



Shofar—Ram's Horn

Feast of Trumpets 2023



Merry Christmas AND Happy New Year! This study will concentrate on the Feast of Trumpets, the prophetic festival of Christ's birth and second coming, and the Jewish New Year: Sept. 15-17, 2023, or Hebrew Year 5784. (According to tradition, the Hebrew calendar started at the time of Creation.)

Since the time of the destruction of the Second Temple of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Jewish law says Rosh Hashanah is to be celebrated for two days, because of the difficulty of determining the date of the new moon. Remember, every Jewish holiday spans at least 2 of our days because it begins at 6:00pm on the first day and goes until 6:00pm the next day. So, if a feast is celebrated for 2 days on the Hebrew calendar, it is equivalent to 3 days on ours: starting in the evening after 6pm, including the next full day, and ending at 5:59pm the next day.

In His Law, God told Moses that Israel was required to observe 7 prophetic feasts: In the spring: Passover (Jesus' Death,) Feast of Unleavened Bread (Jesus' sinless sacrifice,) and Feast of First Fruits (Jesus' resurrection,) 50 days

later, the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost (harvest,) and the fall's yet-to-be-fulfilled feasts: Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles.

Leviticus 23:23-25

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 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.** Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Numbers 29:1

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.

Psalms 81:1-4

(To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of Asaph.) Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. **Blow up the trumpet in the**

new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

There was no further explanation from God about the significance of the blowing of trumpets. But, like all of the feasts, we know it is prophetic in the life of Jesus Christ. Trumpets are associated with the presence of God, so we can conclude that the Feast of Trumpets prophesied the birth of Jesus.

Most people have heard that Jesus was not really born on December 25. We are going to look at some Bible verses that put His birthday on September 13, 6 B.C.

Luke tells us that the census which required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem was ordered when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Remember, spelling is not always uniform throughout the Bible.

Luke 2:1-3

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all

the world should be taxed. (**And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.**) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

History sources record Quirinius' decree of the census in 8 B.C. According to the same sources, it would have taken a couple of years for the decree to be executed, so the census probably actually happened in 6 B.C.

Wise men came from the east came to worship Jesus Christ after He was born, and informed Herod about Jesus' birth.

Matthew 2:1-3

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, **behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. **When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled,** and all Jerusalem with him.

Herod was very interested in tracking down another King!

Matthew 2:7

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

The wise men were warned in a dream, not to return to Herod to tell him about the Christ child.

Matthew 2:12

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

After the wise men left, the Angel of the Lord told Joseph to take his family to Egypt because Herod would try to kill Jesus. They lived in Egypt until Herod died in 4 B.C.

Matthew 2:13-15

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, **Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there**

until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: **And was there until the death of Herod:** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

We have reason to believe that Jesus was around 2 years old when the wise men visited Him, because after their visit, Herod ordered the death of every child who was 2 years old and under.

Matthew 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, **from two years old and under,** according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Matthew writes that this slaughter of babies was prophesized by Jeremiah.

Matthew 2:17-18

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, **In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.**

Here it is in Jeremiah. He is prophesying about Christ coming to set up His Kingdom of Heaven on the earth. Israel has been scattered and the Lord will bring them back into their land. It is a message of hope!

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Thus saith the LORD; **A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.** Thus saith the LORD; **Refrain thy voice from weeping,** and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, **saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.**

Here is how the timelines fit together. Jesus would have been born *after* 8 B.C. (when the census was declared) but *before* 4 B.C. (when Herod died.) Add this to the census timeline (it was implemented, probably in 6 B.C.,) and we can make a good guess that Jesus was probably born in 6 B.C. (The Hebrew Year of Jesus' birth was 3754. Jesus Christ was born 3754 years after Adam was created.)

To set the exact date of Jesus' birth, you need to know that when Israel escaped from Egypt, God told Moses and Aaron that because they left in the month of Abib (7th month,) it would become the beginning of their months of the year. Their calendar year would now start in the spring (not the fall, which it did before.)

Exodus 12:1-2

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, **This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.**

Deuteronomy 16:1

Observe **the month of Abib**, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: **for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.**

God's command to Moses also lets us know that it was a change for Israel to observe Abib as the first month of their year. Ethanim/Tishri, (September/October) used to be the first month, and it is still when the Jewish New Year is celebrated.

The Feast of Trumpets, Ethanim/Tishri 1, (the first day of the seventh month and New Year's Day) in the year 6 B.C. corresponds with what would have been September 13 on our calendar in that year. (Our calendar did not yet exist.)

Ethanim/Tishri 1 does not occur on September 13 every year because the number of days in the Hebrew year are not the same as the number of days in our modern calendar. The first of the every month in the Hebrew calendar is the new moon; so every month in the Jewish calendar is only 29 ½ days long. The year is 354 days long!

Remember, in the days of Noah, there were 360 days in the year and 30 days in every month. The new moon was on the first of every month.

It was that way until God gave King Hezekiah a sign, about 700 B.C. that he would be healed. The sun backed up 10 degrees on the sundial, taking the earth's orbit around the sun from 360 days to 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days and the lunar month from 30 to 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ days

2 Kings 20:11

And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and **he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz**

After this monumental change in Hezekiah's day, God did not revise the Law to count how to celebrate the feasts. Jesus Christ told Israel that things will go back to the way they were in the days of Noah before He comes to set up His kingdom.

Read Leviticus 23:23-44., pages 128-129.

Matthew 24:37

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

It is easy to see why the Feast of Trumpets, also New Year's Day, is considered Christ's birthdate, and is prophetic of His second coming. In the many descriptions of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, there are trumpets blowing to announce His arrival.

Joel 2:1-2

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; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

The following psalm describes the joy and praise of the people at His second coming, when Jesus will judge the people with righteousness and

equity. The people rejoice and make a loud noise with harp, voice, trumpets and cornet. The sea roars and the floods clap their hands.

Psalm 98:1-9

(A Psalm.) O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. **With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.** Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. **Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.**

Jesus told His disciples about His return.

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **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 in 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.**

Isaiah prophesied about the gathering of Israel to the sound of trumpets, when the Lord returns.

Isaiah 27:6, 12-13

⁶He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

¹²And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be

gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. **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.**

How should we observe the Feast of Trumpets and/or Christmas? Paul tells us that it is completely up to us. Since we are not under law, we have the liberty to observe any day or not. Whatever we decide, we are to do it to the Lord and give Him thanks.

Romans 14:5-6

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Paul tells us how to remember the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection that allowed our salvation. For us, it is the most important part of Jesus' life here on earth. Notice, he does not tell us when or how often to do it, but tells us how to do it if we choose to.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed **took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

You can see from the following chart how the months of the Jewish calendar line up with our months. Each Jewish month starts with the new moon (a lunar month) and is 29 ½ days. The 2 systems start together only once every 19 years.

Month	#days	#days	Jewish Equivalent
March	31	29.5	Nisan/Abib (1 st month)
April	30	29.5	Zif (2 nd month)
May	31	29.5	Sivan (3 rd month)
June	30	29.5	No Name KJV
July	31	29.5	No Name KJV
August	31	29.5	Elul (6 th month)
September	30	29.5	Ethanim/Tishri (New Year)
October	31	29.5	Bul
November	30	29.5	Chisleu
December	31	29.5	Tebeth
January	31	29.5	Sebat
February	28/29	29.5	Adar I Leap Month
March		29.5	Adar II
Total Days	365 ¼	354	
Leap Year	366	383.5	Leap 3.6.8.11.14.17.19

Following are listed the months of the calendar for Israel and where they are found in KJV.

Nisan/Abib—first month

Since the Passover, the escape from Egypt was the beginning of the Kingdom of Israel, God commanded Israel to consider Abib, also called Nisan, as the beginning of their year.

Esther 3:7

In the **first month, that is, the month Nisan**, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

Zif—second month

1 Kings 6:1

And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in **the month Zif, which is the second month**, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

Sivan—third month

Esther 8:9

Then were the king's scribes called at that time in **the third month, that is, the month Sivan**, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

There is no name for fourth or fifth month in KJV Bible

Elul—sixth month

Nehemiah 6:15:1-2

So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. This month shall be unto you the beginning of

months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Ethanim—seventh month.

1 Kings 8:2

And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon **at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.**

The first day of this month is the Feast of Trumpets. It is also known as the Jewish New Year.

Bul—eighth month

1 Kings 6:38

And in the eleventh year, in **the month Bul, which is the eighth month**, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

Chisleu—ninth month

Nehemiah 1:1

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.
And it came to pass **in the month Chisleu**, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,
Tebeth—tenth month

Esther 2:16

So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in **the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth**, in the seventh year of his reign.

Sebat—eleventh month

Zechariah 1:7

Upon the four and twentieth day of **the eleventh month, which is the month Sebat**, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

Adar—twelfth month

Esther 8:12

Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of **the twelfth month, which is the month Adar**.