

Are we EXCITED about The Fall Festivals?



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *We go to the feast days in the Fall, but are we excited about the final four holy days? WHY and HOW did we lose our first excitement and how do we get it back?*

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Warm hello everyone to the four final Fall holydays of God, in the Hebrew 7th month. Seven, the number of perfection and completion, in this case of God's plan of salvation for mankind. This 7th month usually fits between mid-Sept and mid-October in our Gregorian calendars. Interestingly enough, September should be the 7th month (Sept) and October (Oct = 8) the 8th, until Pope Gregory changed things.

What these 4 festivals picture is so exciting. But frankly I don't think God's holy children are nearly excited enough.

These holy days depict the time when humanity will meet their Creator. This happened also in Exodus 19-24 when YHVH came down to Mt Sinai in Arabia in dark clouds, thunder, lightning, and the loud peal of the angelic shofar/trumpet -- and a fire that engulfed the mountain top. Add the earthquakes that happened, when "the hills leaped like rams, and the hills skipped like lambs" (**Psalm 104:4,6**). **See Exodus 19:16-20. All that happened on Pentecost/Shavuot.** If we knew that on these holydays, we would live out what they mean – meeting God in person as the Son of God returns to rule the earth – I know we'd be more excited than we are! And one day coming, that WILL be what we see.

But the fact is, very soon, we are going to be going through something FAR more exciting than what happened in Exodus 19. We should be so excited. But we're not. Including me. That's one reason I'm giving this sermon, to wake us all up: to preach to myself too, as I often do. *And why aren't we as excited about the meaning of these days as we should be?*

So welcome to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of this free website. Remember to check out the short reads, the blogs, and our Sermons are going to be a mix of video sermons, and some are just audio. Please register on our site, as that truly helps us get the free messages out to many more people. Feel free to ask questions and make comments.

This is a shorter-than-usual message. If you want to understand the MEANING of this season, starting with Yom Teruah/Feast of Trumpets, please check out the VIDEO SERMON on it that will explain it in very good detail, including some major differences in TIMING that I feel God is leading more and more teachers to see.

So the 4 last holydays in the Fall begin with Yom Teruah – day of Shouts and blasts (also called Rosh Hashanah by Jews). I DO believe it's likely in some future year soon, we will see the return to the Mount of Olives by the Son of God, likely on the Feast of Trumpets, but then married **before** landing on the Mount of Olives, to his wife, the church of God, called the "Israel of God" by Paul in Gal. 6:16!

But time wise, many of us just can't justify believing any longer that all this happens on this one day: the first resurrection from the dead and those remaining alive are changed to immortal spirit, we meet Christ in the air, and then come back and land on mount of Olives – all on this same one day?

I give the reasons in my video sermon about Trumpets why all the things that must happen between the 7th trumpet resurrection and landing on the mount of Olives cannot happen in just one day. And the fall holydays is about saving *the world*. The firstfruits – us – are depicted by the FEAST of Firstfruits, Pentecost.

Christ comes at the last trump, the 7th trump – see **Revelation 11:15-18 and 1 Thess 4:16-17.** Remember the silver trumpets were blown on ALL the holydays (Numbers 10:1-10). EVERY holyday had trumpets blown on them, including Pentecost and 8th day and all of them (Num. 10:10).

Some equate Feast of Trumpets with 7th Trump because of the word "trumpets" – and yet Lev 23:23 in Hebrew doesn't even have the word "trumpets" in the verse. I know it does in English. But it's Teruah – shouting – as Young's Literal Translation says, in the Hebrew.

But AFTER the 7th trump and our resurrection, there are still seven last bowl plagues to go through (read **Revelation 15-16**) which will take several months at least to go through. What will Jesus and his Elect brethren and angels be doing all that time? Will we just be hovering over Jerusalem for months before landing on the Mount of Olives? And where would Jesus be married?

Hear/watch the video sermon about Trumpets for the full story.

So Trumpets is not about first fruits but about God now preparing to save *the rest of world* by Christ and his wife. Firstfruits is Pentecost.

Those being called now, and who choose to accept God's high calling, are first fruits – and that has to do with the FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS -- which is Pentecost/Shavuot. Again: Trumpets and the autumn holy days is not about us first fruits, except how we get to help Yeshua/Jesus implement his reign over the whole world.

Firstfruits day – Pentecost -- was also the day God married Israel – Ex. 19-24 during Pentecost season. It's also the day God gave his "earnest" of the Holy Spirit (Greek "*arrabon*"; engagement ring is "*arrabona*") to the New Testament church in Acts 2. Israel was the first fruits of the countries of the world in the Old Testament, and they actually pictured those of us being called now to be firstfruits of God's spiritual salvation.

Days of Unleavened Bread mostly picture Yeshua, the **FIRST** of the firstfruits of **LOWLY BARLEY** harvest and then the early converts. **Pentecost itself is when 2 LEAVENED loaves are raised up towards heaven by the High Priest** as first fruits to God (**Leviticus 23:17**) - picturing OUR ascension to heaven to **MARRY** Jesus Christ, Yeshua our Messiah!

Revelation 19 seems to be very clear that **the marriage of the Lamb happens in Heaven**. Even **Rev 14:1-5**, speaks of the 144,000 on the sea of Glass in heaven, before the **THRONE** of God, and before the 24 elders. Folks, that's talking about the 3rd heaven where **Father is!** I don't understand why there's so much resistance to this. Maybe it's because we were wrongly taught for so many decades that we never go to heaven. But here, after the 7th trump, we **DO** go to heaven to meet God and Christ and the 24 elders and get married there. It's clearly about the saints being in heaven, before the throne.

Revelation 14:1-5

“Then I looked, and behold, **a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand**, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from **heaven**, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

3 **They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders;** and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, **being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb**. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault **before the throne of God.**”

What is the **ONLY** place in the universe suitable for the Wedding of the Lamb of God and his Bride, but in God's heaven, with God the Father there (Matthew 22:1-10) and possibly on the Sea of Glass before the throne?

Anyway, watch the Trumpets VIDEO, please. *While we're up there, the seven last plagues are being poured out on the world in God's wrath (Rev. 16:1-2) and that takes time.*

But my point today is this: are we excited about the meaning of this 7th month festivals? I've kept God's holydays all my life, privately as a child with my mom, then openly in sabbath-keeping church services since I was 12, when mom and dad divorced. That was 57 years ago. So this is no longer a new concept to me.

And I realized when looking at my own attitude, that I can preach on it, and discuss it, and analyze it – but is my heart as excited as it should be?

We won't know the DAY or the hour of his return, but that might be partly because it will be difficult to see the early crescent moon of the 1st day of the 7th Month – Feast of Trumpets/Yom Teruah due to the volcanic ash, debris of war, and much more. Plus God – in his wrath – will be shaking the heavens and the earth and it will reel to and fro like a drunkard (read **Isaiah 24:19-20**). So be sure to watch the video about Yom Teruah.

But are we excited about God's holydays – or are we getting jaded? Many of you have heard all about the holydays for decades now. But are you still excited?

Carole made the point that so often we have emphasized events and doctrine so much but left out that we're about to meet Someone, a very *important* someone, the very Son of God who has invited you and me to be PRESENT with HIM, at his coming! And talking a lot about what that will be like. Jesus is also God, remember! John 1:3.

We get far more excited about meeting someone than we do by an event.

And many of us get so excited about baseball, football or soccer games – but can't get thrilled over what's coming, as a result of our high calling. We need to repent of that.

The Fall holydays – as far as we in the body of Christ are concerned – is about working with Yeshua, the Son of God, Jesus the Christ! Do YOU feel that excitement, or are the fall holydays ho-hum?

But the truth is, sometimes it's hard to be excited over things you've done for your whole life. But we must awaken that excitement.

The Seven churches of Rev 2- 3 are warned to rekindle their first love (Ephesus Rev. 2:1-4) to wake up from their spiritual stupor (Sardis Rev. 3:1-2) and to be ZEALOUS, hot -on-fire for Yeshua, instead of lukewarm Laodicea (Revelation 3:16-20). Remember in that message to the seven churches that we are admonished to hear what is said to all seven churches.

Yeshua asked if he'd even find faith on the earth when he returns (Luke 18:8).

HOW so many have become jaded

Here's WHY I think I am observing this lack of excitement. And I AM hearing about it, noticing it. Oh, we holyday believers still go to church, but is it with a thrill they should be feeling - - and USED to feel, when this was all new to them? I think not. And we have to be careful our children aren't bored by it.

Jews say Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah) is the first of "Ten days of AWE" – a time of deep repentance and seeking after God, culminating in Atonement. Not a bad idea for all of us, frankly, to use the time to Atonement to be doing extra praying and repenting as never before. And asking our Father and Savior to inject and rekindle some real excitement, zeal and thrill for his coming, back into us.

Here's possibly why so many attend services and KNOW ABOUT Trumpets, but who really – if they're honest – were caught off guard by the holydays and not all that truly thrilled about them:

We've been disappointed and have become jaded too many times in the past. Why? Because whenever world news events popped up that seemed to indicate we were right there, and sparked excitement over what seemed to be very end-time events – but we ended up not seeing Christ return. Everything went back to normal every time.

Now we're seeing huge world events – but we're feeling jaded. We've allowed ourselves to be lulled to sleep. *We've become blasé. We've seen this movie before. It seemed like "Clouds without water". It's not our first rodeo* – expressions all used to denote, "been there, done that".

We got our hopes up – but then He's still not here. And we didn't want to fall into the trap of "the Lord delays his coming". And yet Our Lord himself said -- in **Matthew 25:5-6** – "While the bridegroom was delayed, all ten virgins slept."

I knew of many who predicted 2017 was going to be a pivotal year and our King would be here on earth soon after. But their predictions did not happen so many got jaded.

Examples of how and when we might have gotten our hopes up:

- **In the 1960's**, there was a rising strong man (Franz Josef Strauss) in Germany some really believed could be the first Beast power of Rev. 13. But he died in 1988. And now the Philadelphia Trumpet and Tom Kerry are saying that Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg could be the "Beast" power of Rev. 13. We'll see. I watched that happen in the late 60's as well with Strauss.
- When there were finally **10 nations in the EU**, we got excited. Were these the ten kings of Revelation? But now there were 9-10-16-20 countries and now there are 27 or more nations in European Union and growing.
- **UK exiting EU**. Many of us believed UK can't be part of the Beast power. So we got excited about that... but it's stalled.
- When **the Berlin Wall** came down Nov 9, 1989 -- and Germany reunited... we got excited. The Beast power, led by a powerful and united Germany, would be possible. But Germany did not come on strongly. Yet. The Ukraine war actually has awakened many in Europe!
- **Dissolution of Soviet Union in Oct -Dec 1991**. That was exciting, and seemed to be prophecy happening. But now Russia is trying to flex muscles. Putin says the collapse of the USSR was a most humiliating point for him.
- **The huge crash of the Stock Market - of 777 points in 2008...** the global financial crisis, spurred by the US market sub-prime mortgage market crash. Surely this could lead to the end... but did not. Many are watching the markets now, in 2022 – but many are jaded. "Been there, done that". Today, Sept 30, 2022, stock market plunged another 500 points, now we're at \$28,742.
- **2015** – the USA Supreme Court said anyone could marry anyone, and no longer just one man and one woman. So they passed a law, which is not the Supreme Court's ROLE. Congress passes law. Supreme Court decides if the laws are constitutional or not, but they passed a law in this case. So now anything can be "marriage" it seems. But still the end did not come.
- 2017 – in the shemitah year, USA moved their embassy to Jerusalem. **Four peace accords between Arab nations and Israel** came to be. Was this the "peace, peace, when there is no peace, but sudden destruction"? But still the very end did not come. (By "the end" – I mean the return of Jesus Christ on to Mount of Olives.)

- **The 2020 riots and complete chaos in the USA with cities on fire.** And really these riots were worldwide. But 2021 and 2022 did not repeat the riots of 2020 in USA at least, when many of us thought it would get worse and worse.

But still the end did not come.

(I DO think the “stage is being set” for Rev. 13 to be set up and ready to go though.)

- **The 2019-2020 beginning of the worldwide pandemic, the Plague of Covid 19.** But were we hoodwinked and misled by so much, and so the president and governors and prime ministers the world over-exercised “executive orders” that allowed them to bypass the usual constitutional requirements. *The entire world seemed to be following one leader, with the same rules* – “vaccine” mandates, face masks that didn’t work or prevent spread or getting covid, lockdowns that wrecked economies around the world. But still the end did not come, and now we know it was all about gaining power in emergencies called by the State.

I believe this was a “practice run” for what’s coming.

- **The Jonathan Kahn “Return” in late 2020** in Washington DC... *I was there with my friend Mike.* Surely this repentance of scores of thousands, even millions around the world, would show God our earnestness. But the only thing that happened during that “Return” was the swearing in of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, but that did allow the overturning of Roe v Wade June 2022 by giving the Supreme Court a conservative majority after 50 years of liberal majorities.

- Massive earthquakes around the world. Tsunamis over the years. But still the end did not come, and our King did not return.

- The red moons of 2015. But still the end was not here.

- Pope Francis recently had a significant meeting (that didn’t make regular news) with **world leaders of almost all the world religions, right now, late Sept 2022** – including the top 2 rabbis of Israel, the various Russian and Greek orthodox leaders, and many more. He wants ONE world religion. Learn about “**Chrislam**” – the rise of unity between the world’s Christianity and Islam.

Pope Francis in Kazakhstan seemed friendly to Chrislam, seeming to be encouraged that this could start the potential one world religion at the **Seventh meeting of the Congress of Leaders of world and traditional religions**, held Sept 14-15, 2022, in Kazakhstan.

The Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar signed this preliminary joint agreement. Did you hear about that?

In 2019, the Pope traveled to Abu Dhabi, to sign this global covenant, called Peace covenant – **the Document for Human Fraternity for World Peace**. In the U.A.E., they started building three religious buildings with Abraham as their common denominator -- dedicated to “**The Abrahamic Family House**” - - consisting of a Jewish Synagogue, Catholic church and Islamic mosque AND educational center all working together. Just be aware of this. Watch it. Be aware.

I believe it's possible that these will allow the word "God" to be used, but not specific names like Allah, Jesus, Yeshua, Yahweh, Yehovah. And most of all, again, not Jesus or Yeshua especially. Just watch. By allowing only "God" to be mentioned, then "God" could be whatever you want him to be in your religion. I don't believe this edict has happened yet, but be watching for it. NEVER be a part of it, or you will incur God's wrath.

Revelation 13:7-8 says there will be one world religion for all nations, tongues, languages. But DON'T be part of the one world religion for you will incur the wrath of God himself If you do.

The world will proclaim "peace in our time" again, but there will be no real-world peace until Messiah returns.



Why was not this all over the regular news? Because they are blind to the truly important news. I receive news from 12 different sources. Much of what I find out never makes regular news stories.

*So as things seemed to take their good old time, we became JADED, blasé, unexcited. **But the Bible and Jesus spoke often of how suddenly things happen when it's time.** Noah had 7 days to finally get the ark ready to go, probably after also waiting a long time. Lot and his wife and daughters had only hours at most to get out. And don't look back, when we get out. Don't look back. The early church fled suddenly in 69 AD just before the Romans came and besieged Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.*

So this message today is simple: wake up, believers. Wake up, America. Wake up true Christians. Pray continually, often, more than ever before.

Time to rekindle the joy and excitement

Use the next days, weeks to repent, seek God as never before. Understand that it's prophesied that there will be proclamations of Peace, peace and a time of safety – but no real peace (**1 Thess 5:3**), like a pregnant woman whose exact end of term is uncertain. We keep thinking “this is it” – but the baby hasn't been born yet in this analogy.

Luke 21:25-28

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on **the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring**; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the **powers of the heavens** will be shaken.

27 THEN they will see the Son of Man coming **in a cloud** with power and great glory.

28 ***Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.***"

Notice here He comes in a CLOUD. That's when he comes to gather and collect his Bride on the clouds (**Matthew 24:29-31**). But when he comes *after* his marriage in heaven, he comes (**Rev. 19:15-18**) **on a white spirit charger or horse**. And so will we, with him. Clearly there are two separate comings of Christ at the last days.

Just as YHVH married Israel in Exodus 24, in the Pentecost season, so will he again marry the Israel of God. Christ died, allowing him to marry again (Romans 7:1-7) remember. **Israel was the firstfruits of the nations, just as we are spiritually the firstfruits today. And their wedding was Pentecost season.**

It will be the same for us, as we are the two leavened loaves that are presented up to God in heaven on Pentecost, as we wait out the 7 last plagues, and when they're finished, we all return together, if we are among the “called, chosen and faithful” (**Revelation 17:12-14**). It looks to me like we return to destroy the assembled armies and then land on the Mount of Olives (**Zechariah 14:12-15; Revelation 19:17-21**).

But before all that, there's a great shaking taking place over all the earth.

Haggai 2:6-7

"For thus says YHVH of hosts: '**Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations,** and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says YHVH of hosts.

Here's a major piece of advice: quit being primarily excited by world news, but get MUCH more excited about your relationship with Yeshua and the return soon of our KING, meeting him face to face, marrying him, returning with him to set up the reign of Messiah on earth. **Look to HIM. Not to world events. Be found busy, telling others about Him and what Yeshua is doing.**

Don't let yourself get distracted for long. Even Hurricane Ian was a big distraction, but of course we had to prepare for it while still trusting in our Master.

But don't let news distractions place you into positions of potentially feeling let down again. Learn from what we went through in the past 40 years. We're getting closer. It's time we excited about MEETING Someone – our King!

Repent as never before. Stop sinful habits. Now.

Pray constantly, as never before. ASK God to restore JOY and gladness (Ps 4:7; Ps 51:12)
Praise God and Yeshua as Never before. Bow your head down LOW to worship him.

Make the spiritual be the FOCUS of your life and get excited again about the momentous times coming – whether soon or after we die, it really doesn't matter.

So the last 4 holydays, in the 7th month picturing completion and perfection,
starts with Yom Teruah, day of Shouting and blasts. The Feast of trumpets.

I do believe we are resurrected or changed on the 7th trump, when Christ returns, but timing and Biblical precedent point to Pentecost for that. The earnest (arrabon in Greek) or guarantee of God's spirit came on Pentecost. Greek for engagement ring is "arrabona". God also married Israel in the Pentecost season.

The **traditional** teaching – that the resurrection/change and return of Christ all happen on Trumpets, and then we land on Mount of Olives – all in the same day. ***They all seem to forget there are still seven last BOWL PLAGUES after the 7th trumpet between the 7th trumpet and landing on the Mount of Olives.*** And ONE of those plagues, AFTER the 7th trumpet, is the assembling of millions upon millions of armed forces around Jerusalem all the way to Megiddo in the north. That will take months! So the traditional timing makes no sense.

We won't know the day or the hour, He says. Perhaps one reason for that is because Yom Teruah is a new moon, we never know for sure which day it will be until the moon is sighted. (Unless one uses the Hillel Rabbinic calendar with Postponements).

The Last trump will sound, the 7th trump -- and on this day, the Bride and the saints of God will shout, "Long live the King of Kings! Long live King Yeshua!"

Whether we say that on earth or in heaven, I'm sure we will shout joyfully. I say "or in heaven" – as it's clear to me that we will ascend to heaven, as pictured by the 2 leavened loaves in **Leviticus 23:16-17** -- then we get married, and then we return to earth together, to give the world the righteous leadership they need.

It will be a joyous day of acclamation for those who are on His side of things, and a day of clouds and gloominess to any who are there to oppose Him and His heavenly armies and the saints with Him. We can see this with the proclamation of Solomon – King Shlomo – as king. His older brother Adonijah had earlier proclaimed himself as king, but King Shlomo (that's his Hebrew name) gained the ascendancy amid shouts of "Long live the king". **(See 1 Kings 1).**

Carole and I re-enacted that in 2009, with about 50 others, at the very location that took place near the Kidron Valley and the pools of water anciently known as Gihon Spring. Hezekiah's Tunnel connected this spring to the pool of Siloam on the

southern end of the city of David. Here we were, shouting “**Long live the king**” – **not far from the Mount of Olives itself.**

The world will come before Christ to meet the King of kings

On Day of Trumpets Yom Teruah – once again there will be shouts of joy and acclamation from those being delivered in Jerusalem and from us too as we come to land on the Mount of Olives. There will also be shouts and screams of fear from the assembled armies as The King annihilates all of them. (Zech 14:12)

Brothers and sisters in Yeshua, the Fall festivals are not just simple holydays or points of doctrine. They're much more than that. These days aren't really so much about me or you – they're really about our King and what He is doing to remove Satan as god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4) and to bring about the Kingdom of God.

*I'm excited about these Fall holydays not so much because the Feast of **Tabernacles (Sukkot)** is a fun time to be with family and friends –though of course that's part of it.*

I'm thrilled about the Fall feasts because they point to the beginning of the end of Satan's rule, and the beginning with no end to the rule of our loving God. Praise the Eternal, our Yehovah/Yahweh, for this.

I get excited about these Fall holydays because they picture when the world will finally get to meet the true King of kings, the TRUE GOD of this world from that time on, the SON of God Most High, who is also our Father.

The FALL Holydays picture coming before GOD! Let's get and keep excited about that! Praise our King. Praise God our Father.

The Fall holydays picture the entire world finally meeting their creator and their God (Zech 14:16-18).

The Fall feasts are also about a time when people will be loved and cared for. I'm excited because torture will stop. That's going on every single day right now. I'm excited because **families** will be restored, with a real father and a real mother who love their children and love each other. I'm excited because violence and wars will come to an end, and the senseless and vicious deaths caused by wars will cease. I'm looking forward to and excited about the time when leaders will care about people they serve, as we watch the King of king lead by example. Those leaders should include you and me.

These Fall holydays picture God's plan for the world and for everybody in it. He's coming to save us from ourselves. He's coming to pull the dope addicts and prostitutes out of their miserable life and show them what real joy and real living can be like. He's coming to help us all be healthy in mind, body and spirit. He's coming so we hear laughter and joy everywhere we go.

So be excited about what the Fall festivals picture. Don't let your excitement be sidetracked by anything.

Come, Master, come. We're very excited about what you're about to bring to the whole world. We're very excited about the prospect of working so closely with you – as your bride, as your companion for forever and ever. Help awaken our love and excitement. Thank you master.

Closing prayer.
