

The Feast of Trumpets **01-22-18 AM**

Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. Deuteronomy 16:16

Leviticus 23 records how Moses established seven feast days for Israel. These feasts were the worship of the nation of Israel. They foreshadow the worship of the New Testament church done each first day of the week. Two additional feast days were later brought in to the worship of Israel. These days were effectively broken into three parts; the beginning of the year feasts (Passover, First Fruit, and Unleavened Bread, all within a week), the feast of Pentecost, seven weeks later, and then after six months the harvest feasts (Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles).

Trumpets

Leviticus 23:24-25 and Numbers 29:1-6 records the feast of trumpets. This feast has little action beyond a sacrifice and a Sabbath rest. However, its importance is found first in the purpose of telling the people that the day of atonement was soon to come. Thus the people, who had been preparing for Atonement (10 days later) would know that the time had come for the High Priest to make his offering to God on their behalf, and then it prepared them for the feast of booths in 15 days.

In the Bible, trumpets have a great deal of symbolism. They provided the victory of Joshua over Jericho (Jos. 6:5) and Gideon (Jud. 7:8). In the New Testament, while they are not used in a literal sense, they are part of the vision of God's wrath in Revelation 8:6. As well, we are told two times that trumpets will sound to raise the dead with the return of Jesus (1 Thes. 4:16, 1 Cor. 15:52).

Atonement

The Feast of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32; Leviticus 16:5-10) was mainly the work of the High Priest, although the people were to have humbled themselves on that day. It is considered a time or a day of public humiliation for sin. One of the unusual aspects was the preparation of two goats, one to atone for sin, and one to take sin away. This second goat is known as the scape-goat. These images look to the work of Christ as our High Priest.

Hebrews 9:6-7 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles (or booths) was one which the Israelites were to gather at Jerusalem and live in booths (shelters made from branches) for seven days. It was meant to remind them of the life of the Israelites in the wilderness. We are told that today we still live in tabernacles, made from flesh, waiting to inherit our promised land.

Perhaps the main point of these feasts is that there comes a moment in our future when the trumpets will sound. At that time, the harvest begins (Mat. 13:39), and the Atonement process by our High Priest is finished. We shed our tabernacles for our eternal reward.