

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level 5 • Unit 1 • Week 2

PLAN OF SALVATION: FEAST OF TRUMPETS

OBJECTIVE:

To impress upon the students the hope that this Holy Day represents and the meaning of the symbolism used in the Feast of Trumpets. To show that this is a pivotal time in history when Satan will no longer rule and Christ will set up His kingdom.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare in advance:

Collect different methods of communicating. Draw or find pictures of a smoke signal, an African drum, semaphore flags, ship lanterns (to communicate between ships), a piece of polished metal that reflects the sun, etc.

Paste a picture of a silver trumpet and a picture of a shofar (ram's horn trumpet) on poster board. If you have access to a trumpet and/or shofar, an adult or one of the children can give several blasts on the instrument. Point out the difference between a trumpet (which is melodic) and a shofar (which has a very alarming sound).

Ask: Have you ever thought about how people sent messages over long distances before the age of technology? Can you name some of the ways? [They may be able to come up with some.]

Do: If they need help, hold up one of the pictures at a time and let them identify it. As they name one of the ways that people sent messages give a short explanation. Examples: The American Indians used a blanket to help in sending smoke signals. The African natives used drums to send messages because they could be heard a good distance. Sailors used two flags to convey their messages in the daytime and two lanterns (one green, and the other red) at night. A highly polished piece of metal that reflected the sun was used from a high vantage point to send a message.

Ask: Now, can anyone tell me how the ancient Israelites communicated important messages great distances to the people?

Do: Hold up the pictures of the trumpet and shofar.

Ask: Can anyone tell me what these are?

Say: These are trumpets and their name describes the first fall Holy Day.

Ask: Can anyone tell me the name of that Holy Day? Yes, that's right—the Feast of Trumpets. God commanded Israel to make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for communicating important messages.

Ask: Why did God choose trumpets as a way to communicate? That's right. They could be heard great distances. The priests were to blow these silver trumpets to announce each feast and to call God's people to assemble. They were also to blow them on the first of each month. Along with the silver trumpets being blown, a ram's horn trumpet was also blown on the Feast of Trumpets.

Ask: Do you remember the name of the ram's horn trumpet? That's right—a shofar was used to sound a warning of danger and warfare. It was loud, hard on the ears, and got everyone's attention.

Ask: How did the people react when they heard the shofar?

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Provide a copy of the Bible lesson, "FEAST OF TRUMPETS" for each child. Have each child read a portion of the lesson. Tell them to pay close attention and take note of how things are now under Satan's rule and how things will be under God's government.

After reading through paragraph 2, ask:

What do you think was the reaction of the Israelites when they heard the loud piercing sound of the shofar warning them of an approaching army?

After reading through paragraph 4, ask:

How did people come to lose the knowledge of God's way?

After reading through paragraph 6, ask:

The breaking of God's laws is the cause of the breakdown in society. Give some examples of what happens when God's laws are broken.

After reading through paragraph 12, ask:

Why must God destroy the all the wicked?

After reading through the last paragraph, ask:

Compare the world that we live in today under Satan's rule with the world tomorrow under God's rule.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

“The LORD said to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, saying: “In the the seventh month, 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 23:23-25).

During the time of the ancient Israelites, silver trumpets were used to announce each feast day and to call God’s people to assemble. On the day of the Feast of Trumpets another trumpet made from a ram’s horn was also blown. It was called a shofar and had a loud piercing sound. The shofar was also used to sound the alarm of an approaching army. The blowing of the ram’s horn trumpet on the Feast of Trumpets is symbolic of the return of Christ. This Holy Day marks a turning point in world history—the end of wars and the beginning of peace.

Many centuries before the time of the Israelites, Noah’s grandson, Nimrod, became ruler over the people of his time. Nimrod, being influenced by Satan, began to teach a false doctrine and purposely deceived the people into replacing the law of God and the government of God with their own man-made laws and government. Thus began a great deception.

This false doctrine spread throughout the land and was carried to our present time by each succeeding generation. The knowledge of God’s way became twisted or lost completely to many people. Without God’s Commandments, people have become confused as to what is right and what is wrong and why it is right or wrong. This false teaching, which has caused society to break down, has also caused wars between nations.

When nations go to war, people suffer greatly. They are forced to leave their homes and their land to avoid being captured or killed. Consequently, there is no one to plant, to harvest, to bring the produce to market and no one to buy. Everyday living is disrupted and the supply of food begins to dwindle. In a short time, famine spreads throughout the land. Refugees become ill with diseases brought on by living under unsanitary conditions and lack of food, clean water and shelter. Under such harsh conditions the people weaken and die and this adds to the many soldiers who are killed in battle.

These distressful circumstances, caused by the breaking of God’s Laws, have gone on for nearly 6,000 years. Man has learned, with each succeeding generation, how to build better and more efficient weapons of war. We have now reached the point where our weapons of war can completely destroy everyone on the face of the earth.

During the time of Christ, His disciples asked Him, “What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?” Christ explained to them that there would be religious deception, wars and rumors of wars, famine, pestilence [deadly disease epidemics] and earthquakes in different places. “These things must come to pass but do not be terrified because the end is not yet,” said Christ. He added that the saints would be persecuted and some would be put to death. And unless those days are shortened by His return, no one will be saved alive. Only after the good news of the Kingdom of God is preached in the whole world will the end come.

Immediately after the persecution of God's saints, God will begin to intervene in world affairs. There will appear in the heavens terrifying signs in the sun, moon and stars; and every mountain and island will be moved out of its place.

At this point, God will temporarily hold things up, while His servants are sealed in their foreheads with the Holy Spirit. This is to protect them from the seven deadly plagues that He is about to unleash upon an unrepentant world. These seven deadly plagues are represented by seven trumpets, and the blowing of each trumpet signals the beginning of one of the deadly plagues.

For nearly 6,000 years God has given mankind every chance to save itself from a self-imposed destruction, but they would not listen. After the sixth trumpet sounds, God will send two of His servants to witness for three and one half years as a last warning to the people of the coming destruction and to plead with them to repent.

When the seventh trumpet is blown, Christ will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). And there will be great joy. There will be loud voices in heaven, which say, "The kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15).

Those nations that were at war with each other turn their anger toward Christ, because Satan has deceived them, and they refuse to be subject to God's government and His Law. They consider Christ their common enemy and join forces to fight against their own Creator. The warriors in this final battle to determine who will rule the earth will assemble at Armageddon near Jerusalem. Christ will destroy all the wicked in the battle that follows.

Christ will then gather those who were taken captive and deliver them from many years of slavery. He will give them a repentant attitude so that they can see what their wickedness has done. There will be a great exodus out of the concentration camps in Europe and around the world to Jerusalem where Christ will be ruling over the nations as King of kings and Lord of lords. After God's government and His law are restored peace and happiness will flourish. God's elect, who are now spirit beings, will have a part in teaching God's laws to those who came out of the captivity.

Under the government of God, the earth will be restored to its original pristine beauty. It will reflect the happiness and joy of people who went through horrendous times and then find themselves living under God's wonderful loving government. Unlike some of mankind's laws, all of God's laws have been created for our good.

God's Feast of Trumpets pictures a time of great contrast—it begins with a world ruled by Satan, that is engulfed in war, and ends with the establishment of the government of God upon this earth! The contrast of hopelessness and despair under Satan's rule is stark against the peace and joy under God's government.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Prepare in Advance:

1. Using a sheet of poster board, paste a picture of a silver trumpet and a shofar down the center.
2. Print "The Feast of Trumpets" across the top of the poster board. Print "6,000 years of Satan's rule" to the left of the trumpets. Print "God's Government" to the right of the trumpets.
3. Cut out pictures and headlines from newspapers and magazines that would show life as it is under Satan's rule (religious deceit, wars, famines, criminals preying on the weak, lying, stealing, murdering, etc.).
4. Cut out pictures and headlines that show what life will be like under the government of God (people happily working and playing and enjoying life).
5. Let each child select a picture or headline and tell which side he will paste the picture and why. (Depending on the number of children and time, the children can have a second and third turn.)

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:23-24 "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation."

family activity

THE POINT:

The lesson for this week is designed to develop an understanding of the Feast of Trumpets, the events that lead up to the return of Jesus Christ, and why these things must come to pass. This Holy Day pictures a time of great contrast—it begins with a world, ruled by Satan, that is engulfed in a world war and ends with the establishment of the government of God upon this earth. The hopelessness and despair mankind has experienced under Satan's rule is contrasted strongly against the great peace and joy people will have under God's government.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss with your child the wonderful way the lives of children will be changed after God establishes His Kingdom here on earth. Talk about how obeying God's laws produces an attitude of caring and kindness in people. Parents will take very good care of their children. Children will be given the kind of education that will help them to grow into a well rounded adult. School will be interesting, exciting and enjoyable.

Ask your child what he/she thinks of some of the things that are going on in this world. (Some possible topics: war that might be currently in the news, lack of respect, crime, use of drugs, bullies in school, the kind of subjects being taught, etc. Tailor the discussion to your child's interest.) Point out how this society destroys all that is right and good and how this affects his/her life. Sum up the discussion by explaining that this is why Christ must return to establish His Kingdom here on earth.

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 23:23-24 "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation."'"