

Trumpets “Rosh Hashanah

Introduction

Rosh Hashanah or Trumpets is the the beginning of the Jewish Civil New Year.

Rosh Hashanah is linked to Yom Kippur which follows 10 days later. The two holidays inclusively are considered “Ten Days of Penitence.” During this time, people are admonished to repent of their sins and perform good days.

According to Rabbinical Tradition, the good deeds were performed to earn merit to inscribe in the Book of Life.

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah means “Head or Beginning of the Year.” It is also known by three other names:

- The Day of Judgment
 - Trumpets
- Day of Remembrance

Though not taught in Scripture, it is taught that on Rosh Hashanah God sits in judgment of the whole universe. On the basis of the merits of people and nations, He determines who will be blessed and who will suffer calamity. Rosh Hashanah emphasized God’s judgment.

Rosh Hashanah

The participants of Rosh Hashanah partake in a “casting” ceremony. On the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah, observant Jews gather near a body of water to recite the “cast off” prayer. In Israel, this may take place on the beaches of the Mediterranean Sea or at the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem. Several Hebrew Scriptures make up the prayer – Micah 7:18-20; Psalm 118:5-9; Psalm 33; Psalm 130; and often Isaiah 11:9. After the prayer, worshipers may shake their pockets, or throw bread crumbs or stones into the water, symbolically ridding themselves of sins.

Rosh Hashanah

It should be stressed that this did not decide a person's eternal destiny. It was a judgment concerning earthly matters.

The verdict is settled by opening three books. One listing the righteous, one listing the wicked, and one listing those somewhere in between. Those in the first book are inscribed for life, those in the second book for death, and those in the third book are given ten days to repent and perform enough good deeds to outweigh their bad deeds. This culminated is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement!

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is also known as Trumpets. God directed Moses in Numbers 10:1-10 to fashion two silver trumpets to be used to gather the children of Israel, to announce the moving of the camps, to sound an alarm in battle, and to be used during the sacrificial offerings performed on festival days. The trumpets were also blown for the coronation of the king.

Along with the two silver trumpets, a shofar was blown on Rosh Hashanah.

Rosh Hashanah

No other reason is given in Scripture for blowing the trumpets on Rosh Hashanah other than as a memorial

Leviticus 23:24

“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.’”

Most likely they were blown so that God would remember His covenant relationship with Israel and the promises He had made to them. For example, Trumpets were blown in battle, not only to alert the people, but to elicit God’s aid.

Rosh Hashanah

Jewish tradition views the blowing of the trumpets to remind the Jewish people of two things.

The first is to remind them to offer their lives to God. Jewish tradition says that Abraham offered up Isaac as a sacrifice on this date. Isaac’s willingness to be bound and be put to death is seen as the greatest example for Jewish martyrdom. Tradition says that when God hears the shofar, He leaves His seat of judgment and goes to His seat of mercy and forgiveness.

Rosh Hashanah

The second thing is that it reminds them to have faith in the future coming of Messiah and the regathering of Israel to their homeland (Isaiah 27:13).

On June 7, 1967, at the height of the Six-Day War, Israeli forces pushed into Jerusalem and recaptured the Temple Mount. After two thousand years, the Jewish people's holiest place was once again in their possession. At the Western Wall, soldiers wept for joy. The Chief Army Chaplain, Rabbi Schlomo Goren, performed a significant act – he sounded the shofar.

Rosh Hashanah

Those who were familiar with the prophetic designs of Rosh Hashanah recognized Rabbi Goren's intent. By sounding the shofar, he symbolically announced to the world Israel's return to the home of their forefathers. This is the prophetic message of Rosh Hashanah. It points to the future return, restoration, and regathering of the people of Israel back to the land God had given them.

Jesus in Rosh Hashanah

Israel's four springtime feasts – Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and Pentecost – were fulfilled in the first coming of the Messiah. The three fall festivals – Rosh Hashanah, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles – will be fulfilled at the Messiah's second coming.

Jesus in Rosh Hashanah

For Israel, the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets will be a dark day. Just as Rosh Hashanah occurs at the new moon, when the sky is darkest, Israel's prophets warn of a coming day of judgment for the nation.

Amos 5:18-20, Zeph. 1:14-16, and Joel 2:31 all speak of the day in which the Lord will turn off the heavenly lights, pour out His wrath on the wicked, and bring Israel to repentance and into the new covenant.

Jesus in Rosh Hashanah

Ancient Jewish tradition held that the resurrection of the dead would occur on Rosh Hashanah. As a result, many Jewish grave markers feature a *shofar*.

God's last trump and the resurrection of the dead are tied to the rapture of the church in the New Testament. Consider these key passages:

1 Cor. 15:51-52 – “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thess. 4:16-17 – “For 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 we who are alive *and* remain 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.”

Jesus in Rosh Hashanah

Remember the reasons for trumpet blasts in the Old Testament? They will be the same in the days to come:

- To gather an assembly before the Lord (the rapture of the church).
 - To sound a battle alarm (God will defeat Satan's rebellious followers throughout the tribulation and at Christ's return).
- To announce the coronation of a new king (Jesus the Messiah will sit on the throne of David as King of kings and Lord of lords).

So What ...

Are you ready for Christ's return?

It is good to have a time where we think about our lives? Are there things we need to repent of? Have we wronged others, and need to make it right? Do we have sin in our lives that we have ignored or made excuses to cover?

We all need to make time to stop and evaluate our lives. It is true that God is Love, but He also hates sin.

You are a free moral agent. You can chose to sin, but you cannot chose the consequences of that sin!

2 Chronicles 7:14

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.