

Teaching series by Pastor Trey Graham




# BIBLICAL HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot

# Jesus and the Tanakh (Old Testament)

Jesus said, “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” Matthew 5:17-18



# Jesus and the Tanakh (Old Testament)

Now He said to them [His disciples], “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled**.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,”

Luke 24:44-45



# What can we learn from the Days of Awe?

Yamim Noraim ימים נוראים

- **Rosh HaShanah** (Feast of Trumpets), which begins on the 1st day of Tishri (7<sup>th</sup> month), focuses on sin and repentance and is followed by **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) on the 10th of Tishri, and then **Sukkot** (Feast of Booths) on the 15th of the month, which focuses on God's providential care of His people.
- We must acknowledge our sin, repent and receive God's atonement for sin before we can experience God's providential care over our lives.

# Rosh Hashanah ראש השנה

Literally... “head of the year”

The Bible does not refer to the holiday as Rosh Hashanah; it describes the holiday as **Yom Hazikaron** יום הזְכָרוֹן (Day of Remembrance) or **Yom Teruah** יום תְּרוּעָה (Day of the Blasting of Trumpets).

# September 2022

# October 2022

It was on Mount Sinai that God gave Moses the dates and observances of the seven feasts. Here are their names:

1. Passover (*Pesach*) - *Nisan 14-15*
2. Unleavened Bread (*Chag Hamotzi*) - *Nisan 15-22*
3. First Fruits (*Yom habikkurim*) - *Nisan 16-17*
4. Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*) - *Sivan 6-7*
5. Trumpets (*Yom Teru'ah*) - *Tishri 1*
6. Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) - *Tishri 10*
7. Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) - *Tishri 15-22*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Yom Kippur	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Sukkot begins	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Sukkot ends	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

<b>25</b>  Rosh Hashana	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

# Why should New Testament believers celebrate Old Testament holidays like Rosh Hashanah / Yom Teruah?

Believers in Messiah Jesus have freedom to celebrate these holidays or not to do so. Celebration of these festivals is a great way to draw attention to our Messiah, as each of the appointed festivals in Leviticus 23 points to Jesus. We remember His first coming and looking forward to His return.

# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

**Passover** – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Nissan - when reigns of kings were determined and counted

- This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. Exodus 12:2
- Nissan is considered the first month of the Hebrew calendar, though years are counted from the first day of Tishri, the seventh month. The First of Nissan was considered the new year for counting the years of the reigns of kings in ancient Israel. It is also the new year for ordering the Jewish holidays. The month of Nissan is closely tied with the festival of Passover; and while Rosh Hashanah is seen as the anniversary of the creation of the world, the first day of Nissan is seen as the anniversary of the founding of the Jewish people when they escaped from Egypt during the Passover story.
- Passover is the “morning” of the year.



# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

## Elul – judgment on animals (tithe of cattle)

The second new year's day is on the first day of Elul, the sixth month of the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in the late summer (August). According to the Mishnah, this was the new year for animal tithes. It was used to determine the start date for the animal tithe to the priestly class in ancient Israel, similar to how we use April 15th in the U.S. as tax day. Generally, this new year's day is no longer observed, although the month of Elul does mark the beginning of preparations for Rosh Hashanah.

# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

**Tu B'Shvat** – 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Shvat, the new years for trees

- This is the date when there is supposed to be enough rains for trees to be saturated and ready to start new year.
- This is when the almond trees will blossom, the first trees to “awaken” from winter.
- Tu B'Shvat is considered the new year's day for trees, usually falling between January and February. According to Leviticus 19:23-25 fruits cannot be consumed from trees less than three years old, and Tu B'Shvat was used as the starting date for determining the age of the trees. Unlike the first of Nisan and the first of Elul, Tu B'Shvat is widely observed as a minor holiday.

# Biblical New Years - There are 4 of them

## Rosh Hashanah – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Tishri


- It falls on the first day of Tishri, seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which usually corresponds to September. It marks the day when the Hebrew calendar year advances and is seen traditionally as the date when the world was created. This week, we begin year 5783.
- In ancient times, it was also used for calculating certain tithes, such as those for vegetables, and for calculating the start of Sabbatical and Jubilee years when land was left fallow.
- Rosh Hashanah is the “evening” of the agricultural year, at the end of the harvest. After harvest, most farmers would be proud of themselves. Instead, that is the perfect time to thank God. It is parallel to Hebrews prayers after meals –anyone can pray when they are hungry. People are usually not thankful when they are satisfied.
- “When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.” Deuteronomy 8:10

# Leviticus 23



The Lord spoke again to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord’s **appointed times** [moedim מועדים] which you shall proclaim as **holy convocations**—My appointed times are these:’  
Leviticus 23:1-2

The term “feasts” [moedim מועדים] in Hebrew literally means “appointed times” and in Scripture the feasts often are called “holy convocations.” They are times God has appointed for holy purposes.




- While there are many religious celebrations in scripture, seven are most significant: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, **Trumpets**, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles/Booths.
- God established the timing and sequence of these feasts to reveal to us a special story about the work of the Messiah in the redemption of mankind and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth.
- The number seven is significant in Scripture. It is tied to completeness or fullness. God rested on the seventh day after creation, not because He was tired but because His work was complete and He was fully satisfied in it. The cycle of the seven-day week provided the basis for much of Israel's worship.
- The seventh month (Tishri) features four of the seven feasts; the seventh year and the 50<sup>th</sup> year (the year of Jubilee, following seven cycles of seven years) also are significant.

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the **seventh month** [Tishri] on **the first of the month** you shall have a rest [shabbaton שַׁבְּתוֹן], a reminder [זִכְרוֹן zikron memorial] by **blowing** [תְּרוּעָה teruah] of **trumpets**, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord.’ ” Leviticus 23:23-25

- Today’s date is Sunday, September 25, 2022
- Today’s date on the Hebrew calendar is 29<sup>th</sup> (last) day of Elul
- Tonight at sundown begins the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Tishri, 5783

**What lessons can we learn as we  
observe the Day of Trumpets  
(Yom Teruah)?**

The image features a dark blue background with a white border. In the bottom right corner, there are decorative wavy lines in shades of blue and white, resembling a stylized flag or ribbon.



# Blowing of the Shofar (Trumpet)

- Perhaps the most iconic aspect of Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the shofar. This is a twisted or curved ram's horn that is sounded on each day of the holiday, unless that first day happens to land on Shabbat (Sabbath). During years when Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat, the shofar will only be blown on the second day.
- After the Torah is read in the morning, the shofar is blown 30 times. However, it will be blown up to 70 more times while Musaf services are held (prayers recited on Shabbat, major holidays and Rosh Chodesh), as well as right afterward. Throughout Rosh Hashanah services, the shofar will get blown up to 100 times.

# Blowing of the Shofar (Trumpet)

There are four different kinds of shofar blasts that are done.

- **Tekiah** – A long, single blast; a sobbing-like sound; sound of a king's coronation
- **Shevarim** – Three consecutive and brief wails, signifying repentance
- **Teruah** – Nine or more incredibly alarming and high-pitched bursts, to awaken the soul
- **Tekiah hagadol** – a final long blast

# Why is it called “Feast of Trumpets”?

‘Now in the seventh month [Tishri], on the first day of the month, you shall also have a **holy convocation**; you shall do no laborious work. It will be to you a day for blowing [תְּרוּעָה yom יום] **trumpets**.’ Numbers 29:1

This holy convocation formed the basis for what we now know as Rosh Hashanah. The sound of the trumpets reminded the people of the Lord’s faithfulness thus far, rang in the year to come, and also hinted at the future coming of the Messiah. For many years, however, this memorial day to the Lord fell into disuse, as we see in the book of Nehemiah.

- Nehemiah 8–9 tells us that on the first day of the seventh month (Tishri), the Israelites gathered by the water gate in Jerusalem to listen to the Levites. Ezra the scribe opened the scroll of the Torah and read from it. The Israelites wept when they heard him read, for they had lived in ignorance for so long in the Babylonian exile that they no longer spoke Hebrew (see Nehemiah 13:24) or knew the precepts of the Torah.
- Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. Nehemiah 8:2
- It was a bitter discovery, but Nehemiah and the Levites told the Israelites not to despair.
- Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” Nehemiah 8:10–11
- The feasting which Nehemiah commanded for the first of Tishri was a key precedent for establishing the tenor and significance of Rosh Hashanah. The passage’s most salient emotions—sorrow for past wrongs and joy at the prospect of reconciliation—have imbued the holiday of Rosh Hashanah ever since.

‘You shall offer a burnt offering as a soothing aroma to the Lord: one bull, one ram, and seven male lambs one year old without defect; also their grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs.’ Numbers 29:2-4

\*The central elements are the number 7 (Tishri is the 7th month, 7 male lambs were offered), the abstaining from regular work, the sounding of the ram's horn trumpets, various burnt offerings, and the sin offering of one male goat to make atonement for sin.

‘Offer one male goat for a sin [חַטָּאת chattat] offering, to make atonement for you, besides the burnt offering of the new moon [Rosh Chodesh] and its grain offering, and the continual burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, for a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the Lord.’

Numbers 29:5-6

\*Rosh Hashanah is the only biblical holiday observed on the first day of a month (on a new moon, with 0% illumination).

\*Rosh Hashanah is always Rosh Chodesh (beginning of a month) but does not negate obligations of Rosh Chodesh.



# Lots of sacrifices in Numbers 29:2-6

- Rosh Hashanah is not one of the Three Pilgrimages so all the Jewish people would not have journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem
- Only priests were doing the sacrifices on behalf of the people, this is done as representatives of the nation
- Animals had to be bought by priests using money from Temple treasury
- Numbers 29:1 “you” do no laborious work = everybody
- Numbers 29:2 “you” refers to priests on behalf of the people
- Numbers 29:6 Rosh Chodesh offering (see Numbers 28:11-15)
- Burnt offering – animal body completely consumed by fire; spiritual meaning of being completely given up to God (not partly taken back and eaten)
- Korban קָרְבָּן is “sacrifice” (root word means “come near, approach”)
- Grain offering (סֹלֶת solet) means finely sifted flour

# Feast of Trumpets

‘Now in the seventh month [Tishri], on the first day of the month, you shall also have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. It will be to you a day for blowing [יום תְּרוּעָה yom teruah] **trumpets**.’ Numbers 29:1

\*Yom Teruah יום תְּרוּעָה literally "day of blasting"

\*Unlike other Biblical holidays, there is no explicit reason given in the Torah for its observance other than to rest and offer sacrifice.

\*The number seven always signifies holiness. The 7th month is to the year what the Sabbath is to the week. – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



# Trumpets (Shofarot) in the Bible

shofar שׁוֹפָר

shofarot שׁוֹפָרוֹת



# The Shofar of Mercy: the Binding of Isaac

- Shofars are made from goats' horns and they reminded ancient Israel of the goat God gave Abraham to sacrifice in place of Abraham's son, Isaac (see Genesis 22).
- This story foretells Yeshua's sacrifice on the Cross as a sin offering for everyone who receives Him! For Christians, every time the shofar is blown, we are reminded that God gave us Jesus like a ram in the bush, as a substitute to die for our sins.
- Blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah calls us to awaken from spiritual slumber and make room for the Holy Spirit to blow afresh in our lives!

## Sounding the Shofar as an Alarm

“Blow the **trumpet [shofar שׁוֹפָר]** in Zion, and **sound an alarm** in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: **for the day of the Lord comes**, for it is close at hand; a day of darkness and gloominess.... Tear your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord, your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and relents from sending calamity.” Joel 2:1–2, 13

## Sounding the Shofar to Call an Assembly

“Blow the **trumpet [shofar שׁוֹפָר]** in Zion! Sanctify a fast. **Call a solemn assembly.**” Joel 2:15

# The Shofar in Warfare

The Bible contains many references to the shofar being used in battle. Joshua and his Israelite army took the enemy city of Jericho (see Joshua 6) with the sounding of the **shofarot** (plural of shofar).

“So the people shouted, and the priests blew the **trumpets [shofarot]**. It happened, when the people heard the sound of the **trumpet [shofar]**, that the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.” Joshua 6:20

In the Book of Judges, Gideon and his small band of men blew their **trumpets [shofarot]** and gained a victory over the Midianites (Judges 7:19–25).

“When the three hundred **trumpets [shofarot]** sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.” Judges 7:22

# The Shofar of Impending Judgment

In the Book of Revelation, **judgment begins with the blast of the shofar** and the earth is struck with plagues reminiscent of those in Egypt:

“The first angel sounded his **trumpet**, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” Revelation 8:7

# The Shofar as the King Comes for His Bride

The blasts of the shofar will also herald the return of Yeshua (Jesus) and the resurrection of the dead. **Jesus will return with a shout and the "shofar call of God" at the event known as the Rapture of the Church.**

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with **the trumpet [shofar call] of God**, and the dead in Christ [Messiah] will rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16

# Rosh Hashanah & the Secret of the Bridegroom

There's also a secret hidden in plain sight in the symbolism of Rosh Hashanah, which is celebrated on a new moon, when the moon is concealed. What is concealed on Rosh Hashanah? The fetching of the Bride! In ancient Israel, weddings consisted of two parts, the betrothal, or engagement, and the actual marriage ceremony which came later. The betrothal marked the contractual agreement between a groom and bride, committing each other legally to their union, but the conjugal union was not celebrated until as much as a year or more later—after the groom returned to his father's house to build a place for his bride. Only the groom's father could say when the new place was ready, at which point the groom was released to go fetch his bride. The bride's duty during this time was to gather her dowry and prepare herself to go with her groom when he appeared. Because she didn't know the day or hour of his appearance, the groom's approach was heralded by the blowing of a shofar! Thus, blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah foreshadows the day Jesus will return to earth to receive His Bride, the Church, heralded by an enormous sounding of trumpets. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

<https://www.rofc.org/rosh-hashanah-the-secret-of-the-bridegroom/>

# The Shofar Hailing King Messiah

Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) will be hailed as King with the sounding of the seventh and final trumpet (shofar), an event known as His **Second Coming**.

“The **seventh angel sounded**, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Messiah. He will reign forever and ever!’” Revelation 11:15

“Blow the **trumpet** in Zion, and **sound an alarm** in my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord comes, for it is close at hand.” Joel 2:1

"Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over His flock like a shepherd.'" Jeremiah 31:10



# Trumpets in the Scriptures

- Then the Lord will appear over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning; and the Lord God will blow the **trumpet** [שׁוֹפָר shofar], and will march in the storm winds of the south. Zechariah 9:14
- How blessed are the people who know the **joyful sound** [תְּרוּעָה teruah - shout or blast]! O Lord, they walk in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they **rejoice** all the day, and by Your righteousness they are exalted. For You are the glory of their strength, and by Your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the Lord, and our king to the Holy One of Israel. Psalm 89:15-18

# Rosh Hashanah in the New Testament

Scripture does not tell us if Jesus observed Rosh Hashanah in the Temple. But the Gospels show us that Jesus was no stranger to the Temple. He taught there and He worshiped there.


We can assume that Jesus celebrated this feast every year of His earthly life, as did His disciples.

# Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

1. The Lord God is King of all the earth

For the Lord Most High is to be feared, a great King over all the earth. Psalm 47:2

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout joyfully before the King, the Lord. Psalm 98:6



# Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

2. Yom Teruah (Day of Trumpets) has prophetic significance for Christ-followers. The blowing of the shofar is prophetic of the Rapture of the Church.

- Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52


# Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

3. We should be grateful to the Lord for writing our names in the Lamb's Book of Life.

- He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior Titus 3:5-6

## Rosh Hashanah reminders for Followers of Jesus

4. The binding of Isaac by Abraham in Genesis 22, and the theme of the provision of the ram's horn, looked ahead to the sacrifice of Jesus, God's Son, on the Cross.




# Occasions to Blow the Shofar (Trumpet)

In the Biblical times of Israel, the shofar was blown:

1. To **mark** the arrival of a new moon
2. To **celebrate** a simcha (joyous occasion)
3. To **proclaim** liberty to the captives
4. To **hail** a king at his coronation
5. To **warn** of impending judgment
6. To **gather** troops to battle
7. To **sound** an alarm
8. To **call** a sacred assembly and time of fasting
9. To **confuse** the enemy camp
10. To **draw** God's attention

# Why Should We Sound The Shofar Today?

- To **mark** the arrival of a new moon TONIGHT, SEPT. 25 (MOON IS COMPLETELY DARK)
  - To **celebrate** a **simcha (joyous occasion)** THE DESIRE OF THIS CHURCH AND OUR NATION
  - To **proclaim** liberty to the captives FREEDOMS ARE IN JEOPARDY AROUND THE WORLD
  - To **hail** a king at his coronation PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE LOOKING FOR REAL LEADERSHIP
  - To **warn** of impending judgment WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS
  - To **gather** troops to battle AMERICA IS IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE RIGHT NOW
  - To **sound** an alarm BELIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD ARE PRAYING FOR REVIVAL
  - To **call** a sacred assembly and time of fasting WILL WE SEE A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING?
  - To **confuse** the enemy camp WHO SEEMS TO BE WINNING AND GAINING POWER NOW?
  - To **draw** God's attention WE NEED GRACE, HEALING, HOPE, DIRECTION, AND JOY
- 



# Followers of Jesus are fighting a spiritual battle today and need joy

God's promise in the Book of Numbers to deliver His people when they blow the shofar in battle is still applicable:

“When you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the **trumpets [shofarot]**. Then you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.” Numbers 10:9

# How do you prepare for Rosh Hashanah?

- Turn to God (teshuvah - repentance)
- Turn to others we have harmed or offended (mechilah - forgiveness)
- Turn to those in need (tzedakah - charity)

All Hebrew prayers during this special holiday are prayed in the **PLURAL**, emphasizing that we are all interconnected spiritually.

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27



**Yeshua the Messiah is the Fulfillment of Rosh Hashanah**  
The Ultimate Day of Judgment will come when the **trumpet shall sound** and Jesus the Messiah returns to judge the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52). He will preside over the heavenly court. We are called to repent and celebrate the New Creation that has begun in the Messiah (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 5:12-19; and 1 Corinthians 15:45) and will come in fullness when He returns (Romans 9:19-22).

# Rosh Hashanah & the Secret of the Bridegroom

Many followers of Jesus believe He will actually come for His bride (Rapture of the Church) on **Rosh Hashanah**. Referring to the wedding supper of the Lamb, Jesus said: “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 14:3



**Sound The Shofar Today**

# SHOFAR BLESSING

*Recite before blowing the shofar:*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ  
לִשְׁמֹעַ קוֹל שׁוֹפָר.

ba·rookh at·tah Adonai, E·loh·**hey**·noo **me**·lekh ha·oh·lahm,  
a·sher kee·de·**shah**·noo be·meetz·voh·tahv ve·tzee·**vah**·noo  
leesh·**moh**·a kohl shoh·far.

# SHOFAR BLESSING

*Recite before blowing the shofar:*

“Blessed art Thou, Lord our God,  
Master of the universe,  
who sanctifies us with His  
commandments and commands us  
to hear the sound of the shofar.”



# Holiday Greetings for Rosh Hashanah

shanah tovah

שָׁנָה טוֹבָה

"a good year"

shanah tovah u'metukah

שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה

"a good and sweet year"