Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it? [7] Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets. [8] The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

Isaiah 18:3 - All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifts up an ensign on the mountains; and when he blows a trumpet, hear ye.

- For Israel, Aaron and his sons were responsible as priests to sound the trumpet message on the special occasions.

Exodus 28:1 - And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

- The prophet Ezekiel was distinctly told to be a Watchman to Israel and **BLOW THE TRUMPET** voice of warning to them, or call them unto the Lord

Ezekiel 33:1-7 - Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, [2] Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: [3] If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; [4] Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh

not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. [5] He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. [6] But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. [7] So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

After the destruction of the Temple, much debate arose among the rabbis concerning the sounding of the shofar since Scripture did not explicitly describe the manner of blasts required. A compromise was reached that covered all possibilities:

- The *tekiah* was defined as a long, unwavering blast.
- The *shevarim* were defined as three short, broken blasts
- The *teruah* mentioned in Scripture was declared to be a nine-part staccato blast somewhat reminiscent of sobbing. Collectively, the following pattern was developed for blowing the shofar: a long blast (*tekiah*) - three short blasts (*shevarim*) and nine staccato blasts (*teruah*) and one long blast (*tekiah*)

Apart from the sacrificial ceremony, the trumpet had several uses for the nation of Israel. The two main uses were to gather *an assembly before the Lord* and it **sounded an alarm. It was a foreshadowing of the rapture of the church which Paul described in detail in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-19 and 1 Corinthians 15:55-60**

In both passages noted above, Paul links the rapture with the blowing of a TRUMPET just as Israel sounded her Trumpets so long ago on the first day of the seventh month - Rosh Hashanah - the FEAST OF TRUMPETS. **The Old Testament Feast of the Lord is a warning to us in the Body of Christ today.** We are living in the "Feast of Pentecost," waiting for the "Feast of Trumpets." The Feast of Trumpets is the next Feast on God's prophetic timetable. Knowing this how close do you think we are to the coming of the Lord?

For The Calling Of The Assemblies

Numbers 10:2a -Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shall thou make them: that you may use them for the calling of the assembly.

On the first day of the Feast Of Trumpets the trumpets sounded to call the 12 tribes gathered together as one nation. In times past, the trumpet was always used to call Israel, God's people together. (Isa. 27:13).

Isaiah 27:13 - And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

This should be a huge object lesson for the church. It doesn't matter your view of the rapture. This is NOT a doctrine that should be dividing us – it should be uniting us. There will be a rapture. There will be a catching away of God's people before wrath. Whether that is pre, mid or post it should not be causing denominations to not fellowship with other denominations. Souls are at stake in this last hour. The harvest is at hand. Many will come into the Kingdom of God before Jesus returns to Earth. When the Trump of God sounds – we are not going up as a fragmented church! Praise God.

There is only ONE Body of Christ. There is only ONE faith. There is only ONE CHRIST. There is only ONE gospel. All the petty divisions we see here on Earth will not exist at the rapture of the church. I believe with all my heart that what the Lord is doing on the EARTH now is bringing the TRUE BODY together unlike we have seen at any time in our history. Our country saw an unprecedented coming together the last 6 days since the attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. It's a shame that it takes a tragedy and calamity like the events of 9/11 to bring us together. It's also a shame that it takes the same type calamity to bring the CHURCH together as well. We are ONE BODY and we best be getting our collective acts together because Jesus is coming! There is not much time left to be arguing over sprinkling or immersing. There is not much time left to be arguing over whether speaking in tongues is of God or of Satan. There is not much time left to be arguing over what the color of our carpet is at church or the size of the chandelier. JESUS IS COMING! Jesus is coming! And He's coming soon. AND HE'S COMING FOR ONE BODY, not 20!

The Journeying Of The Camp

Numbers 10:2c -Make thee two trumpets of silver...for the journeying of the camps.

When the Cloud moved, then the trumpets were to be blown and the people were to move on with God.

Numbers 9:15-23 - And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. [16] So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. [17] And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. [18] At the commandment of the Lord the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the Lord they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the

tabernacle they rested in their tents. [19] And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the Lord, and journeyed not. [20] And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the Lord they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the Lord they journeyed. [21] And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. [22] Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. [23] At the commandment of the Lord they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the Lord they journeyed: they kept the charge of the Lord, at the commandment of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

*Hebrews 11:13 - These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and **confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.***

God is moving by His Spirit in a powerful way in these last days. And as a result of September 11th events I believe He is going to bring good out of great-intended evil. I've already heard of one incident while working just south of New York City where a truck driver driving en route home who saw the tragic scenes and was brought to tears. He suddenly stopped the truck and walked into a local NYC church. No one but a secretary was there so he asked her if he could just sit in their church as long as he needed to. She graciously said, "yes you can." When the youth pastor of the church arrived he went to the back of the church where the truck driver had just sat for over an hour, started talking to him, and led him to Jesus. GLORY TO GOD! Friend, there is a harvest that is coming! And it's coming to Planet Earth. But in the midst of this harvest, great judgment is coming also. THESE ARE THE CLARION TRUMPET SOUNDS that we are about to take a journey! This world is not our home; we're just passing through. Our treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.

When we embrace the promise of the second coming of Jesus FOR HIS CHURCH, we are CONFESSING that we are strangers and pilgrims on earth. I'm looking and LISTENING for the sound of a trumpet, the VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, THE TRUMP OF GOD, which will fulfill the Feast of TRUMPETS. Glory to God.

For The Blowing Of Alarms

At times trumpets had to sound an alarm and warn the people of that which was coming (Joel 2:1; Amos 3:6-7). So today, God sounds an alarm to His

Church to warn her of coming events in the world thus causing the church to seek His face.

*Numbers 10:5 - **When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward. [6] When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys. [7] But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm.***

This is a very interesting picture of what is happening as we write this a few months after the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001. God is sounding an alarm all over the Earth. America has been given warning after warning after warning about Her sin and rebellion and she has just kept on sinning and rebelling. The warning to be prepared for the Lord's coming used to be preached behind pulpit. Those voices are getting less and less. We have just become so dull and our hearts have been hardened that nothing seems to phase us anymore. What happened on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 faded not only a handful of people - but also the entire nation. Christian and sinner alike stared in stunned silence as the terrorist planes hit our Pentagon and the World Trade Center in New York City and Washington, D.C. Some of the news reports coming out now indicate that our government was warned on two different fronts - ISRAELI intelligence and an Iranian man jailed in Germany who phoned the US and told them Osama Bin Laden had hatched a plot to destroy certain targets in America and specifically mentioned the World Trade Center. What was our response? **We ignored both.** And then when the planes hit - they hit without the sound of an alarm.

Friend, as traumatic as that was that Tuesday morning, it PALES in comparison when the TRUMP OF GOD will sound very soon and in an INSTANT, a TWINKLING of an eye, MILLIONS of people will suddenly disappear off planet Earth without an alarm or warning. Yet, God is giving us an alarm NOW. He's dealing with hearts all over this world and nation calling them to HIMSELF. Calling them to repent of their sins and humble themselves before HIM. He's dealing with the CHURCH to allow the sounds of the warnings to draw us TOGETHER, not divide us. If the church doesn't truly unite we are going to miss a great door of witness the coming harvest grants us. I speak this more to the church here in America than abroad. Many overseas are already giving their blood for the cause of Christ. Nothing that could happen on this Earth could cause them to love Jesus any more than they do. They're not looking for the rapture to call them out of the fire - they've already settled in their hearts that they are going to love Yeshuah IN THE FIRE. As we get closer to the end, many more will follow.

Hear me friend. THERE WILL BE NO ALARM SOUNDED WHEN JESUS COMES BACK FOR THE CHURCH! In an INSTANT, the TWINKLING of an

eye, we are going to be gone. There are no other clearer words given than that. The rapture will be sudden and without warning. And the shock caused to society will be felt WORLDWIDE and it will be devastating.

I say this with the understanding that I don't need to scare you to "get ready for the rapture." Life is so brief that at any moment any one of us could be called into eternity. The reason for being ready is that if the Lord doesn't elect to take us out by way of death we want to be found watching and waiting for the Lord's return. Words cannot describe the horror coming to this planet. Words cannot describe the carnage that lies ahead for all of humanity - wars, famines, earthquakes, supernatural judgments, plagues, water turning to blood, demonic horsemen and that's just the judgments coming from God. The earth itself will be engulfed in such a global conflict that very possibly close to 4 billion people will die in the wake of the Great Tribulation. Jesus said that time will be so bad that there will never be a time in history to compare it to nor will there be one in the future.

Matthew 24:21 - For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And it will all happen WITHOUT AN ALARM. The alarm is being heard NOW. TODAY, not tomorrow, is the day of salvation. NOW is the time to get ready for the rapture. NOW IS THE TIME TO REPENT of our sins and draw as close as we can to a living, loving God in heaven who wants so desperately to REDEEM us and set us free from our sin and bondage. We need Jesus in this hour. There is a lot of talk right now in America about "God" but very little being said about JESUS. Friend, the ONLY WAY TO GOD IS THROUGH THE CHRIST! Yeshuah is the way, the TRUTH and the LIFE. NO MAN CAN COME TO GOD OR BE ACCEPTED BY GOD EXCEPT THEY GO THROUGH THE SON! That is what this entire "holy war" over America is about. Islam teaches the way to God is through obedience to the Koran and through martyrdom. Men who are deceived by a false heathen deity are willing to give their life's blood for a heathen cause. Muslims believe Mohammed is just as much a god as Jesus. AND THAT FRIEND IS A LIE. There is no other way to God than Jesus. And there is no other way to be ready for the trumpet of God sounding than to be IN HIM.

When They Shall Say Peace And Safety

1 Thes. 5:1-4 - But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. [2] For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. [3] For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. [4] But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

We heard a great deal before this tragedy of how safe everyone is in America was. We saw on September 11, 2001 just how wrong everyone was. What is coming to this nation cannot be stopped without a true revival from heaven. As I write this we are a week removed from the tragedy that befell us and things are already back to normal except in the two cities where the tragedies occurred. Television is back to normal. Hollywood is back to normal. The sports industry started their games again. So even a tragic loss of 3,000 people has not brought us to our knees nationally. It's just stung us into reality that we are not as safe and peaceful as we did a week ago today (MONDAY, September 17). Paul warned that "sudden destruction," would come upon them that cried "peace, peace." That's another journal coming shortly. But the point is there is a solemn silence falling over America right now. I pray that this silence will cause us to look inward first to recognize our condition before God. Secondly, I pray it will make us look up and cry out for God's mercy.

As children of God, THAT DAY should not overtake us as a thief. We're hearing the alarm go off right now. It's time to pray. It's time to seek God as we never have sought His face before. It's time to humble ourselves and get the sin out. It's time to repent of not just our sins but for who we are as well. Our goodness will not save us - ONLY JESUS WILL. When Israel was to start moving, there would be no alarm. When the church is taken out, there is not going to be an alarm. The alarm is sounding NOW!

The Trumpet Was Heard During Times Of War And As A Sound Of Salvation Against The Enemies Of Israel

Numbers 10:8-9 And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations. [9] And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresses you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

Trumpets were often blown in times of war and enemy oppression. When God heard the trumpet He would fight for His people and bring them deliverance. (**Jeremiah 4:19, 21; Judges 3:27; 6:34; 7:4-22; Numbers 31:6-7**)

Judges 3:27 - And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

When the trumpet sounds at the rapture, we will be SAVED from the wrath that will come upon planet Earth. We will be saved from the enemy's oppression he has unleashed upon us as Christians. This thing called Christianity is more than a Sunday-school picnic. It's a spiritual war between the forces of darkness

and light. We are the light fighting against the darkness. The fight has been won at Calvary. Our battle is to find our place in CHRIST and walk in the victory He's already provided. When the rapture occurs, that process will be complete.

The Trumpet Was Sounded To Call The Nation To A Solemn Assembly

Amos 3:6-7 - Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it? [7] Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Joel 2:1 - Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

There were other occasions when the trumpets called the people of Israel to the days of Solemn Assemblies. They called the nation to times of intercession, prayer and fasting (Joel 2:1-17; Psalm 81:3; Zephaniah 3:14-20; 2 Kings 10:20) In the most prophetic book of all, seven messengers blow SEVEN TRUMPETS in the book of Revelation, while at the blast of the SEVENTH TRUMP the Ark of the Covenant is seen in the heavenly sanctuary (Revelation 8-11). ALL HAVE TO DO WITH THE SECOND COMING OF THE MESSIAH, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. This entire feast speaks to Israel as well as the Church of SOON COMING DAY OF ATONEMENT (TRIBULATION) then the Feast of Tabernacles (REST, MILLENNIUM) The Lord Jesus Christ, with a trumpet voice called to the churches to "hear what the Spirit" was saying to them. (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 27; 3:6, 22; 1:10) Are we hearing what He is saying to us today?

In closing, I want to say this. There is a clarion call of repentance going forth right now if we will but listen. Retribution is coming. Atonement is coming. Rest and Blessings are coming too but judgment first on a world that has rebelled against God. Paul Cain, an anointed prophet of God, warned the church less than 24 months ago that the Lord showed him a terrorist attack coming to America. Many Christian publications printed the prophecy while at the same time making negative references to it. Others within the Body have laughed at Paul Cain and others like him - Rick Joyner, Jack Deere, Mike Bickle, etc. and have lampooned the ministry gift in these men's lives. BUT THE PROPHET is the TRUMPET and the ALARM that God will use in these last days to speak to us.

We can be foolish and wave what the Spirit says to us off as heresy and babble if we like. But we will do it to our own destruction. We need to HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING to the church of the living God. And now more than ever, we need to hear from heaven to see what the Lord is doing here in the Earth. You know, our Heavenly Father will tell us if we will but ask. The problem

is not the fact God is hiding it from us. We just don't want to hear what He is saying.

Neighbor, it's getting really late. The tragedy we all witnessed September 11, 2001 is just the beginning. As one news commentator noted, "**America is just now beginning to mourn.**" What we saw last week is a microcosm of something far worse coming not only to America, but also to the entire world. And when the judgments of God start falling, the world won't be looking to take their anger out on Muslim extremists. They will be looking for the representatives of God who they will blame for the calamity falling on Earth. If you miss the rapture, yes, you still have a chance to be saved, but friend, the Spirit of God is dealing with you NOW. NOW is the time to make that decision. Rosh Hashanah in Israel is a type and foreshadowing of a coming Rosh Hashanah of the Church- the blowing of the shofar and the gathering together of the redeemed. It's for the saints though, not for the sinner.

If you're lost today, you can be saved by first confessing you are a sinner. Secondly, asking the Lord Jesus to forgive you of you and to cleanse your heart and life with His precious blood. Thirdly, by confessing the Lord Jesus with YOUR MOUTH privately and then publicly and BELIEVING that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Fourthly, you must put your faith and trust no longer in yourself, but IN HIM. As you do this and walk with Him, He will begin to change your life and make you a fit vessel for His glory and honor. Once saved, it's important to fellowship with other believers and grow in the Lord through the fellowship of the saints. You need to be baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. No, speaking in tongues is not required for you to be saved, but you need POWER to make it through in this life. Praying in tongues and singing in tongues is a connection into heaven that will BUILD YOU UP for the days ahead so that no matter how long the church is left here on Planet Earth before the rapture, you will be able to overcome the flesh, the world and Satan.

It's getting late neighbor. It's getting late. We are living in the days of Pentecost - the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit is taking place ALL over the earth. But the great move of the Spirit is YET ahead of us. The harvest is happening right now. In a lesser degree than what is coming, we are seeing a peek of what's ahead - both the glory and the gloom. We're waiting for the sound of the shofar - we are waiting for the FEAST OF TRUMPETS. Praise God.