

9/8/13 *"Gathered One by One by a great Shophar"*

Someone the other day talking about the regathering of Israel said that he believed the trumpet blast to regather Israel may be the same trumpet for the rapture of the Church. Basically, he was saying that there is only one trumpet of God calling both the Church to Heaven and Israel to the land. If this be so, that is, if the context around both trumpet blasts matches each other, or if God says somewhere there is one blast and one blast only heard in heaven and on earth, then this person is right. He later added he wasn't really sure, but it highlights a question that is confusing. Let's look at the scriptural points of evidence on "the trumpet", then compare these points.

Let's look at the evidence for the trumpet blast in the context of regathering the People and Nation of Israel. Isa.27 says, "And it will come about in that day, that the LORD will start threshing from the branch of the River Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be caused to be gathered one by one, O sons of Israel. It shall come to pass in that day that by a great shophar, it will trumpet, and those perishing in the land of Assyria and those scattered in the land of Egypt shall come and bowed themselves down to the LORD at the holy mount in Jerusalem." These are the points regarding the context of this trumpet:

It occurs "in that day," and in this context, at the inception of the promised kingdom day. This trumpeting signals the regathering of each and every single Jewish descendent from the Euphrates River to Egypt.

It signals the immediate regathering of the Jewish People about to perish in Assyria at the Euphrates and those in Egypt across the Brook.

This context matches that of Matt.24 in which Jesus is also talking about that same day beginning the kingdom: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heaven to the other end." This confirms that according to Jesus' testimony, after the Tribulation and therefore to begin the kingdom age, there is a trumpet blast to regather the elect which will include all Israel all of whom are elect.

This will be the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets found in Lev.23 which is to be celebrated each New Year . It says, "In the seventh month on the first of the month, you shall have a rest, a reminder by a blasting of trumpets, a holy convocation."

These are the characteristics of the trumpet at the end of this age. Next week we shall see those of the trumpet blast signaling the rapture of the Body of Messiah, then compare them to make some sense of all this.

To God be the Glory

9/16/13 "With the trumpet of God, we who are alive shall be caught up"

Last week we saw from Isa.27 and confirmed by Jesus in Matt.24 that there would be great trumpet signalling the regathering of all Israel in the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets and the Kingdom Age. Now, let's look at the evidence on the trumpet signaling the rapture of the Church, and see if it, too, signals the Kingdom age or elsewhere.

1Thes.4 and 1Cor.15 are accepted passages of the Church, the Body of Messiah. 1Thes4 says, "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall 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 Cor15 says, "at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." Both of these speak of a trumpet signalling the resurrection of the Church. Rev. 4 also infers the same saying: After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." If John can be a type of the Church, then it infers we all will be taken up by a trumpet, too.

Since the LORD uses a trumpet to signal both the resurrection of the Church and the Resurrection of Israel, the question is raised whether the Church or Body of Messiah goes through the Tribulation. When we remember that the broad Day of the Lord encompasses at least the Tribulation, Paul in 2Thes2 is telling the listeners of the Body that "the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him

must come before that broad Day. Therefore, rumors that this broad Day of the Lord has come, must be false. I also take Rev. 3 which says, "I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth," to mean the Church is not to go through the Tribulation. In addition, when we return with Him for the Kingdom Age, we, the Church, shall be purified, and must have already stood before the the judgment seat of God and Christ of Rom.14 and 2 Corinthians 5 to be "recompensed for his deeds in the body, whether good or bad."

Lastly, the ancient Jewish wedding helps us with where the Church resurrection occurs in answer to our question. According to custom, the groom one year before the wedding would pay the dowry for the bride. That Yeshua did at the cross, paying the dowry, His Own blood, for the bride which is the Church, the Body of Messiah. He would then disappear, as it were, back to prepare a place for his bride. So,

John 14 says, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself." At some time per Matt.24-25, of which "that day and hour no one knows," the groom will snatch the bride away to the house he had been preparing for her. This is most unlike the end of the Tribulation which is time-able to the day.

Indeed, this unexpected snatching away Yeshua will do at the resurrection of the Church. He takes her away to the bridal chamber and wedding, consecrating her; thus, setting her apart as his own followed by the marriage supper. The resurrection of the Church necessarily occurs before the wedding and the wedding feast. This feast is the Kingdom Age, and the attendants of the groom are Israel come to celebrate; for they cannot come unless they, the living, are cleansed, and they, the dead, are resurrected. And that doesn't happen until after the Tribulation. Therefore, the two trumpets cannot be the same. One must signal the resurrection of the Body of Messiah, and one must signal the Trumpets Feast of fulfillment.

To God Be the Glory, Amen