

year' / Tishrei 1 is the first day of the Jewish new year in their civil calendar. It is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve.

**Yom Teruah** – 'Day of Awakening Blast' / Jewish belief is that the resurrection of the dead will occur on the feast of Trumpets.

**The Last Trumpet** – On this day, there are 100 trumpet blasts. The final, long, and most significant trumpet blast is called 'the last trump'.

**The time of Jacob's trouble** – There shall be great tribulation in Israel such as never was since there was a nation.

**Yom Hakeseh** – The Hidden Day / It was 'hidden' because they didn't know the exact day it would begin due to the fact that it is the only feast that starts on a new moon. Thus it was a two day feast because they didn't want to celebrate it on the wrong day. Concerning Rosh Hashanah, the Jews would typically say "*Of that day and hour no one knows.*"

**The Opening of the Gates of Heaven** / The Gate of Heaven is opened on Rosh Hashanah so the righteous nation may enter.

**The Wedding of Messiah** / The blowing of the heavenly trumpet is a call for the entire, true, bride of God to assemble together.

The Feast of Trumpets, the next unfulfilled feast, symbolizes the Rapture – the last great harvest. Are you "wheat" ready to be harvested, or "tares" (a wheat look-a-like) doomed to be burned? (see Matthew 13:24-30) Are you ready to meet God in judgment?

If, indeed, this is the year God has chosen to fulfill this feast with the rapture of His bride, this insert will be in the last newsletter I send out. I do so hope to see you in Heaven. — *Nancy Gentry*

*Bro. June Gentry was a founder and, for over 45 years, president of God's Open Door To Eternal Life, Inc. d.b.a. GODTEL Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization based in East Texas. GODTEL operates three homeless shelters, (in Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Livingston) which share "Practical Christianity" by meeting physical needs (temporary shelter, food, and clothing) while proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*GODTEL also operates The Christian Help Center, which provides clothing assistance to Nacogdoches and Polk County residents.*

*In 2021, when God called Bro. June home to Heaven, Martin Baker, one of GODTEL's founders and original staff members accepted the call to the leadership role of GODTEL's three homeless shelters. He and his wife Mary reside at GODTEL's mission in Lufkin, TX.*

This article is part of a series concerning practical Christian truths. To obtain additional copies, order by Title. For more information about other literature, preaching tapes by Bro. Gentry, or the ministry in general, write us at one of the addresses below, or give us a call.

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# Rosh Hashanah

## The Feast of Trumpets

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### The Rapture of Christians?

by Nancy Gentry

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "In the seventh month, (according to the Hebrew calendar) on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.'" Leviticus 23:23-27

*(This is God's commandment concerning the annual Feast of Trumpets—Rosh Hashanah.)*

The descendants of Abraham, through Isaac, his child of promise and faith, were chosen by the Creator of the Universe to be the group of people He would reveal Himself to, and through them to the world. In His dealings with the Jewish people, God established seven major feasts: times of celebration, remembrance, and prophecy.

Ever since the 1980's I have awaited each year's approach of the Feast of Trumpets even more than I anticipated the approach of Christmas when a child. As the

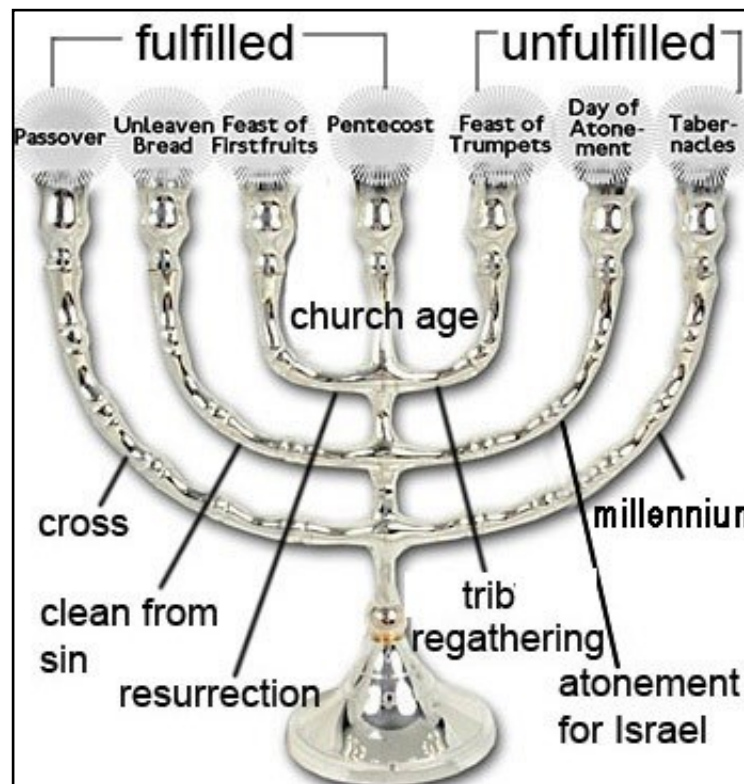
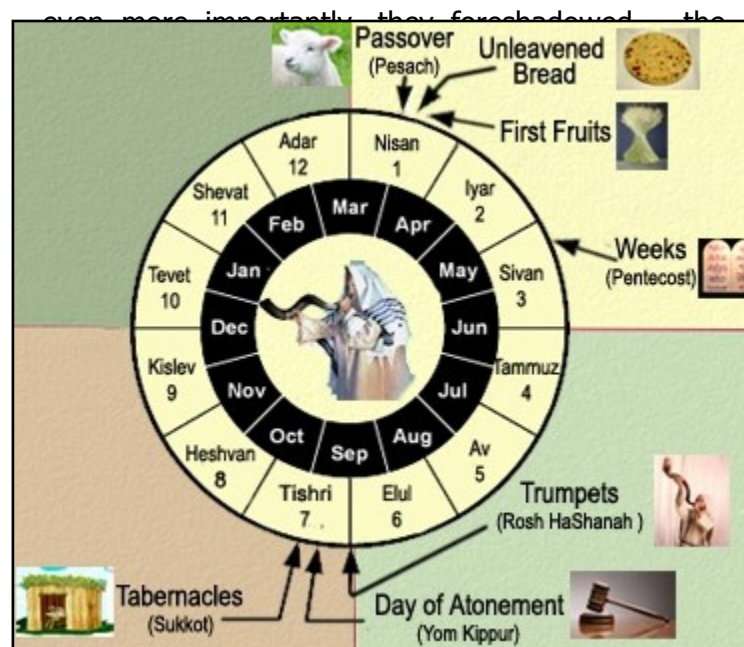
Feast passed unfulfilled each year, I felt deep disappointment and sometimes went into a brief time of depression. Somehow, God would get me back on track and give me the strength to work for Him another year. (During that year, there was always the hopeful possibility that Jesus might come back some other time.) Because this has been so prominent in my mind, I wanted to explain what this Feast is about.

The Lord designed the major Jewish feasts around a lunisolar calendar. A lunisolar calendar is a calendar in many cultures whose date indicates both the moon phase and the time of the solar year. (See diagram top right.)

The Lord said to Moses, *"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies. (Leviticus 23:1-2)*

Beginning in the spring, the seven Jewish feasts are Passover (Pesach), the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Firstfruits, the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot).

The Jewish feasts are closely related to Israel's spring and fall harvests and agricultural seasons. They were to remind the Israelites each year of God's ongoing protection and provision. But,



Jesus Christ. Not only did they play significant roles in Christ's earthly ministry but they also symbolize the complete redemptive story of Christ, beginning with His death on the cross as the Passover Lamb and ending with His second coming after which He will "tabernacle" or dwell with His people forever.

While the four spring feasts look back at what Christ fulfilled at His first coming, the three fall feasts point us toward the glory of the second coming. The spring feasts are the source of our hope in Christ—His finished work of atonement for sins—and the fall feasts are the promise of what is to come—eternity with Christ. Understanding the significance of these God-appointed Jewish festivals helps us to better see and understand the complete picture and plan of redemption found in Scripture. (See diagram bottom left.)

Coming up September 15-17, 2023 is this year's celebration of the Feast of Trumpets, observed in obedience to God's command to Moses. *"On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets."* (Numbers 29:1)

This Feast has seven different Jewish names and themes. They include:

**Rosh Hashanah** – 'Head of the