

## Lesson 1

# Feast of Trumpets

### Leviticus 23:23–25

#### Memory Verse

“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”  
(I Corinthians 15:52)

#### Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

**Define** the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets for us today

**Locate** in the Old Testament where the Feast of Trumpets is spoken of

**Describe** some events in the Old Testament when the trumpet was blown

**Express** in their own words the future meaning of the Feast of Trumpets

#### Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities”

## Teacher’s Bible Study

The Feast of Trumpets was celebrated by the blowing of trumpets on the first day of the seventh month (*Tishri*). The Old Testament significance of this day seems to have had its origins in the trumpet sound of alarm used to call people to a state of general warning or preparation for war (Ezekiel 33:1–16). In later times, it marked the beginning of the civil year just as it does among Jews today. (However, it is not clear that this was the case in Old Testament times. A popular theory among Old Testament scholars has been that the new year began with this day in Old Testament times; but recent studies have called this into question and have advanced reasons for believing that in Old Testament times the new year began in the spring with *Nisan* 1). Trumpets were also the instrument of the watchman to arouse the sleeping populace if danger threatened. This festival represents the preaching of the gospel to the world by God’s faithful watchmen who have the responsibility of arousing the people from their spiritual slumber.

The day pictures the intervention of God and the return of Jesus Christ to set up the Kingdom of God on earth. Christ Himself comes at the sound of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15; I Thessalonians 4:16). At this point, God has ceased to let mankind go his own way. The time has come to save not just a few in His church, but all peoples—to save man from himself. Otherwise, man would succeed in destroying himself.

The Feast of Trumpets also symbolizes the resurrection of all who died in Christ and the change of all who will be living in Christ. This stunning event—the achievement of eternal life for millions through birth into the Family of God—will occur simultaneously with the return of Jesus Christ at the last trump. “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” (I Corinthians 15:52).

Jewish tradition adds some interesting parallels. For example, the Feast of Trumpets (*Rosh Hashanah*) is said to picture the most important judgment time, when the inhabitants of the world shall be judged by the Creator. Furthermore, *Tishri* 1 was considered by some Jewish commentators to be the beginning of Creation—which would create a complete parallelism, since this shall be fulfilled by the “Day of the Lord,” the time of the Creator’s physical return to His creation as Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

## Presenting The Bible Story

### Leviticus 23:23–25

The feast after Pentecost is the Feast of Trumpets. Moses was instructed by God to blow silver trumpets on this day. Read Numbers 10:1,10. The Feast of Trumpets was a day of rest, and a sacred assembly. Everyday work was not to be done on this feast day. A special offering was to be presented to God. Read Numbers 29:1–6.

### Exodus 19:16,19

Events that announced the blowing of trumpets in Old Testament times:

### Numbers 10:1–7

After preparing themselves to receive the covenant, the children of Israel were instructed to go toward Mount Sinai only when summoned by the blast of the ram's horn. Exodus 19:16,19. Can you imagine standing at the edge of a mountain, hearing a thunderous trumpet blast, and seeing flashing light, fire, and smoke? It is little wonder that the people trembled. God certainly did show His awesome power.

### Numbers 10:8–10

The children of Israel needed to be organized—to know when and how to move. Imagine trying to communicate with thousands of people. There were no telephones, computers, or radio and television. Therefore, a system was devised. Two specially made silver trumpets were made. When they were blown together, this would signal the assembling of all the people to the entrance of the tabernacle (the east side). When one trumpet was sounded, just the leaders of each tribe were to assemble. A different pitch would alert the tribes to depart or to take warning.

### Ezekiel 33:1–6

The priests were responsible for blowing the trumpets. When the children of Israel no longer wandered in the wilderness, the trumpet was still blown. It was blown when they went into battle and to announce the festivals of God.

### I Corinthians 15:50–52

God named Ezekiel as the watchman to warn Israel of coming judgment. The watchman's responsibility is to see and warn of approaching danger. The watchman in the city was to blow the trumpet and warn of impending danger so that the citizens could prepare for the attack. Those who hear the warning may not respond. That is ultimately their responsibility. Remember, it is the responsibility of the watchman to give the warning. Today, each of us has the responsibility to heed the warning message from God. You cannot be responsible for how a person responds to God's truth. We can only be responsible for how we respond to God and His message.

### Introduce Memory Verse Leviticus 23:23–25

The blowing of a trumpet took on special meaning to the New Testament church:

### I Thessalonians 4:15–17

Paul answers the mystery. In the Old Testament, the trumpet signaled the appearance of God (Exodus 19:16). Now in the New Testament, the dead in Christ will be raised, and the living will be instantaneously transformed to spirit beings. This event will occur simultaneously with the return of Jesus Christ. Christ said the dead shall be raised at His coming! The resurrection does not occur until the moment of Christ's visible, powerful, earth-shaking return!

## Art and Activities

Paul gave this revelation. Those who are dead in Christ (Christians) will be resurrected at the return of Christ. The dead in Christ will rise first. The living saints are not to precede the dead in Christ by so much as a second. Those who are alive at Christ's coming will be changed and caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. The return of Christ will be announced in a dramatic way. It is Christ who is going to intervene in world affairs with the sound of trumpets and become King of kings and Lord of lords.

## Teaching Activities

Explore with  
your students  
the following  
questions:

### Young Children

Provide copies of Activity Page and pencils and crayons or colored pens.

### Older Children

Provide copies of the Activity Page suitable for your class.

## Explore the Subject

Always close your  
class with prayer

1. What is the next festival after Pentecost in God's plan?
2. What events were announced by the blowing of trumpets in Old Testament times?
3. Who blew the trumpet?
4. What is the special meaning of the Feast of Trumpets for us today?

## Respond and Reinforce

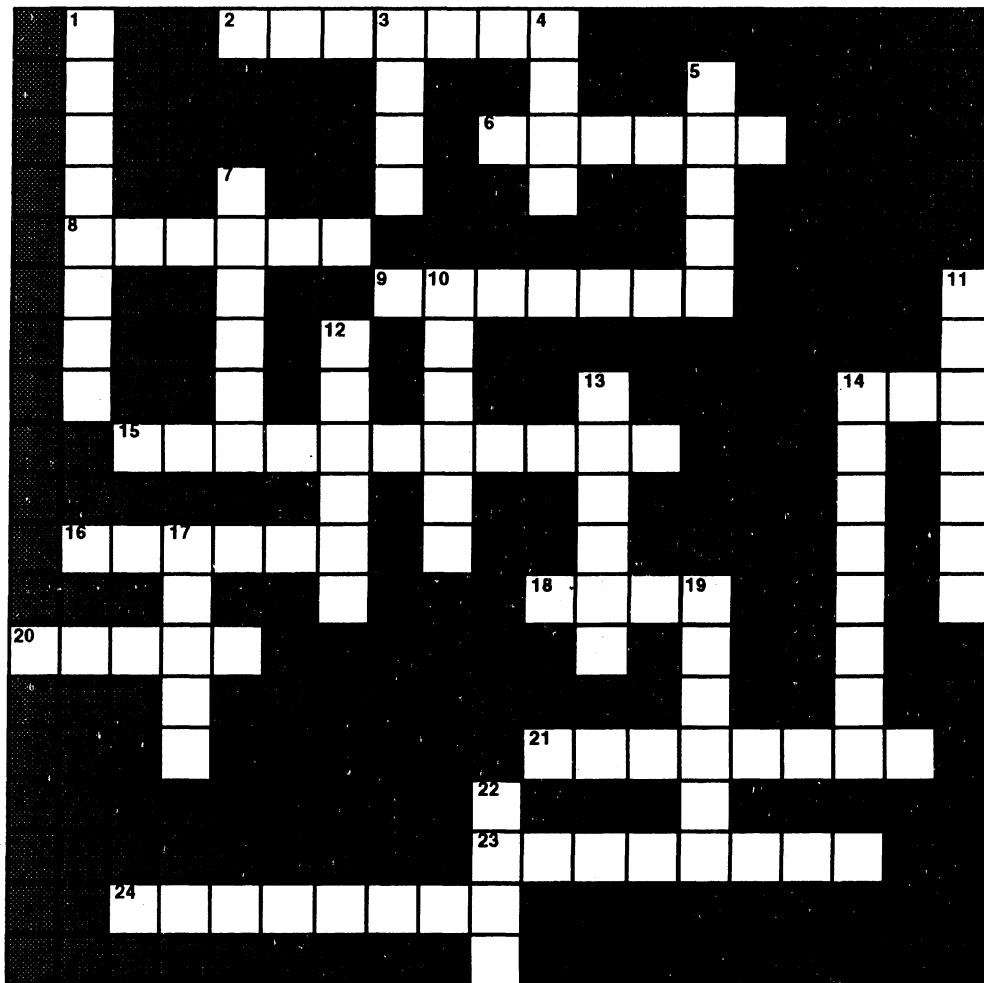
1. Are we (as a church) watchmen?
2. Who is responsible for responding to God's warning message?
3. The memory verse.

# Activity

## Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:23–25

Complete the crossword puzzle below.



**Across**

- 2. The seventh day of the week is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. A group of persons that comprise a household.
- 8. A person whose duty it is to perform religious rites, and make offerings.
- 9. A state or government having a king as its head.
- 14. Armed conflict between countries.
- 15. A group of people gathered in answer to a summons; assembly (See Leviticus 23:2).
- 16. Emblem or sign; something used for or regarded to represent something else.
- 18. Not having life; ceasing to live.
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_ of Tabernacles.
- 21. An act of judging.
- 23. A way of giving.
- 24. Something designed to preserve the memory of an event or person.

**Down**

- 1. The holy day that symbolizes the Return of Christ; instruments that give a piercing, penetrating, powerful tone.
- 3. To emit or produce a burst of air; to give out sound.
- 4. To perceive by the ear.
- 5. To warn of approaching danger.
- 7. To come back.
- 10. The children of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11. Something that serves to give notice, or caution.
- 12. Persons in general.
- 13. The glad tidings of the coming Kingdom of God.
- 14. A person(s) who guards and raises an alarm when danger approaches.
- 17. The prophet who led the Israelites from Egypt.
- 19. Peril.
- 22. Having a spiritually pure quality.

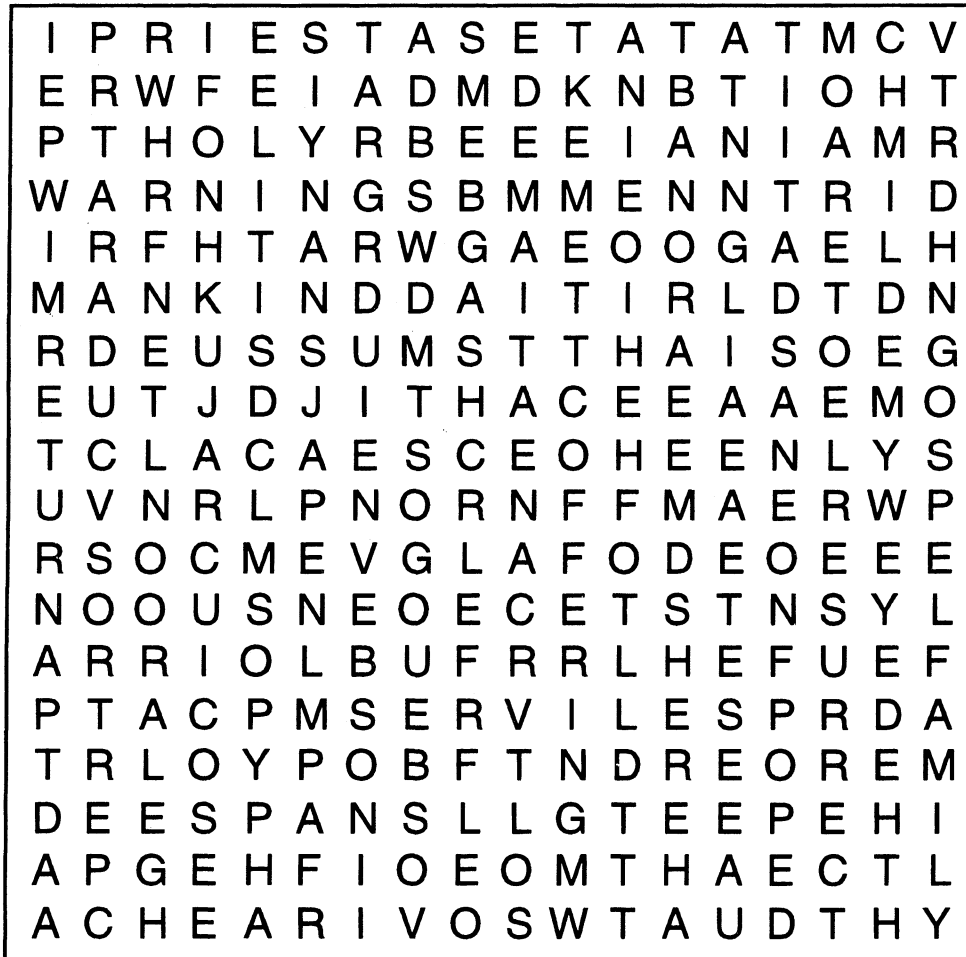
Across: 2. Sabbath; 6. Family; 8. Priest; 9. Kingdom; 14. War; 15. Convocation; 16. Symbol; 18. Dead; 20. Feast; 21. Judgment; 23. Offering; 24. Memorial. Down: 1. Trumpets; 3. Blow; 4. Hear; 5. Alarm; 7. Return; 10. Israel; 11. Israel; 12. People; 13. Gospel; 14. Watchmen; 17. Moses; 19. Danger; 22. Holy.

# Activity

## Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:23–25

Find the words listed below in the word search puzzle

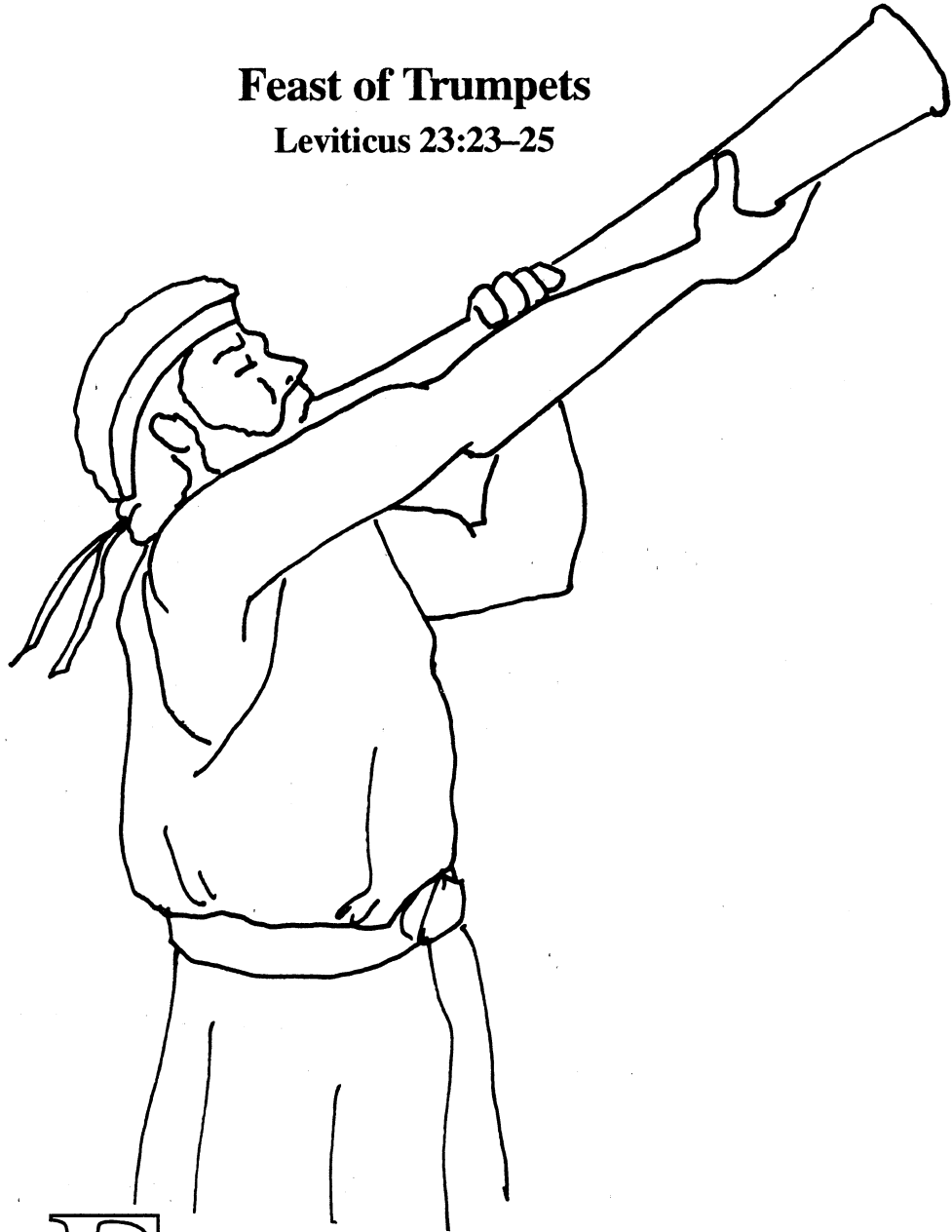


- |             |          |         |           |          |
|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| FEAST       | BLOW     | WARNING | DEAD      | GOSPEL   |
| PROCLAIM    | MOSES    | PEOPLE  | RESURRECT | WATCHMEN |
| HOLY        | SABBATH  | HEAR    | KINGDOM   | ALARM    |
| CONVOCATION | MEMORIAL | DANGER  | FAMILY    | MANKIND  |
| PRIEST      | SERVILE  | ISRAEL  | RETURN    | RAISE    |
| TRUMPETS    | OFFERING | SYMBOL  | JUDGMENT  |          |

**Activity**

**Feast of Trumpets**

Leviticus 23:23–25



**FEAST OF  
TRUMPETS**

## Activity

### Feast of Trumpets Leviticus 23:23–25

Test yourself on how much you learned about the Feast of Trumpets.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God gave Moses instructions in Numbers 10 on the making of special trumpets. How many were to be made and what were they to be made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (A) One; gold (B) Two; silver (C) 12; rams horns
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The trumpets were used for several purposes. Select the one purpose the trumpets were *not* used for.  
(A) Warning (B) Signal (C) Music
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Feast of Trumpets takes on special meaning in the New Testament. It is to be kept in order to remember a certain event. What is it?  
(A) The Exodus (B) The Return of Christ (C) War
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In I Corinthians 15:51,52, there is a “mystery” explained. What is it?  
(A) Resurrection of the Saints (B) Death (C) Baptism