



## Feast of Trumpets and The Messiah

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

Whenever I take a tour group to Israel and in particular to Jerusalem, I point out a very significant hewn stone that once was part of the structure known as the retaining wall of the temple mount. The stone has an inscription written in Hebrew that says, **“The Place of the Blowing”**. One of the major themes of the Feast of Trumpets is the future coronation of the Messiah as King. Before the destruction of the temple in 70A.D. this stone marked the place of the blowing of the shofar for this purpose.



In Hebrew this day is known as Yom Ha Teruah, the Day of the Awakening Blast or Shout. To celebrate the future coming of Messiah ben David, Psalm 47 was read seven times in the temple on this feast day.

*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. He will subdue the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. He will choose our inheritance for us, the excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah*

*God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet (**Shofar**). Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth, Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne. The princes of the people have gathered together, the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God, He is greatly exalted.*

I am fully convinced that the “place of the blowing” is also the pinnacle of the temple. This is the spot where Yeshua (Jesus) was tempted by ha satan to prematurely reveal himself as the Messiah that Israel was waited for. (Luke 4:9-13) But for all things there is an appointed time.

Yom ha Teruah is unusual in that this feast occurs on the new moon of the seventh month as apposed to the full moon that marks other major feast days. What makes this feast day so unique is that no one could be quite sure

when the moon would reappear. Thus this feast is celebrated for two full days in order that they did not miss the appointed time. In light of this fact I believe Yeshua gave us a holy riddle regarding his return when his disciples asked him privately about the signs of the end times. Regarding the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory he said "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven nor the son, but only the Father. Yet then He tells them repeatedly to **WATCH**.

Permit me to explain. The Feasts of the Lord have proven to be the appointed times in which God is accomplishing major steps on the road to redemption and the restoration of all things. Therefore I believe the Messiah's return will occur on a feast day. The one feast that is shrouded in mystery and expectation is Yom ha Teruah. One could look to the sky the day before a full moon and know with certainty that it will indeed be full the next day. But during a new moon period one must look up and **WATCH** with anticipation for "no one knows the hour or the day" it ...or "HE" will appear.

Another name for this feast in Hebrew is Chevlei Shel Mashiach, which means Birth-pains of the Messiah. The re-birth of the nation of Israel and the coming of Messiah are intrinsically linked. Consider one of the sources of this term found in the words of Isaiah. *"Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, She delivered a male child. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children. (Isaiah 66:7-8)*

The Feast of Trumpets is the beginning of a ten-day period that concludes with the Day of Atonement known in the Jewish writings as the Days of Awe. During this time may the children of God be filled with the reverence and awe of the Holy One of Israel. May we recognize the birth-pains of Messiah, be filled with anticipation and ready for his coming!