

The Tabernacle

Feast of Trumpets

Lesson Overview

- References: Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6
- This feast takes place on the 1st day of Tishri, the seventh month.
 - In 2022 it will be September 25-26, and in 2023 it will be September 15-16
- It is observed as a sabbath – Leviticus 23:25
- This feast marks the beginning of a new civil year and the end of the Agricultural year.
- Today the Jews call this *Rosh Hashanah* (“head/start of the year”)
 - This name does not appear in the Bible, though the phrase “*rosh hashanah*” is found in Ezekiel 40:1 in an unrelated usage.

Which New Year’s Day?

- If you are paying attention, you may have noticed that the Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah is the start of a new year.
- According to the Jewish rabbis, there are *four* new years in the calendar:
 - 1st of Tishri – “new year for years”, a civil calendar.
 - For the upcoming Hebrew year 5783, this will be September 26, 2022.
 - Edersheim – “for the Civil, the Sabbatical, and the Jubilee year, also for trees and herbs
 - 15th of Shevat – “new year for trees”, an agricultural calendar.
 - This will be February 6, 2023.
 - Edersheim – “for all fruits of trees”
 - 1st of Nisan – “new year for kings and festivals”, a regal and religious calendar.
 - This this will be March 23, 2023.
 - Edersheim – “for ‘kings’ (to compute taxation) and for computing the feasts”
 - 1st of Elul – “new year for the tithe of cattle”, an agricultural calendar.
 - This this will be August 18, 2023.
 - Edersheim – “for tithing flocks and herds, any animal born after that not being reckoned within the previous year”

The Feast of Trumpets

- Silver trumpets and *shofars* (made from antelope or ram horns) were blown throughout the day – Numbers 10:10, Psalm 81:3
- The offering of the regular “new moon” sacrifices after the morning sacrifice – Numbers 29:6

- Burnt offerings of two bulls, one ram, and seven lambs with their corresponding meal and drink offerings – Numbers 28:11-14
- The usual sin offering is however omitted. Note its absence in Numbers 29:6.
- Special offerings were then made:
 - Burnt offerings of one bull, one ram, and seven lambs with their corresponding meal and drink offerings – Numbers 29:2-4
 - A sin offering of one goat – Numbers 29:5

Later Developments

- *Rosh Hashanah* is now celebrating for two days instead of one.
- The rabbis taught that on this day three books were opened with names therein:
 - First, of *life* with the names of the righteous
 - Second, of *death* with the names of the wicked
 - Third of *undecided* with those whose fates would be decided in the days leading up to the Day of Atonement.
 - These likely referred to earthly blessings or curses in the coming year.
 - This belief was based on Psalm 69:28 and Exodus 32:32.
- The Jews began to mark the ten days after the Feast of Trumpets as a time of introspection, repentance, and preparation leading up to the Day of Atonement.
- The 1st of Tishri was associated with the Creation (specifically of Adam and Eve) and Abraham's offering of Isaac.

Truths from the Tabernacle

- Just as we saw parallels to Christ's earthly ministry in the earlier feasts, we may see parallels in these later feasts to Christ's coming mission.
 - Trumpets signaled the beginning of a new period (Tribulation?)
 - A trumpet signals the beginning of the Tribulation – I Corinthians 15:52, I Thessalonians 5:25, Revelation 4:1
 - Trumpets signaled for the gathering of the people (regathering of Israel?)
 - As pictured in Matthew 24:31 and many O.T. promises.
 - Trumpets signaled for an upcoming battle (Armageddon?)