

This coming Sunday night at sundown the Festival of Trumpets begins



16For 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. 17Then 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. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Raise Up a Shout!

Do you remember a time when you were so excited that you could not stop shouting in exultation?--perhaps a favorite sports team's win or the birth of a child or the vanquishing of a foe in a favorite movie. I remember a handful of times when I rejoiced by shouting for joy and jumping and dancing around a room. These are truly rare and wonderful times but at best they are weak

echos of the shout and joy on the greatest yet-coming Day. Did you know that Yeshua as the glorious King of all the universe will not be outdone by any sports team or lesser victory? He will not be overshadowed by a Hollywood depiction. He is gloriously beautiful and has the most superlative sense of dramatic timing. At the most perfectly aged and heightened moment at the hinge of history, He will come again (as promised) to save the day. On that day, we as Believers will be a part of the greatest corporate shout of elation that the world has ever heard. This is what the Yom Teruah (Festival of Trumpets) is about.

Sunday night, we have the opportunity to "practice" for this coming day. Yeshua's return won't be this year though with the cacophony of the last couple years many of us are longing for it in a greater way. In fact, before that coming Day our lovesickness for Him will be at the breaking point as we collectively cry "Maranatha" (Come Yeshua) with a global ache that expresses that He is our only hope and He is the King that we must have. But before that time will come the greatest trouble the world has ever known and a time of greatest persecution for His friends. Then, at that perfect moment of divine timing and conflict, the archangel will SHOUT and the trumpet of God will sound. Then, Yeshua will split the skies, the dead in Messiah will rise and the Believers alive will be caught up in the air to be with Him forever. And those are just the first pages of our coming glorious story. You will be shouting on that day....so will I.

This message of Yeshua's return is not some fringe theological element to be confined to lecture-halls, eschatological charts, or scholarly debate. Instead the Scriptures are full of content related to this day with over 150 chapters that have this timeframe as the primary focus. Messiah's return is to be a living reality that God wants us to regularly meditate about and have in our normal conversations. In the coming days we will need this story in our

hearts and on our lips. This is a part of the reason for the biblical festivals--He doesn't want us to forget about this coming day and what the Scripture says are the signs that this Day is drawing near. In fact, the Scripture is clear that the righteous will not be taken by surprise by the increasingly tumultuous days preceding His coming (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5; Daniel 11:35, 12:10). As we think about this coming reality, we receive hope and comfort in the present...especially in times of great trial. It will cause us to live differently if we have this coming reality regularly before us. Yeshua's return correctly expresses that there is ultimately a day of reckoning for all on planet earth...and only those sheltered under His crimson mercy will have confidence in that day.

So, this Sunday night as many of us gather together for Yom Teruah, let's not just check off a festival attendance requirement, but let's ask Yah for living reality, superlative joy....and rehearsing shouts to be on our lips! Maranatha!