

Trumpets Template

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There is a great deal of important symbolism associated with the time that Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, including the blowing of trumpets prior to the defeat of Jericho. The Apostle Paul referred to this period in Israel's history and used it to foreshadow a future time of peace and prosperity that will be experienced by mankind. He used the seventh day Sabbath to picture a rest from sin that everyone will experience during Christ's millennial rule on Earth.

*For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works";⁵ and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest (because of their sin)."⁶ Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,⁷ **again He designates a certain day** (of a thousand years; cf. 2Peter 3:8), saying in David, "Today," after such a long time (since the Exodus), as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."⁸ **For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.**⁹ **There remains therefore a (future) rest for the people of God.**¹⁰ For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.¹¹ **Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest (in the 1st resurrection),** lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience (Hebrews 4:4-11; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).*

While Paul was inspired to take us from the rest mentioned in Genesis 2:2-3 to a period of rest toward the end of God's plan of salvation, the book of Joshua contains a template that covers key stages of this plan, and the blowing of trumpets plays an important part.

As the ancient nation of Israel was entering the Promised Land, the people who had been living in these Canaanite cities became very fearful. As we will see, this dynamic will also be associated with Christ's return to deal with his enemies, which is portrayed in the Holy Day sequence of the seventh month that begins with the blowing of trumpets.

*So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel, **their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer** because of the children of Israel (Joshua 5:1; emphasis added).*

Coming up to Christ's return, and his millennial rule on earth, Jacob's descendants will enter a time of tribulation and, metaphorically, "their hearts will melt and there will be no spirit in them".

*For thus says the Lord: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ⁶Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? ⁷Alas! For **that day is great**, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble... (Jeremiah 30:5-7a; emphasis added).*

The point of this period of fear and punishment is to correct sinful people, so they have a change of attitude, and humble themselves in order to be reconciled with their Creator. We see this same dynamic occurring when the ancient nation of Israel was entering the Promised Land because God wanted His people to remain in a teachable attitude.

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel..." (Joshua 5:2a).

God compares a humble and teachable attitude to "a circumcised heart".

*Therefore, **circumcise the foreskin of your heart**, and be stiff-necked no longer (Deuteronomy 10:16; emphasis added).*

*And **the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants**, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live (Deuteronomy 30:6; cf. Jeremiah 4:4; emphasis added).*

In the New Testament this circumcision of the heart, or attitude, involves a person genuinely repenting of their sins.

*"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷Now when they heard this, **they were cut to the heart** (humbled and repentant), and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "men and brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins... (Acts 2:36-38a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Once someone has repented of their sins and been baptized, they are able to take the symbols of the New Testament Passover, which include eating some unleavened bread, drinking some wine, and washing the feet of one of the brethren. However, as Christ had not yet been sacrificed when ancient Israel entered the Promised Land, they nonetheless were able to observe the First Covenant Passover, which included killing a lamb and roasting it, which prefigured Christ's suffering and death.

So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. ⁹Then the Lord said to

Joshua, "This day I have rolled away (forgiven) the reproach (shame) of Egypt from you."¹⁰ So the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho (Joshua 5:8-10; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Just as the repentant Christian is to begin living a new life after their baptism (cf. Romans 6:1-6), so ancient Israel was able to put aside their old manner of eating, and begin eating the new produce of the Promised Land.

And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹²Now the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year (Joshua 5:11-12).

Next, they were introduced to the leader who would be directing their paths, intervening against their enemies, and assisting them with their new relocation; just as Christ will be directing our paths and assisting us throughout the millennium.

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴So he said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to him, "What does my Lord say to his servant?" (Joshua 5:13-14).

The Apostle Paul described our introduction to "the King of kings and Lord of lords" in the context of his return at the beginning of the millennium.

For this we say to you (church members) by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and

remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are already dead. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with **the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷**Then (whoever is alive at that time) shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord (1Thessalonians 4:15-17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

After meeting the Lord (aka; the Commander of the army of the Lord Almighty) the first order of business will be dealing with God's enemies. In the case of ancient Israel, a city that dated back to 9,000 BCE, and had the oldest known protective wall in the world, was about to be brought down because of the sins of its inhabitants. Later, we will examine another city that will be destroyed in association with Christ's return.

And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor" (Joshua 6:2).

So, although the Israelites were equipped for battle, it was because of the action taken by the heavenly Commander of the army of the Lord Almighty, that victory was achieved.

*Now **the city shall be doomed by the Lord** to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rehab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent (Joshua 6:17; emphasis added).*

Because Jericho was a well-protected and fortified city, it would take nothing less than a miracle to destroy it. To reinforce in the minds of the Israelites that this victory would only occur because of divine intervention, God commanded that any silver, gold, bronze, and iron be dedicated for use in His sanctuary.

But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord (Joshua 6:19).

Again, the Israelites were participants in this great battle, but they couldn't take credit for defeating the enemy.

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up unto the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city (Joshua 6:20).

As God often uses numbers to represent hidden truths, it is important to consider that He gave specific instructions regarding the use of trumpets, which were blown for a total of seven days prior to the destruction of Jericho. The number seven is used to denote completion. In the case of the weekly cycle, God designed it to end on the seventh day, or Sabbath. Therefore, the final blowing of trumpets on the seventh day represented the end of the Jericho system of governance, religion, and commerce. This same principle applies to another city, or system, that represents the end of all systems of governance created by mankind and manipulated by Satan. It is referred to many times in the Bible as Babylon, which historically absorbed many of the pagan gods that were worshiped by those living in Jericho, even though some of their names were changed. But there will be an end-time Babylon which is more powerful, and has a greater negative effect on all earth's inhabitants coming up to Christ's return.

"Come, I (an angel) will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters (nations; cf. Revelation 17:15), ²with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Revelation 17:1b-2; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵And on her forehead a name written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus... (Revelation 17:4-6a).

Just as Jericho came to an end with the blowing of trumpets on the seventh day, so a seventh trumpet will be blown and Babylon will come to an end and never be rebuilt.

But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the (hidden) mystery of God will be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets (Revelation 10:7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

*Then the seventh angel sounded: **And there were loud voices** (like the Israelites shouting on the seventh day at Jericho) in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord (God Almighty) and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15; cf. 1Corinthians 15:28; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

"Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore" (Revelation 18:21b).

So, there are important parallels between Jericho and the final end of man's systems of governance pictured by Babylon the Great, and both are burned in their final stages of destruction.

*And the kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, **when they see the smoke of her burning** (Revelation 18:9; cf. 18:18; emphasis added).*

Finally, just as the Commander of the army of the Lord gave victory during Joshua's time; so Christ will give victory over lawless forces in the latter days. And, trumpets being blown in the seventh month will announce this future battle, and it will be "a call to action" for those serving the only true God at that time (John 17:3).

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