



The Church of God International

HOME BIBLE

Study Course

12

Understanding the Feast of Trumpets

Doctrinal Statement:

This festival represents the preaching of the gospel to the world by God's faithful watchmen who have the responsibility of arousing the people from their spiritual slumber (Ezekiel 33:1-16).

The Day of Trumpets also symbolizes both the resurrection of all who died in Christ and the change of all who are alive in Christ. This stunning event—the achievement of eternal life for millions through birth into the Family of God—will occur simultaneously with the return of Jesus Christ at the last trump. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Trumpets were instruments often used to sound the alarm for war. They were also the instrument of the watchman to arouse the sleeping populace if danger threatened. The Feast of Trumpets represents the preaching of the gospel to the world by God's faithful watchmen who have the responsibility of arousing the people from their spiritual slumber (Ezekiel 33:1-16).

The Day of Trumpets also symbolizes both the resurrection of all who died in Christ and the change of all who are alive in Christ. This stunning event—the achievement of eternal life for millions through birth into the Family of God—will occur simultaneously with the return of Jesus Christ at the last trump (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Jesus must return. Many people are aware that Jesus is returning to establish the Kingdom of God, but few realize that unless He returns soon, and at a precise time in the future, no flesh will remain alive. Speaking of this generation, Jesus Christ said, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved” (Matthew 24:21-22).

Because of the weapons of mass destruction in the world today, it is possible for humanity to destroy all human life on earth. It has been said that only God can save us from ourselves.

Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation [the generation now living under the fear of nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare] will by no means pass away till all these things take place” (verse 34).

The direct intervention of God in the affairs of this world is man's only hope. Jesus Christ is being sent by God the Father to save us from total annihilation.

Trumpets were used to announce events of significance (Leviticus 25:9): to assemble Israel (Numbers 10:2), to obtain God's help against an enemy

(Numbers 10:9), to call God's attention to an offering (Numbers 10:10), to announce the presence of God (2 Samuel 6:15), to warn of war and danger (Jeremiah 4:19), and to play music (2 Chronicles 5:13,14).

In the New Testament we find trumpets mentioned in connection with the return of Christ and the gathering of God's elect (Matthew 24:31), with the resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16), with signals (1 Corinthians 14:8), and with significant announcements and events (Revelation 1:10; 8:2).

The vast majority of those who hear God's warning message in these end times, just prior to the return of Jesus Christ, do not take it seriously enough to act upon it. The Feast of Trumpets portrays the time of world war in the near future that culminates in the intervention of Jesus Christ—not only to raise the dead in the First Resurrection, but to save humanity from total destruction (Revelation 11:18).

Final Instruction

“Your word is truth,” Jesus said (John 17:17). The apostles reacted to the Word of God as though it were literally true. Not to do so is to believe God doesn't mean what He says. We must choose either to obey God's Word or continue to follow the broad, easy way of the world and the ideas of men.

If we expect God to answer our prayers, we must believe in the God of the Bible. We must believe His Word is truth and that He means what He says. Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

This is why we continue to point out that the purpose of these lessons is to direct you to the study of the Bible.

If you have your Bible, note paper, and dictionary, and have prayed fervently for God's help to understand the truth He has for you in this study, you are ready to

begin.

May you be greatly blessed in your study of the biblical Feast of Trumpets and its meaning for you and all mankind.

What the Festival of Trumpets Means

God's festivals played a major role in Israel's culture, setting them apart from all the other nations. These festivals (Leviticus 23), being ordained by God, were times of celebrating with Him, not times of moral depravity, which was common in pagan holidays.

In Leviticus 23, we find an outline of God's holy days. In verse 24, the instructions from God tell us when the Feast of Trumpets is observed: "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 [commanded assembly]."

The Hebrew statement, "a memorial of blowing of trumpets," can also be understood as "a memorial of triumph," or "shouting for joy with trumpets."

David, in Psalm 81:1-4, writes of the singing, shouting, and cheering of praise and joy that should take place on the Festival of Trumpets.

In Numbers 10:1-10, we see that silver trumpets were used for various purposes, such as to announce feasts, to call God's people to assemble, and to indicate the beginning of each month. Verse 10 explains that the Feast of Trumpets is to be a day of gladness, a day of solemn assembly, and the beginning of the month. This feast always fell on the first day of the month of Tishri in the Hebrew calendar, corresponding approximately to our September. Its date on our calendar will vary from year to year.

Jewish tradition says that, in addition to silver trumpets (*chatsotserah* in Hebrew), a ram's horn (*shofar* in Hebrew) was blown on the Feast of Trumpets.

While it was possible to produce a number of musical notes on the silver trumpets, only a piercing blast corresponding to a shout, or noise, was produced from the ram's horn (*shofar*).

At Mount Sinai, when God gave Israel the law, He spoke so loudly

with the voice of a trumpet that the people trembled. We can see a correlation between the sound of the ram's horn and the voice of God (Exodus 19:16-19; 20:15-18).

The use of the ram's horn on the Feast of Trumpets is the reason this feast day is so unique. While this day is to be a *joyous* feast day, the blast of the ram's horn, which is a warning of war, adds the contrasting note of *solemnity*.

"O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because you have heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war" (Jeremiah 4:19).

Review

- 1. The Feast of Trumpets is a memorial of blowing of trumpets.**
- 2. The blowing of trumpets was a memorial of triumph or shouting for joy.**
- 3. The Feast of Trumpets was a day of gladness, a day of solemn assembly, and was the beginning of the seventh month.**
- 4. The blast of the ram's horn was a warning of war.**
- 5. This day of Trumpets is referred to as a solemn feast day.**
- 6. It is observed according to the Hebrew calendar on the first day of the month of Tishri.**

What Jesus Reveals

Jesus Christ said, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). Jesus enlightened us further about this period of time by telling us that "unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

At first blush we might assume the "elect" to be "only" the twelve tribes of Israel, shown being sealed in (Revelation 7:4-8). However, we see the apostle Paul giving thanks to God for the Gentile Thessalonians—their "work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope...knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God" (1 Thessalonians 1:3,4). The Greek word *eklogen*, from which comes the English word *election*, means a

"choosing out." Paul explains to the Gentile Ephesians that God "chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Ephesians 1:4). "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering" (Colossians 3:12).

Jesus is therefore revealing in Matthew 24:22 the shortening of those days of tribulation for the "elect's" sake, and for the sake of human existence.

Jesus Christ said, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Matthew 24:29; see also Revelation 8:12).

It is not until after these heavenly signs take place that the "sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven" (Matthew 24:30).

The "sign" is the Son of Man Himself, fulfilling the prophecy of Daniel 7:13, and at the same time fulfilling the promise of Acts 1:9-11, which shows Jesus will return in clouds, power, and great glory.

Then "He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31).

Review

- 1. Jesus Christ reveals that if He does not shorten the days of tribulation, no flesh will be saved.**
- 2. He will shorten the days for the elect's sake.**
- 3. After the days of tribulation the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**
- 4. The "sign" of the coming of the Son of Man appears after the heavenly signs.**
- 5. With the sound of a "great trumpet," He will send His angels to gather His elect.**

God's Intervention

Jesus Christ promised He would return. When He returns He will not be coming to submit to death as the Passover sacrifice for sins. This time Jesus will be coming as a Warrior

King, the King of Creation, in all power, to establish the Kingdom of God.

Jesus must return and deal with rebellious mankind before it destroys the entire earth (Revelation 11:15–18).

We will continue the story by going to Revelation 6:12–14, where we see the way frightening physical contortions of nature will affect mankind, men from all walks of life who have witnessed what is happening to the earth and who have observed the heavenly signs.

The rest of this chapter deals with a number of classes of people, from the kings and great men to the common people.

They know now that it is God who is shaking the earth and intervening in the affairs of the world, and they are so terrified and fearful that they seek to hide themselves in the dens and the rocks of the mountains, hiding “from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” (Revelation 6:15–16).

“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (verse 17).

Nobody!

In Revelation 7:1, we read a prophecy of the seven trumpets. These four winds are the winds which blow the first four of seven trumpets. The trumpets announce God’s personal intervention to spare the earth!

The “four corners of the earth” does not mean the earth is square; it is a reference to the four compass points.

In Revelation 7:2–3 we see God is continuing to make available His merciful protection to those who are willing to repent and turn to Him during this time of great world calamity. Those who turn to God are sealed with His Holy Spirit, and their sins are put under the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:14–17). These are “the elect.”

In Revelation 7:2, John sees an angel ascending from the east. Solomon’s Temple faced east. The word *Orient* means east. Correct “orientation” for the Israelites, however, was to face west toward the Holy of Holies as they entered the Temple Court. Nevertheless, Ezekiel saw the glory departing from the Temple by way of the Mount of Olives on the

east (Ezekiel 11:23). In a later vision, he saw the glory returning from the way of the east (Ezekiel 43:2; cf. Zechariah 14:4).

Once God’s faithful servants are sealed by His Holy Spirit and protected from the destructive trumpet plagues, we see a number of preparatory events taking place in heaven (Revelation 8:1–6).

Suddenly, all the joyful music, singing, and shouting ceases, and there is silence around the throne for about half an hour. Attention now is riveted on the earth and the horrors about to come (Revelation 8:1).

Now the seven selected angels receive their trumpets (Revelation 8:2). These trumpets could be similar to the silver trumpets God told Moses to make, which were used in the Tabernacle and Temple, and in battle (Numbers 10:1–10; 31:6; 2 Chronicles 5:12; Hosea 5:8).

The Heavenly Temple, as should be expected, has a sea, or laver, and a golden altar of incense before the throne. Moses was told to build the earthly Tabernacle according to the pattern God showed him at Mount Sinai (Exodus 25:9). Hebrews 9:3–4 provides us with more information. Also, verse 24 says, “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself.” What John saw in heaven is the reality of which the earthly Tabernacle was just a type.

Revelation 8:3–4: Another angel (not one of the seven), arrives, bringing incense to be offered with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar before the throne. The cloud of sweet-smelling smoke that arose when the angel poured the incense on the altar symbolizes God’s acceptance of the prayers. Jesus, of course, opened the way for us (Ephesians 5:2).

The same fire on the altar that made the incense and the prayers of the saints sweet and acceptable to God was now poured out on the earth (Revelation 8:5).

When the fire hit the earth, John heard sounds similar to those that accompanied the giving of the law at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16,18,19; 20:18). These sounds now would indicate God was about to pour out judgments. Thunder and lightning has

been used in the Old Testament to show God is bringing a storm of judgment on sinners (1 Samuel 2:10; 7:10; Job 26:14; Psalm 18:13–14; 77:18). Isaiah also prophesied, “You will be punished by the LORD of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame devouring fire” (Isaiah 29:6).

We do not know what the voices say, but the same word is used of the sound (or “voice”) of a trumpet (Zephaniah 1:14–16), which speaks of the great Day of the Lord.

When the First Angel blows his trumpet, hail and fire mingled with blood are cast upon the earth, destroying one-third of all trees and green grass, making living conditions unbearable for those who will not repent and submit themselves to God’s government (Revelation 8:7).

When the Second Angel sounds his trumpet, we see something that appears as a great burning mountain cast into the sea, causing one-third of the sea to become blood. In addition, a third part of all creatures with life died, and a third part of all the ships of the sea were destroyed (Revelation 8:8–9).

As the plagues sent by God fall upon the unrepentant of the earth, a few will finally turn to God and forsake their sins. As they do this, God will supernaturally protect them from the continuing punishment of the trumpet plagues yet to come.

“Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter” (Revelation 8:10–11).

Wormwood was used in the Old Testament to represent the bitter result of sin (Proverbs 5:4–5; Jeremiah 9:15), and is sometimes connected with gall (Deuteronomy 29:18).

The first three trumpets that John saw in his vision affected the earth.

Now, the Fourth Angel sounds, striking the sun, moon, and stars so that they are darkened (Revelation 8:12). This was not just a diminishing of their light, for in a third part of the day the sun did not shine at all, and in

a third part of the night the moon and stars gave no light at all. Only the miraculous power of God could perform such feats.

Darkness was used by God as judgment. Joel spoke of the “day of the Lord” as a day of darkness (Joel 2:2). Amos warned the sinners of his day that the Day of the Lord would be “darkness, and not light” (Amos 5:18). In Zephaniah 1:14–15, it is called a day of wrath as well as darkness and thick darkness. (See also Isaiah 13:10; Mark 13:24.)

God wants the world to know that these heavenly signs are not coming about by chance. There is still time to repent. He does not want any to perish (2 Peter 3:9).

In Revelation 8:13, we see an angel flying in the midst of heaven. The older manuscripts read “eagle” here instead of “angel.” The Greek word used for “eagle” is also used to mean vulture. In any case, whether it is an angel, eagle, or vulture—or possibly a cherub or seraph in the form of an eagle—the threefold repetition of “Woe” is for emphasis.

Review

1. When Jesus returns it will be as a Warrior King.
2. Jesus must return before the nations destroy the earth.
3. People will be so terrified that they will seek to hide themselves in the dens and rocks of the mountains.
4. They are trying to hide from the face of God and the wrath of the Lamb.
5. The trumpets announce God’s personal intervention to spare the earth.
6. Those who turn to God will be sealed with the Holy Spirit to protect them.
7. The sins of the repentant are put under the blood of the Lamb.
8. God’s faithful servant will be protected from the destructive trumpet plagues.
9. When the First Angel blows his trumpet, one-third of all trees and green grass are destroyed.
10. When the Second Angel sounds his trumpet, one-third of the sea becomes blood, one-third of all creatures of the sea die, and one-third of all ships in the sea are

destroyed.

11. When the Third Angel sounds, a great star falls from heaven, called “Wormwood,” and a third of the waters are made bitter and many men die.

12. The Fourth Angel strikes the sun, moon, and stars so that the third part of them are darkened, day and night.

13. The Day of the Lord is darkness, not light.

The Three Woes

In general, most people have seen lunar and solar eclipses, Halley’s comet, and falling stars—none of which cause us great fear. However, when Almighty God begins to shake the earth, and mankind begins to see the natural course of heavenly bodies undergoing never-before-seen changes, most will quake with fear and terror. But will this be enough to make all sinners turn to God in repentance? Believe it or not, there will still be those who will not submit to God’s government.

We know now what the first four trumpet plagues bring (in the way of destruction and punishment), and it is immense. However, we still have three more trumpet plagues yet to come that are so devastating, God calls them “woes.” These three woes are the same as the final three trumpets. These three last woes (trumpets) are the final battles, ending humanity’s misrule.

The final climactic battle ends with the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of our Lord, who will reign forever and ever.

At the third woe and last trumpet, God must save mankind by miraculous intervention, or man would destroy himself off the face of the earth.

It is all of these fearful events that add the solemnity to the Feast of Trumpets. But for all those who have yielded themselves to God’s way now, it is a time of great rejoicing!

First Woe: “Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit” (Revelation 9:1). The star did not have the inherent authority to open the bottomless pit (Christ is the One who has this), but it was given to him.

The abyss is the abode of demons (Luke 8:31), where many of them are kept in custody.

The Hebrew word *abaddon* and the Greek word *appollyon* both mean “Destroyer.” The leader of this army will be Satan the Devil!

When the pit was opened, smoke came out, darkening the sun and air. Along with the smoke came locusts with a strange appearance and inhuman powers, able to torment men with stings likened to scorpions, but not kill them—and this only for a period of five months (Luke 10:19; 11:12). Men shall seek death and not find it. Also, they were not allowed to hurt any green thing, including trees. Strange creatures indeed, and totally out of character. Locusts eat vegetation, but these demonic locusts only injure, hurt, and damage human beings. This limitation is a reminder of how God limited Satan’s power over Job (Job 1:12; 2:6). Their orders are clear. They are not to hurt those who have the seal of God on their foreheads (Revelation 9:3–12).

Second Woe: In his vision, John now arrives at the end of the five months and the demon locusts are gone. Their ultimate destination will be the lake of fire that is prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

Then the Sixth Angel sounded, which is the “second woe” (Revelation 9:13). The Sixth Angel was told to loose the four angels who had been bound at the Euphrates River. This river is about 1700 miles long and was the northern limit of the territory God promised to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 1:7; Joshua 1:4). The four angels seem to be evil angels who are over demonic hosts. We know they are evil because they were bound. Holy angels are never bound (Revelation 9:14). The four angels were prepared for a specific time, and by the fire, smoke, and brimstone that came out of their mouths, they destroyed the third part of men (Revelation 9:15).

The number of the army of horseman were “two hundred million. It is unlikely that this army of “demonic hosts” are men, though they might symbolically represent armies of men. It would be nearly impossible, if

not impossible, to logistically bring an equipped, two-hundred-million-man army to a single location such as the river Euphrates.

Even after living through and experiencing the death of the third part of men, the rest of the men not killed by these plagues still refused to repent of their works of devil worship and idol worship. They also refused to repent of murder, sorceries, fornication, and theft (Revelation 9:20–21).

It is a sad day for man when even the worst of judgments will not turn him to repentance. Now that one-third of mankind is killed by this one judgment, the hearts of the remaining men are more hardened than ever, just like Egypt's Pharaoh after God sent plagues to his land.

Third Woe: We must jump ahead now to Revelation 11:15 to learn what happens when the Seventh Angel sounds.

At the sounding of the trumpet, the “kingdoms [governments] of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

For the heavenly host and those who are sealed in their foreheads by God's Holy Spirit, it will be a time of great rejoicing.

Notice that the nations of this world are actually angry because God by His great power is reigning; and, because of man's carnal mind of hatred and rebellion, the incorrigibly wicked of the nations will look upon their Creator as their common enemy (Revelation 11:17–18).

Just as the seventh seal was divided into the seven last trumpets, so the seventh trumpet is divided into the seven last plagues. These are called the “last plagues” because in them the wrath and fury of God is “filled up,” completed against the sins of the world that has come under the rule of the Antichrist during the Tribulation. In Revelation 15:7, these plagues are called the judgments of the “seven golden bowls.” The “bowls” were not small bowls but great large bowls. The seven last plagues complete God's righteous wrath upon rebellious mankind (Revelation 15:1).

When Jesus Christ returns to earth with the shout of the archangel and the trumpet of God, those who have submitted their lives to Him in total

repentance will be resurrected. This First Resurrection takes place at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the “last trumpet,” the Second Coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18; 1 Corinthians 15:52).

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6)

Review

1. **The abyss (bottomless pit) is the abode of demons, where they are kept in custody.**
2. **Satan is the leader of this army of strange creatures (locusts).**
3. **The locusts are not to hurt any green thing or kill men, but rather torment men for five months.**
4. **The locusts are to hurt only those without God's seal in their forehead.**
5. **The Sixth Angel releases the four angels bound in the river Euphrates.**
6. **They must be evil angels because holy angels are never bound.**
7. **This army kills a third part of men.**
8. **The total number of the army is 200 million.**
9. **Those not killed by this army still refuse to repent.**
10. **The third woe is the seventh trumpet, and the seventh trumpet is divided up into the seven last plagues.**
11. **These are called the last plagues because the wrath of God is filled up in them.**
12. **The First Resurrection takes place when Christ returns, at the precise time of the last trumpet.**
13. **Those in the First Resurrection will reign with Christ a thousand years.**

Third Woe Seventh Trumpet— Seven Last Plagues

Beginning in Revelation 16:1, we see described the outpouring of the “seven last plagues.”

John records a voice out of the Temple telling the seven angels to go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth.

The First Angel: This bowl (bowl),

when poured out, caused a “foul and loathsome sore...upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image” (Revelation 16:2).

This is a terrible abscessed, ulcerated, and malignant sore. Such a sore was called “a sore botch that cannot be healed” (Deuteronomy 28:35, KJV). These kinds of sores are worse than, but similar to, one of the plagues put on the Egyptians (Exodus 9:10).

The Second Angel: He “poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died” (Revelation 16:3).

Water is important to life. The life of the body is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). The blood now becomes the means of judgment and death. Egypt's first plague came when Moses struck the river Nile with his rod, and the river turned to blood and all the fish died (Exodus 7:20–25).

The Third Angel: He pours out the golden bowl of God's wrath, causing the rivers and fountains of waters to become blood (Revelation 16:4). This would bring great suffering upon the followers of Antichrist. By this plague, God demonstrates His righteousness and justice. Those who have shed blood will have only blood to drink. They are worthy to receive the wages of their sin.

Failure to accept God's salvation through the blood of Jesus brings a death from which there is no resurrection.

The Fourth Angel: He “poured out his bowl on the sun” (Revelation 16:8). The sun is given the power to scorch men with fire. Rather than turn to God in a humble, repentant attitude, they blaspheme His holy name and refuse to give Him the glory He rightly deserves.

Fire in the Bible often refers to judgment (Isaiah 24:6; Malachi 4:1; Matthew 3:10–12). A possible byproduct of this intense heat might possibly be the melting of the poles (Amos 9:5–6), thus flooding many parts of the earth, causing even more devastation.

Men, by choosing to follow the Antichrist and his false prophet, will believe the big lie of the Antichrist's claims (1 Thessalonians 2:10). They will continue to love darkness and

reject the light of God's truth.

The Fifth Angel: He will pour out his bowl on the headquarters of the beast (Revelation 16:10). The Antichrist's kingdom will become darkness. It will be like the plague of darkness on Egypt (Exodus 10:21–23). Darkness is used many times as judgment in the Bible (Isaiah 60:2; Joel 2:2; Nahum 1:8; Mark 13:24–25). This darkness will cause great confusion for the Antichrist's rule. The pain from previous plagues will be so intensified by this darkness that they will gnaw their tongues in agony. Mankind continues to be obdurate and will not repent. Not only did this plague bring physical darkness, it brought forth spiritual darkness.

It is clear that no judgment—even the fear of the Lake of Fire—can bring forth repentance from those who have rejected God's great mercies and salvation.

The Sixth Angel: He "poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east [Orient] might be prepared" (Revelation 16:12).

The Euphrates was the northeastern limit of the land promised to Abraham and his descendants. It was also the eastern limit of the Roman Empire in New Testament times. The drying up of the Euphrates will remove the barrier, opening the way for the kings of the East (Orient) to come with their armies toward Israel and the Valley of Megiddo.

All the rulers of the world will be brought together to the place called Armageddon, which is the "Mountain of Megiddo."

Now that the way for the kings of the East has been prepared, the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet can begin their plan of world conquest through deception. The dragon is described as "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9).

The Beast is the Antichrist. And the beast out of the earth is the False Prophet (Revelation 13:11–17). Out of the mouths of these three come unclean spirits, like frogs, and they go

forth to deceive the kings of the earth and the rest of the world (including the kings of the East)—to bring them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty!

These unclean spirits influence the minds of the world rulers by performing miraculous signs, convincing them to join with the Antichrist in the final battle, a holocaust that will involve the whole world, with no nation remaining neutral. (Please read Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8–10.)

This battle will not have its fulfillment until Christ returns in power and glory with flaming fire to destroy the wicked (2 Thessalonians 1:7–10).

The Seventh Angel: He "poured out his bowl into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, 'It is done'" (Revelation 16:17).

The voice is God Himself, telling us the seventh plague will finish the sevenfold outpouring of His wrath upon earth.

Amid voices, thunders, and lightnings, the greatest earthquake the world has ever known occurs. (Revelation 16:18).

We are then told that the great city Babylon is broken into three parts, and all of the cities of the nations fall. Babylon was an evil city as well as an immoral empire: a world center for idol worship.

The very topography of the earth will be changed when God sends great hailstones, each weighing a "talent" (75 pounds). And for all this men continued to blaspheme and curse God (Revelation 16:21).

No one can turn his or her back on God and simply walk away. God will not allow it. Sooner or later every knee shall bow, or be destroyed in the Lake of Fire.

Now is the time to turn your life around. Now is the time to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. In the words of the Apostle Peter, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

This is the question all people face today: Are we willing to submit to the

rule of God in our life now, and do what He says? May God help us heed this message!

Review

1. The first plague causes a "foul and loathsome sore," called a "sore botch that cannot be healed."
2. The Second Angel pours his bowl on the sea and it became similar to the blood of a dead man, and everything died in the sea.
3. The Third Angel pours out the golden bowl of God's wrath, causing the rivers and fountains of water to become blood.
4. The Fourth Angel pours his bowl on the sun, and the sun scorches men with fire.
5. The Fifth Angel pours his bowl on the headquarters of the Beast.
6. The Sixth Angel pours his bowl on the Euphrates River, and the water is dried up, removing the barrier for the kings of the East.
7. All the rulers of the world will be brought together to the place called Armageddon, which is the "Mountain of Megiddo."
8. The dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, deceives the "whole world."
9. The unclean spirits, likened to frogs, deceive the kings of the earth, including the kings of the East, bringing them to the battle of that "great day of God Almighty."
10. Christ returns in power and glory with flaming fire to destroy the wicked.
11. The Seventh Angel pours his bowl into the air, and a great voice out of the Temple said, "It is done."
12. The greatest earthquake ever occurs and Babylon is broken into three parts, and the cities of the nations fall.

Jesus explained to His disciples during His ministry. "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are one who is able to come to Christ because God has drawn you, you can be sure that He is concerned about what you do now and in the future.

The Church of God International

12

Understanding
the Feast of
Trumpets

Test Yourself

**Write your answers on a
separate sheet of paper.**

**Check *your* answers
with the answers found
at the end of the test.**

**Detach the return
coupon at the bottom of
the page and mail back
to us. We will
send the next lesson
in the series to you.**

HOME BIBLE

Study Course

True or False Questions

1. The Feast of Trumpets is a memorial of blowing of Trumpets.
2. The blast of the ram's horn announces gladness.
3. The Feast of Trumpets is a day of gladness and a day of solemn assembly.
4. It is observed with an attitude of triumph and joy.
5. It is observed on the tenth of Tishri.
6. Jesus will return as a Warrior King.
7. Jesus would never return with flaming fire for the wicked.
8. People will attempt to see the face of Him that sits on the throne.
9. No flesh would be saved if Jesus failed to return.
10. Terrified people will try to hide in the rocks and dens of the mountains.
11. The wrath of the Lamb is what people will try to hide from.
12. God will be unable to protect His servants from the trumpet plagues.
13. When the First Angel sounds the trumpet, one-third of the people will flee to Rome.
14. The sea becomes blood when the Second Angel sounds his trumpet.
15. The Day of the Lord is bright, without darkness.
16. The bottomless pit is the abode of demons.

Continued on next page

Home Bible Study Course

17. The army of locusts are to eat green things and not hurt men.
18. They will only hurt those men who do not have God's seal on their forehead.
19. Satan will not be the leader of this army of locusts.
20. The locusts will kill a third part of men.
21. The four angels in the Euphrates River come and go as they please.
22. The number of the army of horsemen is 200 million.
23. The four angels bound at the Euphrates River are loosed on a specific hour, day, month, and year.
24. Those not killed by this army repented immediately.
25. Satan the Devil deceives the entire world.
26. Christ returns in power and glory with flaming fire to destroy the wicked.
27. Unclean spirits, likened unto frogs, deceive the kings of the earth.
28. Only a few nations will resist God Almighty.
29. The seventh trumpet consists of the seven last plagues.
30. Babylon will endure forever.
31. The greatest earthquake ever will break Babylon into three parts.
32. The cities of the nations will all survive.
33. The Seventh Angel poured his bowl into the air, and a great voice out of the Temple said, "It is done."
34. Jesus will not shorten the days of tribulation.
35. After the days of tribulation, the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
36. No flesh will be saved if Jesus does not cut short the days of tribulation.
37. Jesus will shorten the days of tribulation for the elect's sake.
38. There will be no "sign" of the coming of Jesus Christ.
39. The "sign" of Jesus' coming will be after the heavenly signs.
40. With the sound of a great trumpet, Jesus will send His angels to gather His elect.

Answers to True or False Questions: Score Yourself: Miss 0–3 = Excellent; Miss 4–6 = Good; Miss 7–9 = Fair

39. True; 40. True.

20. False; 21. False; 22. True; 23. True; 24. False; 25. True; 26. True; 27. True; 28. False; 29. True; 30. False; 31. True; 32. False; 33. True; 34. False; 35. True; 36. True; 37. True; 38. False; 39. True; 40. True.