

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG56 - Trumpets—God Is Speaking To Us

This podcast is to prepare us for the Day of Trumpets. Often we call it the Feast of Trumpets, or Yom Teruah. There is a podcast that I did called Growing In God, Episode 4, The Feast of Trumpets. That podcast is kind of a basic teaching, elementary teaching about Trumpets; if you have not heard that, I encourage you to listen to it. Mostly it is kind of like “Day of Trumpets 101.” I am not going to try to cover that same material in this podcast. Instead, I am concerned to try to cover what I feel in my heart the Lord is speaking for this year, in this Feast. When we come into the Feast season, I believe it is like an open door in the world of spirit. In the realm of spirit, God is doing something; it is time appointed, as the Scripture says, and in this appointed time I believe God is doing very specific things. So for Trumpets, I want to look at what I feel in my heart God wants to do for us in this year, at this time of Trumpets. That is where we will begin.

In Exodus, God spoke to them about what to do and what not to do; what pleased Him and what displeased Him. It was a prelude to living in His Presence and knowing what God's plan was for them as His people. We recognize that in Exodus. God brought them out of Egypt and He took them to Mount Sinai, and He came with the blast of a trumpet. That trumpet was to get their attention, obviously, but it was also a pronouncement or an announcement that God Himself was getting ready to speak to His people. One aspect I think we should expect for Trumpets is that God is getting our attention because He wants to speak to us, something very clear, very specific. And that is what He did at the first blast of the trumpet on Mount Sinai. He got their attention, and He gave them the Ten Commandments, or the Ten Words, telling them what He wanted them to do and what He wanted them to be and what He did not want them to do.

I believe in this time of Trumpets, God is doing the same for us. And so I want to look first at this aspect, that part of Trumpets is God getting our attention. It is not just us blowing trumpets. It is not us moving in prophetic proclamation or pronouncements during this time. That does happen; but I believe He wants to wake us up. He wants to get our attention, and I believe He wants to speak to us.

In Joel, the second chapter starting at verse 1, it says, "Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; surely it is near." Going to Deuteronomy, the fourth chapter, starting at verses 10-12, it says, "Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, "Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children." You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom. Then the Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form— only a voice." It is interesting, they saw a voice. They saw the Word of God coming to them – that is what was visual. They didn't see the Lord as a personification; they saw the Word.

Verse 13: "So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone." We see the illustration here – this was

announced by a trumpet blast. That trumpet blast was made by God Himself. He descended upon the mountain and He spoke to them the Words which they were to follow. Part of those Commandments were the results of not following the Word He was giving them. So, as it says in the Scriptures, "I am setting before you a blessing and a curse; it depends on how you relate to these Words I am giving you." This is the feeling that I have for this time of Trumpets. God is getting our attention by His blast of the trumpet, and He wants to speak to us His Word that we might hear it, we might understand what He wants us to do and what He does not want us to do, because we will reap the blessing or the consequence of how we relate to this Word.

The Word I believe He wants to speak to us we find in Revelation, and I am going to start at the first chapter, verses 1-2. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw." John was one who witnessed the Word of God made flesh, and so he knew the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Word; and he was the one to whom God made this Word alive, to bring to the Church at this time.

Verses 3-4, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia:" Now, as we get into this, we are going to go through the prophecies that John brought to the seven churches. And I want us to recognize that He is speaking really to the Church. When you address the seven churches in Asia at that time, you are talking to the Church, what was the Church in that day and age. And a lot of times, I think, you hear people read the prophecies in the book of Revelation about the churches, and I think what we do is go through the seven different churches and the prophecy to the Church; we try to figure out which church we belong to, and who He is talking to. And of course, we all want to be part of the church of Philadelphia, the ones that are blessed the most. That is what we want to hear. But I want to get rid of that concept in our minds, and recognize He was talking to the Church. He is, yes, addressing the seven churches by name; but in speaking to them, He is speaking to the Church. And in these prophecies for us today, He is speaking to the Church of God that exists in our day and age, and He is talking to all of us in each illustration of the seven churches. All of these words apply to all of us, and all of these words apply to all of the Church that exists in this day, that is preparing for the return of Christ and the coming. As he said, the prophecy is to be heeded, because the time is near. We are near the time when these things are to take place, and we are all facing each of the prophecies that John was given for the Church, because we are the Church in this day as we near the coming of the Lord. So think about it that way.

Verses 4-7. "John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come," – this is the holy name of God, and how it is expressed in the verb *to be* in the Hebrew; so He is giving this totality of His appearance – "and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father— to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen."

We know when He comes, He comes with, again, what? A trumpet blast that announces His arrival. And it says, "All who are on the earth will mourn." There will be a presence, an impartation of repentance at

His coming, that all may cry out to God and repent to receive the impartation of His salvation. Remember, when He appears the second time, He appears without an emphasis on forgiveness of sin that reconciles us to God; but He comes instead with the fullness of salvation being imparted. It is another level of repentance that the whole earth enters into.

Verses 8-11 say, "'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.' I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet." So we have this trumpet blast that is announcing what we are to hear that God is coming to speak. And the fact that John was already suffering persecution because of the Word of God he was speaking; yet at the same time, it says, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." God help us; during these days, He is giving us a clue. We need to live in the spirit world. We need to always be in the Spirit and open to hear; our attention needs to be fixed. The sound of the trumpet comes to wake us up. Wake up, you who are asleep. Hear the Word of the Lord, understanding what He is saying to us, because the time is near.

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a sound of a trumpet, saying, 'Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.'" So He sends the Word to the Church.

Now I am not going to read verses 12 through 20, but I encourage you to do that. I am eliminating it only because of the timeframe here. What it states is very important to the impartation of the whole vision that He is giving. But I want to jump specifically to what was being pronounced by the trumpet blast, by God Himself, to the Church, and is being spoken again to this Church in our day. So we are going to chapter two, verses 1-4. "'To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you.''"

I want to stop here at verse 4, because I want us to get the feeling of how each of these messages to the churches come. Remember, they are all to us. Each point being made is to us personally, and to the Church, because we are the Church; and yet we know there is the global body of Christ that is being addressed here. In each of these, we will generally see something positive and something that needs to be corrected; and again, it is all for us. Those things that He tells us which are positive, we need to pursue with a deeper drive and intensity in our hearts. Those things which need to be corrected, we must give ourselves in repentance and with a broken spirit before the Lord to see our own ways and our own spirits challenged and corrected before the Lord. The discipline of the Lord needs to be upon us for these things, lest the consequences of what is stated here come upon us, and we find ourselves in judgment.

This is why I tie it into what happened in the Book of Exodus, when God came on Mount Sinai. He set before them a blessing and a curse. And we know what has happened to Israel: Israel has suffered the consequences of its disobedience to the Word of the Lord that was given. For years, we have seen the corrective judgments that are from God upon Israel. We cannot afford in these days of the end time,

while the time of His Kingdom is near, that we are put into a correction and we receive negative consequences and judgements. There is no time for it in this day and age. Israel has gone through these things; and we know because of the prophecies, Israel will be brought back and reconciled to God and the blessings will be brought upon Israel. But for us as the Church, we see the same challenge being given to us. We likewise, like Israel, are having set before us a blessing and a curse; a blessing and a consequence of judgment, if we are not obedient to God in this day and age.

I am going to verses 4-5. It says, ""But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place— unless you repent."" In other words, "I will take this segment of the Church away completely, and they will no longer exist as a church." This is what He is saying. We can look in today's reality in this world that surrounds us of the Church age, and recognize there are many who have lost their first love. It is a warning to us that there needs to be a repentance from any way in which we have withdrawn from God, or become disobedient to Him. Because if not, He is going to take us out of the way; He is going to remove that segment of the Church in this time of His coming, and we do not want to see that happen.

Verses 6-7 say, ""Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."" Remember that – it is always to the whole Church. ""To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God."" If we persevere in the good things and get back our first love, we are going to experience resurrection life that Christ entered into during this time.

Verses 8-9: ""And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)," speaking of this spiritual richness which they have, ""and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."" We know that we see this today. There are many parading as though they are the chosen people, as though they are Jews. There are movements of that happening in our midst today; and He is saying that they are from the synagogue of Satan, and He proclaims judgment.

Verses 10-11: ""Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death."" This is speaking to us, the Church. We are about to go into persecutions like we have never seen. Just yesterday, I was reading in the news that in a country, I won't name it here, in the last 200 days there have been 3,800 Christians killed. There have been 300 Christian boys kidnapped, 200 Christian girls kidnapped. We are in a time of the persecution of the Church, and there will be segments of the Church in these days that will enter into persecution. There will be martyrs in our day and age. Wake up! Wake up to the trumpet call. Prepare yourself. Don't stumble over the fact that tribulation is upon us. There are some who are set, because of the doctrines they believe, that they are not anticipating being part of the days of difficulty or tribulation or persecution. But the trumpet sound is trying to say, "Wake up, Church. You are going to enter in. Prepare yourself, be ready. Don't stumble when you enter into persecutions. Be prepared for it, even if it costs you your life. Don't worry, the second death will have no hold over you."

Verses 12-17. ""And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name,

and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.””

So again, He is coming to this church and He is warning them, because there are some among them that are moving in things which are polluting and stumbling the Body of Christ, and bringing them into sin so that they will be judged by God. That was the plan of Balaam that he taught Balak. He said, “Listen, I cannot judge and I cannot touch Israel. But if you teach them to violate the directions of God, if you teach them to enter into sin and commit acts of immorality, God will come and judge them. You don't have to judge them.” Satan understands this concept, and we see it within the Church. There are those who teach immorality. There are those who encourage it among people, saying, “Oh, but we are under the grace of God.” God is coming to clean that out; and you better be part of cleaning it out. If you are part of a church that is engaging in this kind of activity, run for your life, get away from it. Go into repentance, make sure that it hasn't in any way touched your spirit or polluted you, until God is able to come and give you a new name written on a stone that only He knows, and give you that hidden manna, the revelation of these days that are just before us, so that we know what is happening. We will know the truth, and the truth will set us free.

Verses 18-23. ”And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: “I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and the hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”” God is not only coming at this time to judge us as a Church. He is coming to us individually to weigh our hearts, our motivations, our deeds personally. He is ready to bring pestilence into the Church, judgments into the Church, to throw people on a bed of sickness. We are going to see things taking place within the Church that are the consequences of the sin that has been allowed to grow there. Do not allow it. Call it out; separate from it; and see that God is able to bring a blessing back instead. We put our own hearts before You, Lord. Weigh our hearts, weigh our actions, weigh our emotions and our love and worship, our service to You. Let us individually, as well as as a Church, come before You during these days.

Verses 24-25: "But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them— I place no other burden on you. Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come." These are days when we must hold fast to the rudiments of our faith, the basics of our faith, and the true Christian teaching must be in every church.

Verses 26-29: "He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

Going into the next chapter, verses 1-5. "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: "I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up." That's what the trumpet is for. "Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which are about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.""

So we see this, we see it in the church around us – there are many who are trying to live a name, but they are dead. The Spirit is gone. The Spirit has departed. It is Ichabod in those places, and God is not there. God cannot be found there. We must flee that and find the place of life. We must come back to Him. We must be filled with His Spirit and see that we finish the deeds that He has given us to do in this day and in this hour.

Verses 6-11, again, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: "I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, 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 on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.""

We must see this again. Those who are faking being the chosen, the called of God in this hour, He is going to bring them down. But He has seen the perseverance, and He is going to set before the Church in this hour a great open door; and He is going to be a covering so that there is a safe place from the hour of testing, that hour that is coming upon the whole world. It is, it is coming upon the whole world, and He must be our protection. He must be our covering. He must be our hiding place. We must dwell in Him, because the testing is coming, and we will be here as the Church in these hours that are preparatory to His setting up of His Kingdom on this earth. Hold fast to what you have. I encourage you, hold fast. Do not let anyone take your crown.

Verses 12-17. "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become

wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.'""

How much do we see this in the Church surrounding us today? Thinking we have things that we do not have. Thinking we are rich and wealthy and we are doing okay, and everything is fine, and yet we are lukewarm. We are not engaged with what is going on with God bringing about His Kingdom in this day and age. We are not engaged even with the Church itself, and those who are suffering the persecution, those who are pressing in to bring forth the Word, who are entering into the cry that He taught us during these hours: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on this earth today, Lord, as it is in Heaven!" But instead, if we could see, we would realize that we are shameful, naked, and miserable.

I want to go back to verses 17-19. ""Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent."

I loose this to the Church. Lord, give us a zeal to repent. Give us a drive to repent. Let us not be shamed or feel rebuked. It says that You chasten every son whom You receive. We should expect correction. We should expect chastening. We should expect the discipline of the Lord in our lives that brings us to the place where we do take His eye salve. We clothe ourselves with His garments. We take the gold that He has and the garments that He has and we clothe ourselves, rather than dwelling in our shame and living like the "emperor's new clothes," when we are naked and we are proclaiming how well-dressed we are.

Verses 20-22. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."" And I encourage us – this time of Trumpets, let us hear what the Spirit, what the Lord Himself, is saying to the churches.

I want to go to chapter four, verse 1. "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.'" We are in a place where we must hear His voice now. We must understand what He wants us to do and not do. We must repent of that which we are guilty of, that is violation and disobedience to him. Because at the end of all of this, we will be called up into the throne room; and at that place, He will show us what is about to take place. And we, as the Church, must know what is about to take place in this day and age, so that we can proclaim it to the world.

I want to remind us of just a few points of this. Number one, Messiah is speaking to the end-time Church in these verses, and He is giving us as it were the Ten Commandments that we are to follow now. Number two, if we are disobedient to these words, we will reap what has been foretold of the judgments. However, if we obey these words, we will be called up into the heavenly throne room and be shown the things that must take place as God's Kingdom is coming into this earth. Lord bless us with ears to hear and hearts to obey. Amen.