

**TRUMPETS - A CALLING TOGETHER
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
SEPTEMBER 16, 2004**

Happy New Year~!!!!

The Jewish Primer: Questions and Answers on Jewish Faith and Culture by Rabbi Dr. Shmuel Himelstein

Question: When and what are the Ten Days of Repentance?

Answer: Beginning with Rosh Ha-Shanah ... until and including Yom Kippur ... ten days are set aside annually for everyone to take stock of his actions over the previous year. On Rosh Ha-Shanah, we are told, God judges every human being. Those who are totally righteous are immediately sentenced to life, while those who are totally evil are immediately sentenced to death (the sentence here does not refer to this world, but rather to the World to Com). All those in neither category, i.e., most of mankind, are given a grace period until Yom Kippur in order to improve their ways and the people in this category only have their decree decided finally on Yom Kippur.

Question: Why does the Torah refer to Rosh Ha-Shanah, which is the beginning of the year, as the “seventh month” rather than the first?

Answer: While by Jewish tradition Rosh Ha-Shanah is indeed the beginning of the year, marking the anniversary of man’s creation (i.e., the sixth day of the creation...), pride of place is nevertheless given to Nissan, the month during which the Jews left Egypt. (Exodus 12.2)

Question: One of the customs at the evening meal on Rosh Ha-Shanah is to eat an apple dipped into honey. What is the basis for this custom?

Answer: As with many such customs, the apple dipped in honey is symbolic; in this case, it symbolizes our wish that the year which is now beginning will be a sweet one.

Rosh Hashana brings a time to reawaken the Jewish soul

by Arthur J. Magida

Dallas Morning-News, Saturday, September 19, 1998

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The start of Rosh Hashana - the Jewish New Year, the first and second days of the month of Tishri - is the time to find out who we are and what we have done and whom we have pleased and whom we have offended. It begins the 10 days of repentance that culminate in Yom Kippur, when God’s ledger that records our behavior, thoughts and attitudes during the previous year is closed and sealed, when our efforts to repair what we have been must cease, for judgment has been made, the verdict has been issued, the sentence has been dispensed.

Measure for measure, we have ourselves to account to for the judgment, because, even in God’s mercies, justice must balance the good and the evil, the mundane and the rare, and what we have done returns to us in equal measure and equal weight.

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Each note (*of the shofar*) is unearthly and eerie. Each awakens us, as the philosopher Maimonides said, so we can 'ponder our deeds, remember our Creator, forsake our evil ways, and return to God.' Each makes us shudder with the knowledge that what we have done for the past year might yet cast our fate, and that the next 10 days are days of tremendous, burdensome responsibility: days in which to turn toward goodness, to recast ourselves as God would have us be - not just in the divine image in appearance, but in soul, in spirit, in being. This is the weight of our world, again fully realized, as it is every year at this time.

This is our meeting not just with God, but with ourselves. An encounter we cannot avoid, an encounter that is, literally, our life. To shirk from it is to shirk ourselves. To hide from it is to pretend that we are other than what we are, to indulge in bitter and, ultimately, dumb fantasies that we are greater than what we are; that we are greater, even, than God.

This is the time when we must humble ourselves as we have never been humble before. To confront ourselves as we have never confronted ourselves before. To meet ourselves on that thin, almost airless ridge where our own personhood fades into spirit and our spirit fades into God, and everywhere around us is a mirror of who we are and who we might be and who we could have been. And the choice is forever ours of which reflection we will find in the mirror, not just at the end of each year, but at the end of our lives, when the sum of each moment and each breath is duly noted and we discover that we have been far more - or far less - than we ever expected or set out to be.

...

... the potential of all that we have been and of all that we are will shower us with its brilliance. The choice is ours: To embrace the brilliance. Or to be swallowed by the darkness.

But – what does the Bible say?

Leviticus 23

- 23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 24 "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 (*a remembrance; a memento*) of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.
 - One trumpet was blown for each month – the 7th month had 7 trumpets sounded
- 25 'You shall do no customary (*occupational*) work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'"

Trumpets were used to:

- Summon soldiers
- Signify danger
- Signify the bringing up of the ark
- Signify the anointing of kings
- Dedicate the temple
- Recognize triumph
- Welcome in a new month (The 7th month has the 7th trumpet)

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Isaiah 27

- 1 In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.
- 2 In that day sing to her, "A vineyard of red wine!
- 3 I, the LORD, keep it, I water it every moment; Lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day.
- 4 Fury is not in Me. Who would set briars and thorns Against Me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.
- 5 Or let him take hold of My strength, That he may make peace with Me; And he shall make peace with Me."
- 6 Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.
- 7 Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him? Or has He been slain according to the slaughter of those who were slain by Him?
- 8 In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it. He removes it by His rough wind In the day of the east wind.
- 9 Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered; And this is all the fruit of taking away his sin: When he makes all the stones of the altar Like chalkstones that are beaten to dust, Wooden images and incense altars shall not stand.
- 10 Yet the fortified city will be desolate, The habitation forsaken and left like a wilderness; There the calf will feed, and there it will lie down And consume its branches.
- 11 When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off; The women come and set them on fire. For it is a people of no understanding; Therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, And He who formed them will show them no favor.
- 12 And it shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will thresh, From the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel.
- 13 So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Revelation 8 (after the 6 seals of which the first 4 were the 4 horsemen representing false Christ, wars, famines and pestilences according to Matthew 24)

- 1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
- 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.
- 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.
- 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.
- 6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.
- 7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

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- 8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.
- 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.
- 10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.
- 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.
- 12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.
- 13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Revelation 9

- 1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.
- 2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.
- 3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
- 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
- 5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.
- 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.
- 7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.
- 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
- 9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.
- 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.
- 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.
- 12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.
- 13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,
- 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.
- 16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.
- 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth

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blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

- 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed--by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.
- 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.
- 20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.
- 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 10-11.15 = an insert about the 2 witnesses

Revelation 10

- 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven
- 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,
- 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Revelation 11

- 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,
- 17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.
- 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."
- 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 16

- 1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."
- 2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.
- 3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.
- 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.
- 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.

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- 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."
- 7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."
- 8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.
- 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.
- 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.
- 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.
- 12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.
- 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
- 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.
- 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
- 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.
- 17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
- 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.
- 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.
- 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
- 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Revelation 1

- 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

Matthew 24

- 21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.
- 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.
- 24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
- 25 "See, I have told you beforehand.
- 26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner

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rooms!' do not believe it.

- 27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- 28 "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.
- 29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- 30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- 31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1 Thessalonians 4

- 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
- 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
- 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- 16 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.
- 17 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.
- 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15

- 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--
- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"
- 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.
- 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.