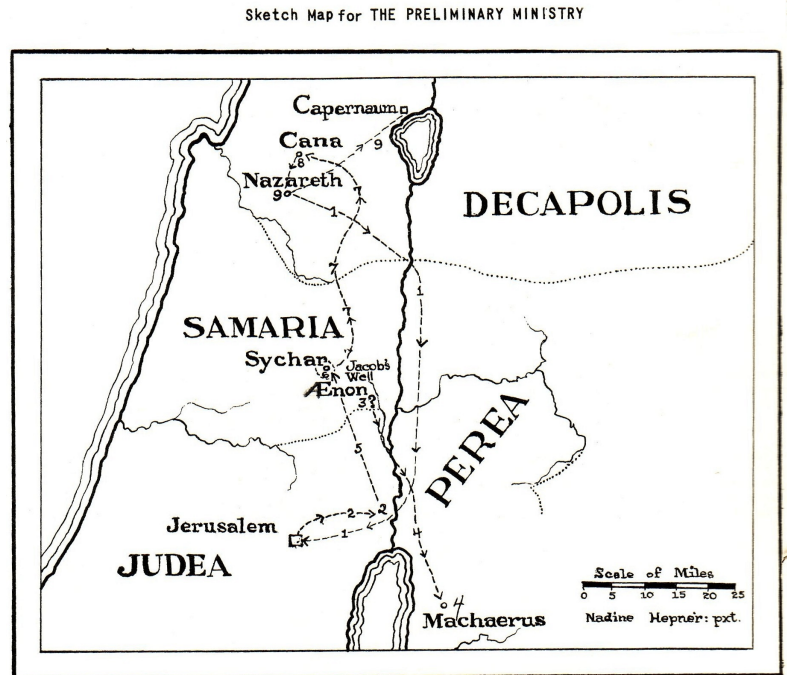


“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” John 4:35

The Intervening Harvest Season

For four months Israel would have been happily busy with the harvesting of the seven main crops - barley, wheat, pomegranates, olives, grapes, figs and dates. They had survived the hot dry wind, *chamsin* the destroyer of the wheat crop. This was the time of sweat, joy, the business of being a successful farmer. Peter as a fisherman as well as the rest of the disciples knew the importance of storing the crop for the winter. Jesus had decided to take a “shortcut” through Samaria while traveling from Judea to Galilee. This was unheard of for a rabbi - most would have traveled through Perea avoiding the “half-breed” Samaritans. But He had an appointment to keep - the evangelism of a small town of Sychar¹ and from there His extensive



From *A New Harmony of the Gospels*, by A. C. Wieand

evangelism of Galilee. If we read the context of [John 4:4-42](#) we discover that the majority of the town believed in Jesus Christ as Messiah and begged Him to stay there. The point of His comment in verse 35 was that He knew the harvest of Sychar was there, He went there, the town was “harvested” for the Lord. When He gave the command to “harvest” the world, He included Judea, *Samaria*, and then the rest of the world. No corners are to be left in Redemption's harvest field!

As we leave this period between the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot and look to the Feast of Trumpets let us remember that the church is in the middle of the four month intervening harvest season that Jesus referred to. Jesus was urging His disciples not to forget that there was a harvest to bring in. Just because they were no longer involved with the physical harvest period, never the less, they were to look at another field - a field that was very ripe and with few laborers - a field of lost souls ready to be evangelized. For them the immediate need had been the small town of Sychar, starting with a woman who had very loose morals. Let us not forget that the disciples were very busy during this revival for each

¹ John 4:5 ff. Refer to the map and outline on Page 30 of *A New Harmony of the Gospels*, by A. C. Wieand.

new member of "the faith" was being baptized by Jesus' disciples.² At that time the harvest was Judea and Samaria. Later, after the Pentecost fulfillment the harvest field was to become the world.³

The Trumpet Call of the Lord

Lev 23:24 **Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.** (KJV).

The end of the harvest would have come to an end by the new moon of the seventh month. The Israelites would have known by then that for one more year the Lord had prospered them. Every month as the crescent sliver of the moon appeared the trumpet sounded to announce the beginning of the month. This time however, the sound was different. The sound of the Shofar - the Ram's horn sounded with several different unique blasts. In fact, all day long at Jerusalem the Shofar was sounded announcing the Feast of Trumpets - the call of Israel to their God, Jehovah.⁴ [Psalm 47](#) was recited by the priests before the blowing of the shofar:

Psalm 47:1-9 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. ² For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. ³ He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. ⁴ He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. ⁵ God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. ⁷ For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. ⁸ God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. ⁹ The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted. (KJV).

The blowing of the trumpet has always been done to call the people of God together. The trumpet was used to assemble the Israelites for battle and for other solemn occasions ([Num 10:1-10](#)). The shofar was used in the coronation of Solomon as king ([1Ki 1:34, 39](#)) of

² [John 4:2](#).

³ Acts 1:8 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** (KJV).

⁴ See [The Temple](#), by Edersheim, chapter 15. For on-line viewing see: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/temple.html>

Jehu ([2 Ki 9:13](#)), and of Absalom during his coup attempt ([2 Sam 15:10](#)). There are three basic types of trumpets, gold, silver and shofar. On the most solemn of feasts, the Day of Atonement the type of trumpet is specifically designated as the shofar - the rams horn. Tradition assigns the ram's horn to the one used on the morning of Shofar - the Feast of Trumpets.

Numbers 29:1 **And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you. (KJV).**

For four months the Israelite has been busy with his harvest - the mundane occupation of bringing in the harvest. It was time now for him to turn his attention to his Lord, his King, Jehovah. This is the only feast that occurs on the first day of the month. For 10 days the Israelite is to present himself to his Lord in humility - the Lord has been faithful in overseeing the bringing in of the harvest - it now time for the Israelite to return that faithfulness with repentance and with a return to his Lord. On the tenth day is the Day of Atonement the most solemn of Feasts.

The Feasts of Trumpets falls on the seventh month, Tishri, as determined by the feasts, but actually designates the first month of the civil year. There is nothing unusual about that we have our own different starting points - the academic year, the calendar year, the fiscal year. It closes out the harvest season and opens up the fall - winter season of dormancy.

Today the ten day period between the Feasts of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement is called *the Days of Awe*. Jewish tradition holds that during this period divine judgment is rendered to determine whether a person will continue to live or die. It is a day where each Jew must appear before his Judge, his King, his Father for an accounting of his actions. Although not biblical they hold that the Lord keeps three books, the Book of Life for the righteous, the Book for the wicked, and the Book for the in-between. This concept is not completely foreign to biblical truth for David, himself, refers to the Book of Life in reference to his enemies: **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous** (Psalm 69:28). Moses makes reference to the Book of Life: Exodus 32:32-33 **Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.** ³³ **And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.** For the modern Jew no one is to be sure if he is to be found in the Book of Life so they frequently conclude that they are in the book of *In-between*. This Feast is so solemn that tradition allows for two days just so that the day will be properly observed.

The Jew believes that the Day of Trumpets is a day of annual coronation of the King of the Earth - Jehovah. It is a day when they turn from the mundane activities to their King. It is to be a day that in fulfillment they will turn from their present blindness to the Gospel and their Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets.

1 Cor. 15:52 **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

1 Thes. 4:16 **For the Lord himself shall 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:

We leave a point in the observance of the Feasts where we enjoy the commentary of the New Testament to a feast that is yet to see its fulfillment. There are different specific views as to the application we can make to the Feast of Trumpets. However let us make application with this knowledge what there will be some variations of application. Here's what we have so far. The Feast of Weeks introduces God's dealings with the Gentiles through the birth of the Church. This is the four month period that Jesus referred to in [John 4:35](#). At the end of the harvest God will sound the trumpet and the season of the Harvest of Souls, the Church age, will have come to an end (called the times of the gentiles) - and the age of His dealing with Israel will begin. Of course you will recognize the scriptures above as a reference to the Rapture. I think the focus on the Feast of Trumpets looks in two directions - backward to the harvest season of the summer months - forward to the Israelites during the tribulation and Jehovah's keeping of His promise that He would not forget His people. At the same time the church will be with the Lord and will have faced the Bema Seat of Christ. Jesus Christ will be Lord of all.

A Second Outpouring of His Spirit Upon The House of David.

There is a common theme running through this Feast. That theme is recognizing that Jesus Christ is Lord. For the church it will be at the Bema Seat of Christ in which both believers who have been faithful will be vindicated and for those who have not been faithful where there is painful realization of their negligence and comfort that they will be presented to the Father as spotless and blameless through the blood of the Lamb.⁵ For the remnant Jew who would believe that Jesus Christ is Lord during the tribulation there will be painful recognition that they had rejected Jesus Christ as Messiah - they will repent and be saved through the Blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ will at last be their Messiah. There will be a wonderful outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them - grace will overflow upon Israel.

Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.⁶

God has not forgotten His people. [Isaiah 49:15-26](#) states that emphatically. When God blows His trumpet the church will be raptured from this world - the age of the Gentiles will come to an end. Then He will pour out His grace upon His people during the Great Tribulation. 144,000 Jewish men will be sealed by God for a special ministry of evangelizing a numberless company during the Tribulation. 12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel will become powerful evangelists - there will be a world-wide evangelizing not only of the tribes of Israel, but from every tribe of the world:

⁵ [Eph. 5:25-27](#).

⁶ Read the context [Zech 12:8-13:1](#).

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.... Rev. 7:9

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 7:14b ...

Israel will be evangelized. The great trumpet call to stand before the Lamb will have been given. They will look upon the one whom they pierced and repent with great mourning. At last all Israel is saved.

The Trumpet Call to Return to the Land of Israel.

"I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. Jeremiah 23:3

and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. [31] "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 sky to the other. Matthew 24:30-31 (NAS).

This is the promise of God - that He will gather the remnant of His flock from every country where *He* has driven them. God has been sovereign in their dispersal. He will be sovereign in their return to the land of Israel. The details? I will leave that for a future lesson - the point here is that the Feast of Trumpets has by way of fulfillment the promise of the ingathering of not only His people Israel, but that they will return to His Son Jesus whom they once rejected - they will look upon Him as Messiah.

Jeremiah 23:6-8 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. [7] "So then, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' [8] but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land." (NIV).

The Trumpet call for His people will not only mean their ingathering to the land of Israel, but will mean that they will know Him as their Personal Savior and Messiah.