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As we discussed in the introduction, God gave to Moses on Mt Sinai seven feasts which he commanded the Nation of Israel to celebrate each year:

In Leviticus the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies."

God introduced the Seven Feasts to the nation of Israel during the time they were encamped at the foot of Mount Sinai. They were called the feasts of the Lord because He Himself instituted them- a fact that made these Feasts hugely important in the Israeli calendar. They are referred to throughout the Bible but Leviticus 23 is the only place they are listed in chronological order. These Feasts have both historic and prophetic significance. From a historic viewpoint they are Feasts commanded by God every year as part of the elect of God or the Jewish nation. From a prophetic significance they serve as types of something bigger to come.

So far we have discussed and have seen the prophetic fulfillment of the Spring Feasts:

Jesus was crucified on Passover, buried on Unleaven Bread, resurrected on First Fruits and gave the Holy Spirit to all those that believed on Pentecost. All of these Feasts took place in rapid succession and then there was a long time between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets. From an agrarian point of view the Feast of Trumpets ushers in the fall season and the end of the harvest time.

The last three "festivals" that the Lord commanded the Jewish people to observe are the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. Each occurred in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar, the month called Tishrei. The Feast of Trumpets heralded the arrival of that seventh month. It also began what is known as the Ten Days of Awe between the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, where each person humbles themselves in preparation for the great Day of Atonement.

So what is so important about this feast that it was commanded to be celebrated every year?

Leviticus 23:23–27 (ESV)

23 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 24 "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation.

The word I would like you to see very clearly is the word memorial. What does this mean in the celebration? We just concluded a similar celebration and we call it Memorial Day. A day we set aside to remember all of our brave military members that have given their lives for us to preserve our way of life in this country. We do this every year so that the memory of their lives lives in us afresh each year.

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The only other reference to this festival in the Torah (Pentateuch) is <u>Numbers 29:1</u> ff. Neither passage provides much information regarding the original meaning of this feast. But, by examining the text in <u>Leviticus 23</u>, we note that the day was to be a *memorial* with blowing of trumpets. This is our only clue. The word "memorial" indicates that the event to be remembered had taken place prior to this

ordinance. But what was so important in God's mind that he wanted the nation of Israel to remember each and every year? What extremely significant event, involving the blowing of trumpets, took place in the national life of Israel? What spiritual event was of such great importance that God commanded the people to remember it every year—that required memorializing?

"When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain. So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder" (Exodus 19:13b, 16-19).

This passage signified by the blowing of trumpets was the time that God came to the Israelites. on Mount Sinai and entered into a covenant with the nation, the giving of the Ten Commandments and the establishing of the Mosaic Covenant, setting apart this nation as God's chosen people. God wanted this to be the memorial that the nation remembered every year and it is fitting that in this memory 10 days later at the Feast of Atonement they would look inwardly on their lives and prepare to confess their sins for the past year. A call to reflection and a reminder of the covenant that they had agreed to at the foot of Mount Sinai;

So what is the prophetic significance of this particular feast? It is the next in line in chronological order and it has yet to be fulfilled. Trumpets play a significant part of the Nation of Israel's lives in the Old Testament. They were used to call the leaders of the camp they were used call the whole assembly and they were used to call the nation to war.

As I said earlier there is a large period of time between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets. I believe that this period reflects another covenant time between God and man. In the Last Supper Jesus says this is a new covenant that I make with you. The Old Covenant that God had established with His people required strict obedience to the Mosaic Law. Because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), the Law required that Israel perform daily sacrifices in order to atone for sin. But Moses, through whom God established the Old Covenant, also anticipated the New Covenant. In one of his final addresses to the nation of Israel, Moses looks forward to a time when Israel would be given "a heart to understand"

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(<u>Deuteronomy 29:4, ESV</u>). Moses predicts that Israel would fail in keeping the Old Covenant (verses 22–28), but he then sees a time of restoration (30:1–5). At that time, Moses says, "The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live" (verse 6). The New Covenant involves a total change of heart so that God's people are naturally pleasing to Him.

The prophet Jeremiah also predicted the New Covenant. "'The day will come,' says the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. . . . But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,' says the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people'" (Jeremiah 31:31, 33). Jesus

Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses (<u>Matthew 5:17</u>) and to establish the New Covenant between God and His people. The Old Covenant was written in stone, but the New Covenant is written on our hearts. Entering the New Covenant is made possible only by faith in Christ, who shed His blood to take away the sins of the world (<u>John 1:29</u>). <u>Luke 22:20</u> relates how Jesus, at the Last Supper, takes the cup and says, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (ESV).

This new covenant was a new covenant to the people of Israel it includes a promise of fruitfulness, blessing, and a peaceful existence in the <u>Promised Land</u>. In <u>Ezekiel 36:28–30</u> God says, "Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.... I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine." After the death and resurrection of the Messiah we gentiles were included in this blessing and New Covenant, we are no longer bound by the Law but live under the Grace of God through the sacrificial death of Jesus. (Quotes taken from gotquestions.org)

So we currently live between the feasts of God, the time between the Feast of Pentecost and the blowing of the trumpet to usher in the Feast of Trumpets; the time of Grace, where each man decides for themselves as to who Jesus is and what he accomplished for us on the cross. This time span between the fourth feast and the fifth feast is the only one with an unknown time span, because we don't know when that trumpet sound will be heard and the Church will be called home. It is not good to be dogmatic on this point but it stands to reason that if God used the first Four Feasts in a very specific way then it is logical to assume that the next event we are anticipating is the call of the Church home or the rapture. How do we reconcile then with what the scripture tells us at not knowing when that thief in the night will come? Well today's Church does not teach anything about the Feasts and it is unlikely you will hear it in our seminaries. The Nation of Israel is blinded to this and continues to see this as a memorial. The Church of today almost completely ignores the Old Testament so God could easily still rapture His Church and surprise almost everyone.

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Are you living in anticipation of the sound of the trumpet blast? 1 Thessalonians says 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:

¹⁷Then 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.

Are these words of comfort to you? Have you accepted the Lord Jesus as your personal savior? If you have these words are a comfort and you are waiting for the sound of the trumpet, if not then why not today accept Him as your personal Savior.

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¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.