

SOUND THE TRUMPETS!

Leviticus 23:23-55: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD." (See also Numbers 29:1-6.)

I have long wondered why the New Year according to anyone's calendar would be the first day of the seventh month, and then it dawned on me! Being the seventh month would give it the symbology of being a Sabbath-month. And, being a month that contains three major feasts and festivals, it is indeed a Sabbath-month!

Rosh Hashanah (Feast of the Trumpets) marks the day that the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea and began a new life as a free nation. It marks the beginning of freedom and rest from the slavery and servitude of the world, just as the Sabbath marks a repose or rest from the world on the seventh day of every week. Suddenly it seems right to celebrate the beginning of the seventh month.

Additionally, Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of -

- the Almighty's gathering of His people;
- the Almighty restoring His word and covenants with mankind;
- The Almighty once more speaking to mankind.

The day is marked with the blowing of the shofar; the long horn, or trump, made from a sheep's horn. It was also marked with more than usual sacrifices than the sacrifices for the other first day of the month sacrifices.

Rosh Hashanah also marks the beginning of the "High Holy Days", also called the "Days of Awe". This holy day (holiday) time period includes not only Rosh Hashanah but the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth; 'Booths').

To members of the Latter-Day Saint Church, it is of note that the ancient plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated were given to the young Joseph Smith to take home and translate on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. To Latter-day Saints the coming forth of the Book of Mormon symbolizes that -

- the Almighty is set to once more gather His people
- the Almighty is once more revealing his word and will and covenants, and
- the Almighty is once more speaking to mankind.

Now I understand why the Lord chose Rosh Hashanah to send Joseph Smith home with the Gold Plates!

Anymore I smile as I pass a Latter-Day Saint temple and see the statue of the angel Moroni, he who delivered the plates to Joseph, blowing a trumpet way high up on the the top of the temple's spire, Rosh Hashanah still being remembered.

When I sent the hymn text to Jim Carter, I didn't tell him what sort of music I wanted, but he wrote the perfect music - an incredible choir piece! (This is a hymn version I made from the choir piece he wrote.) This is something that could be sung in a synogogue to celebrate Rosh Hashanah - and something that would be equally at home in a Latter-Day Saint chapel celebrating the Restoration of the Gospel. Jim, you are amazing! Hurry and get your children raised so you have more time for me!

Sound the Trumpets!

Forbes, Carter

1. Sound the trum - pets, An - gels and Men - For God speaks to man once more!
2. Send the run - ners; send shep - herds strong, To ga - ther all Is - rael home -
3. Shout ye Watch - men; Speak Wi - se Men - That all may he - ar His voice!

Sound the trum - pets, An - gels and Men - For God His truths will re - store! Sound the trum - pets!
Send the run - ners; send shep - herds strong, That all may find their way home Teach ye teach - ers,
Shout ye Watch - men; Speak Wi - se Men - That all may fol - low His voice! Listen to pro - phets,

Hail the new day That Is - rael fin - lly walks free! Sound the trum - pets!
words from A - bove And words that rise from the dust; Teach ye teach - ers,
lis - ten well - For they speak with the Lord's voice! Listen to pro - phets,

Hail the new day That Is - rael hears His de - cree!
words from A - bove That will not tar - nish or rust. Fo - r I - - sra - el is - now ga - ther - ing - Un -
lis - ten well - And you will hear the Lord's voice!

- to their God of Love For I - - sra - el has - fou - nd a Shep - herd To lead and guide them with love.