

COGWA Youth Instruction

Feast of Trumpets Instruction Lesson

Objective: To teach that the Feast of Trumpets depicts Christ's return to earth and the first resurrection.

"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: '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. You shall do no customary work on it; *and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD*' (Leviticus 23:24-25).

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *an* archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus *we shall always be with the Lord*" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Note to Parents: We encourage you to read through this material with your children to provide an overview of the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets and what it pictures. Then choose appropriate materials from the supplemental pages that you feel will be helpful in teaching and reinforcing the meaning of the day.

Feast of Trumpets

Beginning the third and final feast season, the Feast of Trumpets marks a significant change from the previous holy days so far in God's plan of salvation. (Note to parents: All of the previous festivals—Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost—deal directly with one's personal commitment to God's calling, but the fall holy days focus on God's direct intervention to take control of the world and set up the Kingdom of God on earth.)

The Feast of Trumpets focuses our attention on future events by looking forward to Christ's return to earth and the resurrection of the faithful saints of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The Feast of Trumpets proclaims God's love and concern for all of humanity by announcing that He will directly take charge by setting up His Kingdom on earth (Revelation 19:16; 11:15).

In Matthew 24, Christ's disciples asked Him what signs would announce His return to earth—referred to as His "second coming." Jesus explained that humankind will be enduring great suffering—wars, famines, earthquakes and spiritual deception—which will show His return is



near. Amid all this lawlessness and suffering, Jesus Christ also states that His true gospel will be preached to all nations and *“then the end will come”* (verse 14).

In ancient Israel, the trumpet was an excellent instrument to use for announcing important information. Whether calling a meeting, sounding a warning or proclaiming a holy day, the sound of the trumpet demanded everyone’s attention (Numbers 10:8-10). A blast of trumpets announced the high holy day on the first day of the seventh month—the Feast of Trumpets (Numbers 29:1).

In the New Testament, an even more important significance to the blowing of trumpets is revealed. Jesus Christ prophesied that terrible plagues, each announced by a trumpet blast, will be poured out upon humans because of their disobedience to God (Revelation 8:1-2, 6). When the seventh and final trumpet sounds, it will proclaim Christ’s return and the resurrection of His faithful people, who are called saints (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The Feast of Trumpets teaches us that God is going to send His Son, Jesus Christ, back to the earth with great power and glory (Matthew 25:31-32). Jesus will take control of the earth as king, so that He can bring peace, safety and happiness to the whole world. He will set up the Kingdom of God on the earth and begin to help people learn what is right and good by teaching them His law (Matthew 5:17-19).

When He returns, He will resurrect His faithful people who have died and make them spirit beings who will live forever (Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 15:52-54). Those of God’s people who are still alive when Christ returns—the true Christians who have God’s Holy Spirit—will be changed from physical into spirit beings who cannot die. This is what it means to be given eternal life (Daniel 7:18). These resurrected spirit beings will live with Jesus and help rule the world (Revelation 20:4). They will help the humans who are still alive when Christ returns learn how to live the right way—God’s way. You are being prepared to help teach others how to live at that time by learning and living the right way today.

Hebrews 11 provides a list of several of those saints who await the promise of eternal life. They committed their lives to obeying God, and He will reward them by bringing them up to spirit life to stand again in service to Christ at His return. They will live and reign with Him on earth during the thousand-year period referred to as “the Millennium.”

The return of Jesus Christ to establish the Kingdom of God will initiate the most dramatic events the world has ever known. Christ *will return* with power and authority! The dead in Christ *will arise!* The world *will notice!* As we faithfully keep the Feast of Trumpets, let us continue to look eagerly to Christ’s return and pray *“Your kingdom come”* (Matthew 6:10).

