

We anticipate September 6, 2021 – Rosh Hashanah 5782

An eTPL32 Opinion

Once again, the Jewish world approaches the festival of Rosh HaShanah –the Feast of Trumpets –the first day of the year designated by them as 5782.

Our conviction, unless it is proven incorrect, that the Second Advent of the Lord from heaven may occur on one of those anniversaries of the Feast of Trumpets, is unshakable.

One strong reason for that persuasion is that the **four spring festivals** of the Jewish calendar were fulfilled literally in the events of 29AD as the Lord Jesus was sacrificed and prepared to leave the physical earth to go to His place at God’s right hand:

- **Passover**–fulfilled by the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on the stake at Golgotha.
- **First Fruits**–fulfilled by the resurrection of Jesus from the grave after three days.
- **Weeks**–fulfilled by the literal passage of the specified period of time (49 days) between First Fruits and Pentecost...
- **Pentecost**–fulfilled by the pouring out of Spirit gifts to the disciples and apostles on the fiftieth day as indicated by the prototypical fulfilment of the festival.

Those are the first four of seven festivals in the annual Hebrew calendar. We believe that all these were given for signs to the faithful.

We reason on a scriptural basis, hopefully, that the last three festivals of the cycle shall likewise be fulfilled in a literal fashion at the return of Jesus to the earth from God’s right hand in order to complete the execution of his Plan of Redemption.

These festivals (**moedim (plural)** –see Leviticus 23:2 for first occurrence) are...

- **Rosh HaShanah** (Feast of Trumpets) which occurs this year on Sept. 6-8th.
- **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) which occurs ten days after Rosh HaShanah, this year on Sept. 15-16th.
- **Tabernacles** (Feast of Booths, or Succoth) which occurs this year on Sept. 20-27th.

Rosh Hashanah

Although we could be wrong, our conviction as to the time of the Return of the Lord Jesus to the earth is based mainly on the Apostle Paul’s words found in 1 Corinthians 15: 51, 52: *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed**, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed.*

That seems to be an unmistakably close reference to the Feast of

Trumpets, and seems meant to be literal (?).

The dilemma that we encounter immediately –and a problem of long standing –is, **just which** Feast of Trumpets might it be?

Since it has not yet occurred it must lie ahead –directly ahead of us in time – for the “signs of the times” are unmistakably those of the last hours of Gentile dominion in the earth, and the propitious hours just prior to the dawn of the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His beams as noted in the scroll of Malachi: *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.* Malachi 4:2.

Another Factor of Great Importance

But there is another factor which bears strongly upon our thoughts: it is the impending Sabbath year (the Shemitah year) as observed among God’s people Israel.

The official Israeli position is that the New Hebrew year beginning on this Rosh HaShanah will be a Shemitah year, which recurs every seventh year.

The Shemitah year is a year of rest similar to the Sabbath of each week. In that year each farmer dedicates the entire year to rest from cultivation. Deuteronomy 15 describes it in detail

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- The land is allowed to lie fallow.
- Gleaning of produce that grows of itself is allowed but no plowing or planting is permitted.
- At the same time, the animals that are usually employed in agriculture are allowed an entire year of rest from their labors.

Likewise, all servants who are similarly employed shall do no work at all.

And all one’s debts and obligations to others are settled –forgiven, and all indentured servants are given their freedom.

It is a year dedicated to the Lord, and an expression of trust in his providence for all the commodities of life.

In our reasoning just such a circumstance as the two occurring together (as they shall this year) makes it doubly propitious for the Return of Jesus to the earth –an event which will mark the beginning of an entire millennium of “rest” for the earth following His appointed tasks of conquest in hot conflict against the nations of the world.

It must not escape our notice that the millennium that is in progress at this moment is the seventh millennium by our best reckoning from the events of Eden. How appropriate for it to be celebrated as a literal millennium of rest for the people of God!

We have always regarded the narrative of the letter to the Hebrews found in chapter four as referring to just such a probability. The author writes: *For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Hebrews 4: 8-11.

In that blessed “day” (a thousand years being but a day in the sight of the Lord –II Peter 3: 8) the righteous of our present age shall REST from “their own” labors in the flesh, basking in the limelight of immortality, free from all threats, diseases, or other hazards such as sickness or death.

During that day they shall be pleasantly and profitably employed in the refinement of the Kingdom of Christ as kings and priests unto the mortal population of the earth leading toward the end of the millennial-long reign of peace and prosperity of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the earth.

At the end of that time He and they shall relinquish the perfected Kingdom to the Father as a pristine, perfected, deathless, sinless, and flawless entity – the New Creation of Jesus Christ, the

first-begotten into it, then proven to be indeed the Savior of the world.

Let our daily prayer be that our hopes for His personal return in the coming weeks might become reality, and the turbulent world about us begin to be converted to His Way of righteousness and peace for all the world’s remaining people, and the prospect of our delivering to our Father hundreds of millions of faithful followers cultivated and grown to maturity during the coming millennium of utter peace, security, and righteousness.

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