

(Luke 21:20-24). This was all literally fulfilled. But since this last dispersion, there has not been a subsequent regathering of the nation, but it shall come (Is. 27:12; 43:5-7; Jer. 12:15, 24:6; Ezek. 20:42; 28:25-26; Hosea 12; Joel 3:1; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 4:6; Zeph. 3:20; Zech. 10:10). God has given His solemn Word on these promises of restoration for the nation (Jer. 31:35-40). So let the Word stand forever! Glory to God!

3. DISPENSATIONAL

a. Past (Law).

There it is written in the Word (Lev. 23). God commanded Israel to hearken to the truth. They were to count on the Feast of Trumpets as a divine reminder of what was yet to come!

b. Present (Grace).

There is no Feast of Trumpets for the Church of the sort mentioned here. It behoves believers of this Age to mark their differences with Israel and her promises (1 Cor. 10:32). It is the Amillennialist who confuses these issues and we dispensationalists keep the issues separate as God does! But we take literally the truth that God still has a program for His people (Rom. 9-11).

c. Future (Millennium).

Being related to the future restoration of the nation, it is evident that the events of this Feast precede the ultimate Kingdom blessings of the nation (Rev. 20:1-6). This Feast is not recorded in the prophetic passages of the millennium, and rightly so for the event has been completed. Israel will be in the land! Modern movements back to the land are a harbinger of more to come!

Conclusion God has given glorious evidence in His Word that the nation will once again possess the land given to the fathers. That day is fast approaching. We see items taking place today which provoke us to believe that we live in some of the most exciting days ever. May the Lord instruct our hearts to believe His Word and know Him as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

"The Feast of Trumpets"

Lev. 23:23-25

Introduction

1. It is obedience to the Word of God which is so desperately needed in this day. Israel was commanded to keep certain feasts. They did it, but in reality their actions were their own and not unto God (cf. John 5:1; 6:4). If obedience is not from the heart, it is down-right hypocrisy. God help us to be true to Him!

2. The present study relates itself to another aspect in the history of Israel and their prophetic expectations. God will someday blow the trumpet and scattered Israel will be returned to her own land. Such action comes in its own order and follows the preceding feasts. The Passover pointed to God's Redemption. Unleavened Bread to God's Fellowship. Firstfruits to God's Resurrection. Pentecost forged the item of God's Power. Now comes the Trumpets. Give careful exposure to this blessed truth. Here are the aspects of the study:-

1. HISTORICAL

a. Time of it.

The seventh month is the scheduled time for this feast (v.23). Other events took place during this month of feasts (cf vv. 27, 34, 39, 41). Here is a sabbatical month indeed. It was also the beginning of Israel's civil year (October). Whereas the heathen celebrate their new year with mirth and folly, the Jews were to do theirs with solemnity and joy before the Lord.

b. Cause of it.

It is clear from the Word that the sound of the trumpet had significant meanings with Israel (cf. Num. 10:1-10). At times the call of the trumpet meant the assembly of the nation, at other times the sound of an alarm. The trumpet was in effect the testimony to the Word of God! It is very likely that it was to the trumpet blowing that the

Psalmist had reference (59:15). What a joyful sound to hear the Word of God for whatever He has to say. But more than this, it is clear from Numbers 10:10 that the trumpets were sounded for the purpose of calling attention to solemn days, months, and feasts. The priests were involved in their blowing pointing to the spiritual connections (Num. 10:8). Hence, the Feast of Trumpets is not some conflagration of trumpet blowing for the sake of noise but true spiritual goals.

c. Plan of it.

Simple directions are given in the Word. This was to be a sabbath for the nation and no servile work done. It was all an holy convocation and a time for hearkening to the Word of God (vv. 24, 25). An offering of fire was to be presented to God (v. 25). Here is a time for expiation and sin dealing. The Bible states that it is a "memorial" unto the Lord. This word in Hebrew is better rendered as being "a reminding." It speaks of something present or something just at hand, rather than a "memorial" which suggests the past. The Hebrew root is from the same word used in Isaiah of remembrances of Israel (62:6). Hence, it is used in this text of reminding Israel of something God was going to do (cf. Ex. 3:16; Acts 10:4). Trumpets, then, did arouse the memories of the nation to the need of repentance and this explains why the Day of Atonement is so closely linked with the Feast (cf. vv. 26-32). If someone feels that the Day of Atonement was such a sorrowful day that it could not be related to joyful trumpets, let it be registered here that the Day of Atonement was also the day of pardon, hence trumpets should be blown! There is no cross-current here. All fits together gloriously.

2. TYPICAL

Again and again it must be brought to one's attention that the study of types does not do violence to the literal interpretation of the Bible. Types and antitypes (the N.T. truth) are not allegorical nonsense, but true indications of what

the Bible is saying. When one sees the Scriptures as a total unity and all about the Lord Jesus, he will notice the connections mentioned here and in any other typical studies.

a. It is stated.

Without a doubt, the Word teaches that the Lord will regather Israel with the blow of the trumpet (Matt. 24:31). This is the significance of the Feast of Trumpets. It relates to the regathering of the nation unto the Lord and to the land. There are other trumpets in the Bible, but each has its own significance. Just because it is a trumpet does not mean one is to identify it with all other trumpet blows! There is the trumpet blown at the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16). When that takes place, the saints of this Age of Grace will rise and be caught away to be with the Lord. There is a series of "trumpet judgments" which will take place during the Tribulation Period with which the present study has no connection whatsoever (Rev. 8-11). Confusion results when these various trumpet soundings are not separated as outlined by their doctrine!

b. It is detailed.

1) As a provision.

The wonderful truth of the Feast of Trumpets is that God will fulfill His promise to Israel about the land (Gen. 15:1-21). The Land of Promise must be possessed, hence the regathering of Israel must take place in His purpose and will. The real estate given to Israel must be claimed by the nation.

2) As a restoration.

The Scriptures emphatically teach that the nation has been dispersed three times. (a) There was the dispersion into Egypt (Gen. 15:16). It all took place as God said! (b) Then there was the dispersion at the time of the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities (2 Kings 17; Jer. 25:11, 12). God restored the nation from these (Ezra-Nehemiah). (c) The final dispersion began with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.