

**When
The
Trumpet
Sounds**

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Have You Heard Of The Trumpet From The Holy Bible?

When The Trumpet Sounds,

Will You Not Be Afraid?

When The Trumpet Sounds,

Will You Be Ready?

When The Trumpet Sounds,

Will You Be Gone?

When The Trumpet Sounds,

Will You Be Left Behind?

These Are Important Questions,

You May want answered!

Before The Trumpet Sounds!

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The Holy Bible has many fascinating topics to keep the child of God occupied meaningfully for the rest of his earthly life after he is saved if he obediently takes heed to the command given in 2 Timothy 2:15: ***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*** This is in fact, one of the most important aspects of his earthly pilgrimage if he is to find peace and joy from the Holy Ghost while preparing for his eternal bliss when he finally meets his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Without studying the words of the living God diligently, he may not fully appreciate what great and wonderful salvation is wrought in him through Christ. Moreover, failing to acquire a deeper understanding of what God is doing for His creatures from the beginning of time till the end of days for his own personal enjoyment and benefits will also undermine his own spiritual growth in Christ. Imagine the tremendous blessedness that comes with having the correct understanding of the words of God; the child of God will safely rest his weary head on His Saviour's bosom and trust in Him all the way come what may in this earthly life! On the contrary, if a child of God does not read through the Holy Bible diligently many times from cover to cover with a Bible believing heart, he will very likely end up fearing what he ought not to fear and doing what he ought not to do given to a different people of a different time as revealed in the Holy Bible. All the threats and the accompanying curses are not necessarily aimed at the child of God in this age and likewise, all blessings and rewards for a different people living in a different time are also not necessarily meant for the child of God to claim as we are told in the Scripture: ***For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*** (Romans 15:4) As far as the child of God is concerned, he has been told: ***For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*** (Colossians 2:9&10) and as a result of this: ***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*** (2 Corinthians 9:8) whereby the blessings of the child of God is guaranteed to be fulfilled: ***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*** (Ephesians 3:20&21)

One very interesting topic is Bible communications. Our God is a God of languages though men were originally communicating in one speech and

one language as we are told in Genesis 11:1: ***And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.*** However, communications are not limited to humans alone because inanimate objects such as the terrestrial bodies are capable of communicating in speech and in audible voices in words and in lines to the end of the world according to Psalms 19:1-5: ***The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.*** Moreover, when confronting those who wanted to silence the praising masses, the Lord indicated that even stones can cry out to glorify God: ***And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*** (Luke 19:40) In addition, Jehovah God even caused the ass to speak in human speech to rebuke the madness of the prophet Balaam in Numbers 22:28-30: ***And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.***

So when Almighty God created the universe, sounds and voices are part and parcel as means of communications. More astonishing is the fact that God uses musical instruments to convey His intentions and messages to His creatures. For the Bible talks about the sounding of a trumpet concerning the physical resurrection of the believers in Christ: ***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.*** (1 Corinthians 15:52) This is of great significance as far as communication is concerned. Hence, here is a study that concerns the use of trumpets in the Holy Bible to communicate God's will to His creatures. This study of the trumpets mentioned and used in the Bible is largely in answer to the questions of what is the last trump and what about the first trump and those trumps in between with regards to the resurrection of the believers in Christ. The Bible does mention about physical trumpets on earth used by men as well as trumpets beyond the visual range of fallen men sounding from heaven. May a child of God learn to be discerning and have his ears tuned to hear the final trumpet

call that will translate him into the marvelous light and into the glorious presence of the blessed Lord Jesus Christ!

Trumpet is mentioned before the time of Moses in the book of Job. This first revelation of the use of these trumpets comes with ominous implications. These trumpets are used during times of battles where death and destruction are the order of the day. Terror and trouble are associated with the mention of the trumpets in many passages in the Holy Scriptures. This charts the course for the application of trumpets in the Holy Bible where great carnage results from the sounding of the trumpet. At one passage in the Bible, five hundred thousand men perished in a single battle with the sounding of the trumpet. This is historical fact as recorded in the Holy Bible. These people lived in a time where the atomic bomb has not yet been invented and no nuclear device has been put to use during their day. How frightening to hear such trumpet calls to war and stare death in the face during such an evil time! Consider the question put to the rebellious children of Israel by Jehovah God: ***Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?*** (Amos 3:6) Can fallen men escape hearing the sound of terror from the sounding of the trumpets? Why should one be afraid when there is no evil? Unfortunately, fallen men have known what is good and evil ever since Adam partakes of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. So evil is present in this present evil world and the sounding of such trumpets from time to time becomes inevitable.

Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils is terrible. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: he goeth on to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword. The quiver rattleth against him, the glittering spear and the shield. He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage: neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet. He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha; and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting. (Job 39:19-25)

While sinful men fear and tremble when the trumpet is sounding during times of battle, horses mention in the passage react in a completely opposite way. Nothing seems to be able to cause these horses to be afraid. Not only that they are not frightened during such a time like this, they actually mock at fear and charge at armed men! Nothing can stand in their way and no weapon can stop their charge against the enemies during times of battle. They rejoice in their strength and laugh at the sound of the trumpets. In fact, these animals actually look forward to such occasions and

they smell the battle afar off and charge into the fray with no second thought whatsoever. They are fierce and they rage and they have absolutely no regard to the sounding of the trumpets calling men to battle to kill one another. God who makes these animals clothed their neck with thunder and the glory of their nostrils are said to be terrible. What is the sounding of the trumpet to them who are designed with no conscience of having sin against the Almighty! But the same cannot be said of fallen men. It is precisely because of the sins of men that such sounding of the trumpets become necessary, as well as becoming part and parcel of the judgment men will have to face in this life.

Job obviously has no answer to Almighty God who confronts him for his folly. Trumpets are not unknown to him during his day. Wars and rumours of wars have been in existence ever since Adam falls and the first conflict starts within the hearts of sinful men as evident in the first murder from the first generation born after Adam. Trumpets no doubt have come to symbolize terror and trouble especially in times of war. The equivalent in our modern day would be the sounding of the siren whether from the ambulance rushing someone to a hospital or from the civil defence warning system where citizens are to tune in for further announcement of impending emergencies or attacks from the enemies. The sounding of trumpets are no small matter and only fools would ignore this alarm to their own peril. Here in the book of Job, the trumpet signifies an instrument of terror. The trumpet is regarded as the instrument by which death and destruction are sure to follow in its use. No size and shape and material use in the construction of the trumpets really matter for it is in the sounding of them that carries the full force of the application and implication of the carnage that will be the final result. These trumpets mention in the passage cannot escape the fact that they are directly related to the slaughter in the battlefield. It is at the sounding of this instrument where men will react and charge at one another and ultimately only some people will remain standing where the rest will become casualties of war that require medical treatment or burial to remove the stench of death when the trumpet calls finally cease to sound.

Can the trumpet be regarded as an instrument of evil that instigate men to charge against one another to the destruction of men? Actually, the answer is negative! Because of the fall of man, this instrument has ceased from its high and lofty employment in the worship of the thrice Holy God and has become an instrument of terror in the hands of fallen men. Out of necessity in communicating military orders during a battle, the trumpet

becomes the choice instrument to sound out the required action of men. When the battle is finally over, a trumpet is still used to bury the slain soldiers during a military funeral and bring the battle to a closure.

However, not every mention of the trumpet in the Holy Bible is associated with wars and carnage that results from the battlefield. There are also many occasions when the trumpets are also used in the worship of the true and living God, particularly; during the reign of godly kings in Israel where the glorious sounding of such trumpets calls for the God of Israel to manifest among the people of God. In addition, specific instructions concerning the use of the trumpets are also given to the nation of Israel by none other than Jehovah God himself.

So the mention of the sounding of the trumpets is definitely not all gloom and doom for the child of God. In fact the day will come when the sounding of a very specific trumpet will usher him into the glorious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. ***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.*** (1 Corinthians 15:52) This is the moment that the child of God should look forward to and the sounding of such a trumpet should not be one of fear but the sweet sound of this trumpet is a blessing that will call him home to the many mansions mentioned by the Lord Jesus Christ. The child of God is infinitely better than the horse mentioned in the passage with regards to the trumpets. He needs not mock at fear and laugh at the sounding of the trumpets. He needs not be clothed with thunder on his neck and charge into the battlefield to fight someone else's battle. He needs not rejoice in his own strength and glory in his own breath. The sounding of this particular trumpet to call him home will be a day of blessing where death has lost its sting and is swallowed up in victory. The abolishment of death and its defeat are what the child of God can really laugh at and not the sounding of the trumpet. The child of God can now really rejoice in his own strength given from above in his new glorious body like unto the Lord when this trumpet finally sounds. Hence, the use of trumpets and the mention of trumpeters in the Holy Bible do deserve a closer look and a study of such a topic should cause a child of God to rejoice in what God has prepared for him. The trumpets mentioned in the Bible do have different applications and implications to the nation of Israel, the Christians in the body of Christ and the world at large. May the child of God be discerning and have his ears tuned and his eyes open to see what God has installed for him to enjoy and rejoice in this life and in the next to come!

Though musical instruments are already present way back before the flood where Jubal, the son of Lamech, is known to be the father of all those who could handle the harp and organ (Genesis 4:21), the first mention of the trumpet is found in Exodus chapter 19. However, this trumpet is not the usual trumpet employed by men. Moreover, this unusual trumpet is also not blown by men. There is no mention that those who heard the sounding of the trumpet saw this trumpet. So the size, shape and colour of this trumpet are not revealed. As to what material is used to construct this trumpet, one could only speculate; it might be gold, perhaps! Notwithstanding, this does not necessarily mean that men during that time still did not know what a trumpet was or had never handled a trumpet before. Let us consider the passage on the first mention of this unusual trumpet for this extraordinary event.

And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives. And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. (Exodus 19:12-20)

As usual, faithless Christians will straight away claim that the trumpet mentioned here is only symbolic and God is only using poetic language to convey His truths to His people. A casual reader from the world might be forgiven to take this naturalistic approach and view the Scriptures through a veil when the scales on their spiritual eyes have not yet been removed before salvation of his soul. This is rather typical of those for what their eyes of

flesh could not see and what their fallen mind could not understand as well as what their evil heart could not believe to run to symbolism for safety. Poetical license in languages happens to be a convenient vehicle to justify unbelief of the Holy Scriptures. So for a child of God having been quickened by the Holy Spirit of God to adopt such an unbiblical approach to interpret the Holy Bible, such folly is indeed unpardonable. The Holy Bible is an unusual Book! The author of the Holy Bible is none other than Almighty God Himself though the agents used to write, transmit and preserve the Bible are fallen men born in Adam. Nonetheless, not a single word of the word of truth that God wants the child of God to have in his hand is ever lost. Hence, there is no room for fallen man's exalted ego to philosophize away the contents of the Holy Bible to fit what his fallen mind can comprehend to be logical and acceptable in his own mind.

To understand the trumpet mentioned in the passage, we must also take into consideration the circumstances surrounding the event during that time. The children of Israel have just been delivered from Egyptian bondage under great signs and wonders before their very eyes. The destruction of Egypt that they witnessed was no ordinary natural disasters that struck a country. The parting of the Red Sea for them to safely pass into Canaan while the Egyptians pursuers were drowned was a defining event that confirmed their divine deliverance by Jehovah God. They had personally undergone a supernatural deliverance from above. This deliverance was historical as no one until that time had seen the parting of the sea in such a dramatic fashion where the forces of nature were withheld for the sake of God's people. But now they are attending to this appointment with Jehovah God, which is the very reason why they have been delivered to serve the true and living God. It is under such unusual circumstances that the children of Israel hear this trumpet sounded from heaven. This is a literal trumpet trumpeted with a literal trump which cannot be denied. After all, how often do we hear trumpet sounding from heaven every other day! This is an extraordinary event on an extraordinary day where the trumpet from heaven sounded for a specific purpose. The children of Israel were assembled as a nation of people to meet Jehovah God. The sounding of this trumpet from heaven precedes the manifestation of the majestic arrival of Jehovah God.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and

to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. (Exodus 19:9-11)

So the children of Israel have come to the mount to worship as they have been told. What they told Pharaoh about this appointment with Jehovah God was indeed bona fide and no lie. The children of Israel have been eagerly waiting to personally meet this Jehovah God whom Moses told them about back in Egypt. They obviously look forward to meeting this God of their fathers who promised to give them a land flowing with milk and honey. Such an appointment cannot be an ordinary meeting between God and fallen men. For fallen men expect the extraordinary manifestation of the supernatural realm to confirm to them that this God is indeed no mere man in the flesh just like them. Of course, they wish to know and if possible even to behold what God actually looks like and experience how God communicates with them personally. As such, the Lord told Moses that He would come unto Moses in a thick cloud in the presence of the children of Israel so that the people might hear when He spoke with him, and they might believe him forever. After all Moses have told them so much about this Jehovah God as well as they being witnesses to the miracles he performed in Egypt before their very eyes in the name of Jehovah God. They must be curious as to whether Moses indeed has an audience with Jehovah God on a personal level whereby he receives instructions directly from God and not mere hallucination authenticated by magic tricks like those magicians they know back in Egypt. Hence, it is important that the children of Israel must be convinced so that they will continue to march on to the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses. For it has been proven time and again that these people are a stiff-necked people prone to rebel against God in spite of all the signs and wonders performed in their sight not once but on many occasions.

Further instructions have been given to the children of Israel to prepare them for this historic divine appointment between God and men. How marvelous and wonderful that God would even come down from heaven to meet sinful men, most unworthy of the least of God's mercy, goodness and grace! How could the thrice Holy God bear to meet with vile sinners corrupted by sins, whose hearts are continually evil from their youth and whose attitudes display this tragic propensity of unbelief on God's promises and His words? So the least requirements to meet with this wonderful and majestic God are simply to be sanctified and be physically

clean including their clothes. Such requirements are of course within the means of the children of Israel to keep and to obey if they want to meet God. In fact, the requirements of fallen men to meet some dignitaries would be far more demanding whose dress code would be more stringent and cost a lot more for some appointments with the princes of this world! No wonder the Lord Jesus Christ said: ***For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*** (Matthew 11:30) It is actually fallen men who make things difficult for one another! How gracious is this Jehovah God who not only delivered them from Egyptian bondage but He gave them such liberties and privileges to have an audience with His holy presence!

Moreover, they were given three days to prepare themselves with such simple but needful commandments to keep and so there would be no excuse for failing to keep such requirements to meet this great King. So during these three days, the coming of the Lord indeed draws nigh for the people during that time. This is in fact an important spiritual truth, which must not be ignored for the implications of the coming of the Lord are always present truth for people of all time. The requirements given for these redeemed people are rather simple and the date of the Lord's coming is fixed and they are specifically told about this appointment. No speculation of the coming of the Lord is necessary if they would simply believe the words that proceed from the mouth of the Lord. Imagine the excitement and the preparation by the people to meet Jehovah God! Notwithstanding, some people probably were surprised by the simplicity for the preparation to meet God. There were not much elaborate schemes to put forward the efforts of men to show that they were indeed somehow worthy audience before this thrice Holy God. Any man-made and man-centred efforts to contribute towards this divine appointment with the slightest implication that men are indeed worthy of God's presence are to be rejected and not allowed to obscure the very gracious invitation from heaven to meet up with this Creator of the universe.

And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives. (Exodus 19:12-15)

So the time and place to meet Jehovah God is fixed and not open to negotiation. Moses has told them this divine appointment to get them ready for this very important event. It is important for the children of Israel to note that there is still a boundary between God and men where fallen men cannot approach the outer limits set even in meeting with this gracious God. Sin has kept men from God. Gone were the days where Adam and Eve back in the Garden could walk with God and fellowship with Him in close communion. Since Adam sinned against God, men have to hide and could not come before God on a personal level with a clear conscience anymore. Sin does separate men from God. And God is now making an effort to even come down from heaven and meet up with fallen men to reveal to them His divine will for them as God's chosen people. Here is also first revealed the sounding of the trumpet. This sounding of the trumpet is a signal to them to come before God in the mount. This trumpet is not a man-made trumpet. The sounding of this trumpet is not under the control of men. The sounding of this trumpet is at the time of God's choosing and fallen men have no part to dictate when this trumpet should sound. All they were told to do is to prepare and listen to the sounding of this trumpet. They are not supposed to move on the first trump when the trumpet starts to trump. They are only to go up to meet God when the trumpet sounded long on the last trump. This specific instruction is important to understand how the sounding of the trumpet will impact the child of God on his own preparation to meet the Lord in the air one day when the trumpet shall sound! Our God is a God of order. The sounding of this trumpet will not result in chaos. The calling of God's people to assemble is done decently and in order.

And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. (Exodus 19:16-18)

Then finally the faithful day came. As they were told, Jehovah God indeed came with thunders and lightnings with thick clouds on the mount. Moreover, the trumpet also sounded from above. This is the first time in history as recorded in the Holy Bible where fallen men heard the sounding of the trumpet from heaven. This is no fairy tale or science fiction show

screened in a cinema to entertain the people of God. This signifies the turning point in the history of men after the flood that God has instituted a program to call out a people unto Him to be His representatives on earth as the light of the world. This sounding of the trumpet announces the royal and majestic arrival of the God of heaven with spectacular display of awesome power where the mount is altogether on smoke and the earth quakes. This loud sounding of the trumpet from heaven caused the children of Israel to tremble. Who would not fear and tremble before this Creator of the universe who spoke the world into existence and is upholding all things by the word of His power! Even nature also displays its fear and tremble in earthquake, what more when men who are made of dust and ashes and live in houses of clay! One can only imagine the palpitation of the heart of the children of Israel when they heard the first trump with excitement and anxiety but soon when the trumpet trumps louder and louder, they naturally begin to fear and wonder if they could endure much longer when the true and living God gets closer to them. Indeed it is too close for comfort for fallen men who could not stand before the presence of the holiness of God just like Simon Peter told the Lord Jesus to depart from him for he was a sinful man!

As instructed three days before, when the trumpet sounded long Moses brought the children of Israel to meet God for this divine appointment they had waited for so long. The Lord God has finally arrived and men are now to meet Him. It is natural for fallen men to fear to come before this thrice Holy God so they ventured only to the nether part of the mount to view this God of heaven from afar! How tragic when fallen men wish to meet God and yet could not get close to Him even when given the opportunity! Indeed, when the true Light arrives, darkness must flee and so the sins in men have so darkened their sinful hearts that they could not come before the true Light that lighteth the world. The arrival of God on the mount has brought about such drastic change in the surrounding by such awesome display of power that who would dare to venture close to this God from heaven! Even when a mountain can go up in smoke and quake, how can men in the flesh stand before God when they have been tainted by sin from their youth!

And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.
(Exodus 19:19&20)

Then when the trumpet sounded long and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke to God and God answered him in a voice. It is now important to note that the trumpet that sounded is said to be that of a voice. A voice is not the same as a melody as in music. So the trumpet not only sounded as in sounds of a tune, it also has the capability to sound out a voice as in a human speech. It is specifically mentioned that when this voice of the trumpet is heard that Moses speaks to God. Moreover, Jehovah God also answered Moses by a voice. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that this voice could be connected with the voice of the trumpet, which Moses heard and so he spoke. Here we are told that Moses received a calling to go up to the mount to meet God and he went up. Here is the first allusion of the call from heaven to “come up hither” in connection with the sounding of the trumpet from above and this phrase “come up hither” is found in the book of Proverbs concerning coming before the presence of a king and also found in the book of Revelation to go up into heaven to come before the King of kings. Hence, the sounding of the trumpet from heaven is a signal of the coming of the Lord and the calling away of the saints. The first trump is to prepare the people for the appointment and the last trump when the trumpet sounded long is the time when the people of God will go up to meet the Lord. How amazing and wonderful to hear the trumpet trumps for the child of God!

The author of Hebrews reported this event on the meeting between the children of Israel and Jehovah God in the following manner.

For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)
(Hebrews 12:18-21)

The extraordinary display of power on the mount is confirmed and further elaborated. The sounding of the trumpet from heaven is also confirmed to come with voice of words and not just mere sound of a tune as a melody in musical form. Moreover, the children of Israel also heard this voice of the trumpet and they could not bear to hear the word spoken to them. Hence, it is also not just the mere tune and loudness of the sounding of

the trumpet that the children of Israel could not bear, it is the spoken word from the voice of the trumpet that they could not endure which was commanded them. The charge by the martyr Stephen comes to mind that the children of Israel could not keep the commandments of God: ***Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.*** (Acts 7:53) The sight of the arrival of Jehovah God was so terrible that even Moses claimed that he exceedingly feared and quaked. So the sounding of the trumpet announces the arrival of Almighty God and the trumpet also serves to prepare God's people for this rendezvous upon hearing of the first trump and proceed to meet God on the last trump when the trumpet sounded long. This trumpet from heaven will issue the high calling for the people of God to go up with discernable voices of words where not a single child of God would be mistaken and miss his personal call to meet God. Whenever the trumpet sounds, there will be a first trump and eventually ends with a last trump when the mission is accomplished. So once the operation is over, the trumpet will cease to sound otherwise, we would still be hearing this sounding of the trumpet on Mount Sinai which began more than three thousand years ago and is still audible to the ears of those visiting that site today. If that is indeed the case, then Mount Sinai will no doubt become the most attractive tourist destination of all time!

When Moses having been charged by Jehovah God to come down from the mount to warn and ensure that the children of Israel do not breakthrough the mount to gaze and be consumed by the Lord (Exodus 19:21-25), the Ten Commandments were spoken to them from heaven in Exodus chapter 20. This is the first time in history that God came down from heaven and spoke to fallen men as a nation of people with an audible voice to reveal to them His commandments for them to keep. This is no movie of “Encounter Of The Third Kind” type of meeting where communications between men and aliens are in coded language of sound. Here is the clear and concise communication between God and men clearly understood by the children of Israel. This is the decree of the Law orally given from heaven, which is the first in the history of mankind. This announcement of the Ten Commandments is not spoken with the still small voice Elijah heard when being spoken to on an individual basis though convulsion of nature did take place at the mount at the presence of the Lord. The giving of these commandments to the children of Israel was so terrific and spectacular that the children of Israel could not stand to hear the words of God from heaven and suggested that Moses be their representative to receive the words of God for them instead. Self-preservation is the hallmark of fallen men because they have no eternal life and of course they fear to die!

And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. (Exodus 20:18&19)

Their fear and apprehension are understandable for who can stand before the living God and not be afraid when even nature itself is not exempted from the fear of the Lord: *The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.* (Psalm 77:16) As such, could fallen men with feet of clay not be troubled at the presence of the Lord! Who would not fear to die under such tremendous expression of the holiness of God: *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.* (1 Timothy 6:16) So the thunderings and lightnings resume when God speaks and the noise of the trumpet is heard in connection with the giving of the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel. The previous chapter speaks of the voice of the trumpet where the people heard and understood and here it is mentioned of

the noise of the trumpet in the audible announcement of the Ten Commandments. This is indeed an extraordinary way of speaking and this is the first time the commandments are given to the children of Israel though these commandments have not yet been cast in stones. It is interesting to note that the trumpet from heaven is connected with this decree from above that the children of Israel should keep the commandments of Jehovah God. Hence, the trumpets are commonly employed by the nation of Israel in the keeping of the festivities, sounding of alarms, initiating marches and celebrations and so on as well as being used in the worship of Jehovah God.

The trumpeting of the trumpet this time is not concerning the arrival of Jehovah God nor the call for ascension to the mount for Moses or for the children of Israel to meet Jehovah God for they all have been called to attention by the previous sounding of the trumpet. Moreover, Jehovah God is already present on Mount Sinai engaging the children of Israel in this historical divine meeting between God and men. The trumpet is now employed to make an announcement instead and this is no ordinary announcement but the giving of the commandments from the Most High summarized in ten points. Perhaps, the first trump in this case begins with the decree of the first commandment and the last trump concludes the last of these Ten Commandments. Whenever the trumpet sounds, there will be a first trump and then finally the last trump when the sounding is complete. There will be no misfire of the trumpet when trumpeted from heaven with divine precision. Hence, God speaks to men from heaven and the trumpet here is the means to accompany the words of the Lord issued to the children of Israel. The plea by the children of Israel not to have God personally speaking to them is not without merit. Notwithstanding the fear experienced by the children of Israel during this confrontation with God which is supposed to be an amicable meeting, for why should Almighty God display the fullness of His splendour and majesty each time just to speak to unworthy creatures dead in trespasses and sins! This also points to a very important theological article of faith that a daysman desired by Job (Job 9:33) or a mediator between God and men is required. Since Moses has been close to Jehovah God, it is better for him to speak to God to receive His words and then transmit these words from the mouth of the Lord to them. As such, Moses is the stand between and a prelude pointing to a future mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus: ***For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*** (1 Timothy 2:5&6) In this way, the children of Israel no longer have to endure the full power of the words of

the living God coming through this trumpet from above which they could not bear to hear in their sinful condition.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was. (Exodus 20:20&21)

So the words of comfort coming from Moses no doubt offer the children of Israel some consolation and assurance as well as to confirm their acceptance by the God of heaven who chose them to be His people, as a kingdom of priests and an holy nation unto God (Exodus 19:6). Notwithstanding, the awesome manifestation of the power of God in the presence of His people serves to prove them and to cause them to fear this thrice Holy God at one time only known to them by His power wrought through His prophet Moses but now having personally tasted of God's majestic presence and power, the fear of the Lord should be with them forever. Now Moses draws near to God in the thick darkness whose glory of God the children of Israel could not stand to behold and by now the trumpet sounding has stopped.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. (Exodus 20:22)

This is not a theatre with scripts prewritten to hoodwink the children of Israel to believe in Moses. The entire operation is to demonstrate to the children of Israel that Jehovah God indeed talks to them from heaven and that they must observe the commandments that God has given them. The trumpet here accompanies the decreeing of these Ten Commandments and as such, it serves to announce the decree from heaven whereby fallen men are to be diligent to observe and keep these commandments for their own good! Once again, the author of Hebrews summarized well this entire episode where the children of Israel got to meet Jehovah God having been delivered from Egypt. It is unfortunate that what they had looked forward to was not something they had expected and they could not endure the divine presence of this thrice Holy God and the sound of the trumpet is among the physical manifestations that struck fear in them. Sadly, as we read the Scriptures, we find this fear of the Lord by the children of Israel did not last

very long. For the nation of Israel is characterized by rebellion and unbelief of the prophets Jehovah God sent to guide them in the ways of the Lord.

For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)
(Hebrews 12:18-21)

So the voice of words concerning the Ten Commandments that they heard accompanied by the sound of the trumpet delivered to them in this incredibly awesome fashion, the children of Israel could not endure to directly receive the words of the living God. A man is needed to approach this Almighty God to receive these words and pass on these words to them whether orally or in written form so that they might be able to endure what God has commanded them. It is so much safer for fallen men to receive the commandments of the Lord cast in stones that are inanimate in nature than to hear the words that proceed from the mouth of the Lord accompany by the trump of the trumpet from heaven. Let not the trumpet from heaven sound for who can indeed not fear and tremble with the royal and majestic arrival of the God of heaven! Such divine visitation proves to be too much for fallen men to bear! For the Scriptures said: ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*** (Psalm 47:5) So who would not fear when they hear the sound of a trumpet from heaven? Indeed, who can stand when God shouts? The power of the sound of this trumpet cannot be underestimated! No wonder the psalmist said: ***If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.*** (Psalms 130:3&4) But for a child of God having been washed in the blood of the Lamb, there is a sounding of a trumpet in the future that will usher him into the presence of the Lord with eternal bliss. Let us have our ears tuned and look forward to that blessed day of the Lord!

Whether or not the children of Israel have seen what a trumpet is like before the faithful encounter with Jehovah God at Mount Sinai, they are now specifically instructed to make two silver trumpets. It is most probable they know what a trumpet looks like especially having been in Egypt almost all their lives until now having been delivered from slavery to come into the land of Canaan. Their experience with the way of life of the Egyptians and their familiarity with the kind of festivities and celebrations in Egypt, musical instruments are certainly not uncommon to them. This is also true in the lives of the people even in many nations where musical instruments are part and parcel of their personal as well as national lives. At the very least, musical instruments such as the timbrels are mentioned together with dances in connection with the exuberant celebration of the children of Israel when they experienced their great deliverance at the parting of the Red Sea where their Egyptians pursuers were all drowned. So now they are told to make two trumpets according to Numbers 10:1&2: ***And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.***

It is interesting to note that Moses was told to make these two trumpets. But as to whether Moses made the two trumpets himself or he asked others to make these trumpets just like the rest of the instruments for the Tabernacle, the point here is not important as far as the purpose and the usage of these two trumpets are concerned. However, the kind of metal to be used for these two trumpets must definitely be that of silver and not any other metal such as gold, which is common for the vessels for the Tabernacle. The size and shape of these two trumpets are also not disclosed but they are definitely of reasonable dimensions for a man to carry and to blow at ease. The main purpose for the trumpets mentioned here is for Moses to use them to call the assembly together specifically for the journeying of the children of Israel. The trumpets serve to make an announcement and as a signal as to when and how the children of Israel are to move and march in their journey towards the Promised Land. However, Moses is not the chosen vessel to blow these two trumpets. He is to be vested with the authority on when and how the trumpets are to be blown to achieve the desired result on the movement of the children of Israel.

And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And if

they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee. (Numbers 10:3&4)

When the two trumpets are blown, certainly cannot be blown by Moses at the same time but by others appointed by him, the children of Israel are to assemble at the door of the tabernacle for whatever announcement that may come from Moses. With the blowing of only one trumpet, only the princes and the leaders of the children of Israel are to fall in to assemble themselves before Moses.

When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward. When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys. But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm. And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations. (Numbers 10:5-8)

Here are the clear and precise instructions with regards to the usage of these trumpets for the sounding of emergency alarms that the children of Israel are to be familiar with. They are to specifically respond according to the types of alarms sounded by the trumpets and movements of the camps are coordinated in such prearranged fashion to ensure that there be no confusion and chaos during such times of emergencies. We see the importance on the usage to these trumpets to regulate movement of which particular camp of the people to march forward in an orderly fashion and with military precision. The sounding of alarms and the normal sounding for gathering to receive announcement are to be distinguished. Only the priests, in particular, the sons of Aaron are the chosen vessels to blow these trumpets with these clearly predefined types of sounding. Besides ensuring the proper chain of command for dissemination of signals and messages from the leadership of the children of Israel coming from the center of the camp surrounded by the Levites, this is also to ensure that there be no sounding of false alarms by unauthorized individuals to cause chaos and confusion in the camp of the children of Israel: ***For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*** (1 Corinthians 14:8)

Coming to the use of these trumpets in times of conflict with other nations, sounding of such alarms will grant victory to the children of Israel according to the promise Jehovah God has promised them: ***And if ye go to***

war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies. (Numbers 10:9) Hence, the children of Israel must not be forgetful of the goodness of the Lord. They are to remember the Lord is their God who delivered them from Egyptian bondage and called them out to be people unto the Lord. They are to be a kingdom of priests and an holy nation unto the Lord. The sounding of the trumpets on Mount Sinai is a defining moment in the history of the people with the giving of the oracles of God initially given from heaven not cast in stones. Now the sounding of the trumpets by the children of Israel will be remembered before the Lord who will save them from their enemies. What great privileges are given to these people and now the trumpets are mere instruments in their hands and mouths to act in faith according to the great and precious promises of Jehovah God!

Moreover, these silver trumpets are also brought into use during times of gladness and festivities to be kept before Jehovah God. ***Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.*** (Numbers 10:10) Such clear commands are to be obeyed without any reservation and delay for God has promised to remember them in times of their needs and now they are also required to remember the Lord during their sacrifices of praise. They are expected to reciprocate in gratitude by blowing of the trumpets over their sacrifices when the Lord has been so good to them who promised to bless, protect and provide for them. Unfortunately, the children of Israel are a forgetful and an ungrateful people. Having been given a face to face meeting with Jehovah God on Mount Sinai which had been a frightening experience with the sounding of the trumpet from heaven, they promised to obey God through the words given via Moses but they soon rebelled and refused to march on into the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey! They fear the people there more than they fear God. So they have been condemned to wander in the wilderness for forty years to consume all those who rebelled against the commandments of the Lord.

Towards the end of the wilderness wandering of the children of Israel, they are once again reminded to sound the trumpets during the festivities of their sacrifices. ***And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of***

blowing the trumpets unto you. (Numbers 29:1) *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.* (Leviticus 23:24) Moses is again commanded to speak to the children of Israel regarding the sacrifices and the trumpets in connection with these festivities. This time, Moses is speaking to a new generation of the children of Israel.

And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. (Leviticus 25:1&2) Despite the constant rebellion of the children of Israel, God had been faithful and did not abandon them. Before the new generation of the children of Israel is to enter the Promised Land, the Lord once again instructed Moses to instruct the children of Israel to obey His laws. Coincidentally, the place where Moses has been called to instruct the children of Israel on the oracles of God is once again Mount Sinai. This is the same mountain nearly some forty years ago where the fathers of this new generation of the children of Israel had a personal meeting with Jehovah God. It is at this place where the original Ten Commandments were given orally from heaven with the sounding of the trumpets where their fathers heard the voices of the trumpets from heaven. This time though, there is no spectacular display of the awesome power of God on the mount and the joy of their deliverance from Egypt has almost all faded away and long forgotten after these dreadful wanderings in the wilderness for forty years. However, the faith of the people are to be revived with the giving of these commandments for the good that Jehovah God will do for these people now prepared to obey God and about to enter into Canaan land. Instructions on how to keep the law are again given and the blowing of the trumpets are once again mentioned.

And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. (Leviticus 25:8-10)

Here this second giving of the Law from Mount Sinai through the chosen vessel Moses, which their fathers had begged, the trumpet did not sound from Mount Sinai this time. The law is now cast in stones and no longer orally given from heaven. However, the trumpets are to be blown from below by the children of Israel in keeping the laws of Jehovah God during the festivities and celebrations. Moreover, when they were about to enter the Promised Land, the trumpets were employed during that war and the victory was won.

And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand. And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses; and they slew all the males. And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword. (Numbers 31:6-8)

So when the Lord gives specific instructions, they are to be observed and not to be spiritualized away to mean them to be something else. No one can trifle with the words of the living God and prosper in his soul! The proper usage of these two trumpets is to be observed and God is bound by His own words to do His part for His people when they act in faith and in obedience to His commandments. The importance of the usage of these trumpets on earth cannot be undermined as they serve as shadows and types of what really transpired in the spiritual realm in the heavens where the eyes of flesh of sinful men cannot see. While it is silent from heaven where the trumpet has not been sounded for a long time, one day in the future, the trumpet will once again be blown. Will you be ready for that glorious day of the calling away of the children of God?

Now the children of Israel have crossed Jordan into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. The silver trumpets are kept by the sons of Aaron only to be used as and when occasion requires. The first war to be fought on the western side of Jordan is surprisingly connected with the use of the trumpets. It is too amazing to be coincidental where the use of trumpets on earth does play a significant role in military warfare under the direction from heaven. No wonder trumpets are still widely used in so many military parades and funerals even in our day and age. Trumpets do symbolize certain things! The first war on the west of Jordan concerns Jericho, a no small city. This city has high walls and gates and is not easily penetrable without employing a large military force as well as incurring substantial casualty. However, under the direction of heaven, the strategy adopted is beyond comprehension of the fallen mind of men. No one in his right mind would agree to such a strategy. It is amazingly ridiculous in the eyes of established military planners and strategists that such a crazy idea could be conceived. Anyone proposing such an unthinkable plan to tackle Jericho would certainly be laughed to scorn and be demoted and discharged with dishonour from the military with immediate effect. But we are dealing with Almighty God whose ways are past finding out! Moreover, with God, all things are possible. Our limitation in accomplishing great things is due to our lack of faith to believe the words of the living God. God has a penchant to confound the wise and the mighty according to Paul who wrote to the Corinthians: *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.* (1 Corinthians 1:27-29) It is precisely that no flesh should glory in the presence of Jehovah God that this unusual strategy is given with regards to the taking of this great city.

Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the

people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.
(Joshua 6:1-5)

So anyone without faith in God will be dumbfounded when military instructions of such nature are given. Perhaps, Joshua should negotiate with Jehovah God and offer an alternative strategy instead! But of course, Joshua is a man of faith in God who did not fail to stand with God some forty years back while his peers rebelled and perished in the wilderness. He is not about to allow this seemingly untenable plan of action to cause him to doubt God. For God has promised to use him to conquer the land promised to their fathers of yesteryear, which is about to become a reality soon. Most importantly, God has promised to give him this city, the king and the might men of valour and he believed God. He also takes it that the wall of Jericho will fall according to the words of the Lord if the people follow these specific instructions accordingly. However, it is important to note that the trumpets mentioned here are not the same the pair of silver trumpets mentioned previously. These trumpets here are made from rams' horn and these trumpets are seven altogether for the seven days of marching around the city. Now, the problem is how to "sell" this idea to his people! What will they think of him if he were to tell them to carry out such a ridiculous course of action to capture Jericho! But Joshua is not any ordinary General raised up during a coup to assume the leadership position of the nation. He is specifically appointed by Moses to lead the people into the Promised Land. Moreover, Joshua has already placed the stamp of his leadership authority at the miraculous crossing of river Jordan reminiscence of the crossing of the Red Sea under Moses during another time. So Joshua got to go to the people with these divine instructions of taking the city Jericho, albeit strange orders from above. This goes to show that the children of Israel will share no glory in this battle ordained from heaven.

And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the

ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. (Joshua 6:6-10)

So Joshua succeeded in communicating this plan to the children of Israel. Not one sound of murmuring was heard. Surprisingly, no one complains about this unusual strategy. No one mocks this amazing military order. Not one armed-chair critics is found! For the Lord has prepared the people, as this is a new generation that survived the wilderness journey and saw what Jehovah God did to their fathers. This is wonderful indeed just like the Psalmist said: ***Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.*** (Psalm 110:3) Joshua must be a happy man now and the children of Israel are ready to carry out this plan with him and trust in Jehovah God's words and blessings. Unlike the previous encounter some forty years back when the children of Israel turned their back on Jehovah God and Moses, the children of Israel now will stick with Joshua through thick and thin till their objectives are accomplished with the help of the Lord. One thing here must be observed though which is not easy to achieve is that they must keep quiet for the seven days until they are commanded to shout. Fallen men have this great propensity to open their mouths at the wrong time and for the wrong reason and here is also a test for them to keep their body under subjection so that victory will be theirs if they keep their mouths shut! So there is no such thing as easy victory without a fight but the fight against the old man which is the old unregenerate nature in man in the child of God often proves too formidable for him! Unless this child of God has his ear tuned to be constantly trying to hear the trumpet call from heaven, he can easily lose sight of the victory, which is within reach with the help of the Lord. So the priests are to be the chosen vessels to carry and blow these seven trumpets during this conflict and so likewise, the child of God being a member of the royal priesthood of Christ is supposed to trumpet the gospel message far and wide till the wall of the forces of darkness crumble and fall at the last trump. So the child of God should do well to keep his mouth shut not to blow his own trumpet but to blow the trumpet of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD

went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword. (Joshua 6:11-21)

The victory is unmistakable. This is active faith in action in obedience to the words of the Lord by the people of God! It is wrought of God and not by men though the children of Israel follow the instructions from above. So no flesh should glory in the presence of the Lord. Indeed how could the wall of this city fall without men trying to destroy it by brute force via physical means! How could the city be taken without firing a single shot! How much could be accomplished by marching around the city every day simply by the blowing of the seven trumpets of rams' horn! This might turn out to be musical entertainment for the people of Jericho instead! Some might have lost faith and given up after two or three days of marching when no results are forth coming. Their antics might have attracted many in Jericho who probably could even be laughing at them and mocking them! This would make it hard for them to keep their mouth shut when the people of Jericho continue to taunt and make fun of them. So when the walls of Jericho have finally fallen, the fallen mind suggests that resonance of the noise, which results from the trumpets and the shout of the people, has caused the wall of

Jericho to collapse. This is natural man's approach in vain trying to explain away this miracle wrought from heaven. But no one seems to be willing to repeat such a feat in any military warfare during any conflict simply by the use of trumpets and voices of men to take a city. This no doubt, is a miraculous act from heaven to tear down the walls of Jericho and fallen men have contributed absolutely nothing physically in bringing down these walls. The children of Israel were able to obey every word of the living God and managed to keep their mouth shut until they were told to shout that led to this great victory.

Here we see shouting and the trumpeting of the trumpets go together. So that day, the children of Israel shouted unto God with the voice of triumph like the Psalmist has urged: ***O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*** (Psalm 47:1) Indeed, they have endured seven days of marching and shutting of the mouth and it is now time to shout. So when they shouted, God answered their shout by going up among the people and destroyed the walls of Jericho: ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*** (Psalm 47:5) For God has been angry with the inhabitants of Canaan for a long time since He told Abraham about it some four hundred years ago (Genesis 15:13-16) and their iniquities are now full: ***Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?*** (Psalm 76:7) The walls of Jericho certainly cannot stand and they give way while the inhabitants are completely destroyed. Here the children of Israel shouted together with the last trump of the trumpets and the wall fell down as expected. The last trump in this case is a long blast with the ram's horn that brought down the wall and caused destruction to the wicked in Jericho. It is indeed strange to the fallen mind that God often uses strange ways to accomplish objectives that are seemingly unachievable in the eyes of men. There will come a day in which the strange act of God will bring in the Kingdom in the day of the Lord where the slaughter of the wicked on earth will make the slaughter in Jericho to look like a rehearsal of such minute scale that is not even worthy to be reported in the local newspaper: ***For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.*** (Isaiah 28:21) If you are not a child of God, do you not fear each time when you hear the trumpet sound? For it is written: ***God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*** (Psalm 7:11)

The trumpets ordained by God for the children of Israel are originally the pair of silver trumpets only to be used by the priests, in particular the sons of Aaron. These sons of Aaron are appointed to have complete care, custody and control over this pair of trumpets. They are to be blown only under instruction from Moses who is leading the children of Israel during their march towards the Promised Land as well as during their God appointed festivities when they offer sacrifices to Jehovah God. When Joshua leads the children to conquer Canaan, particularly during the battle of Jericho, the trumpets used are another series of trumpets seven altogether made of rams' horn. These trumpets are not the same pair of silver trumpets originally given to them and those blowing these seven trumpets of rams' horn however, are still the priests of the Levites. By the time the children of Israel settle down in their Promised Land, they are ruled by Judges raised up by Jehovah God to deliver them from oppression by their enemies. Notwithstanding, the children of Israel fell into apostasy from time to time and they came under bondage by those whom they were supposed to destroy but they disobeyed the commandments of the Lord and allowed them to become a snarl unto them. Their national decline and revival under the Judges are almost cyclical in nature and quite predictable whenever the Judge raised up by God has passed from the scene. The first mention of the trumpet used during the period of the Judges happens when the children of Israel are under oppression by the Moabites, Ammonites and Amalekites.

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab. But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh. And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was a very fat man. And when he had made an end to offer the present, he sent away the people that bare the present. But he himself turned again from the quarries that were by Gilgal, and said, I have a secret errand unto thee, O king: who said, Keep silence. And all that stood by him went out from him. And Ehud came unto him; and he was sitting in a summer parlour, which he had for himself alone. And

Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat. And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out. (Judges 3:12-22)

So the Lord raised up Eglon, a Benjamite, who assassinated this king of Moab under the guise of bringing him a present and then he fled to return with an army to rout the enemies of the children of Israel.

And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them. And he said unto them, Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over. And they slew of Moab at that time about ten thousand men, all lusty, and all men of valour; and there escaped not a man. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years. (Judges 3:27-30)

The means by which Ehud gathers an army unto him is by the use of a trumpet. No grand plan or clear military strategy has been drawn up before hand. What he did was spontaneous under the direct guidance of Jehovah God. He did not send letters to urge the people to participate in this battle to fight the Moabites. Instead, a trumpet would be the most convenient instrument to convey alarms and draw the attention of the people in the fastest manner possible during that time. Hence, the power of a trumpet is never to be underestimated in time of emergencies and war. The sounding of this trumpet is on a mountain but not on Mount Sinai though. When the people have been gathered together, just like the days of old under Moses, announcement is made and orders issued. So the children of Israel are quite familiar with the trumpet call to assembly. Here is another occasion where there is a ready people to obey the Lord under the leadership of a Judge raised up by Jehovah God to rule over them. Victory is granted when they act in faith and in obedience to the Judge raised up by Jehovah God. Now it is interesting to note that this trumpet here is not one of the pair of silver trumpets made a long time ago or one of the seven trumpets of rams' horn used during the time of Joshua during the battle of Jericho. There is no mystical power connected with any instrument per se and this puts away all superstitious believes in any vessels used by God in the past for results but

simply relying on Jehovah God by faith alone. Moreover, the use of this trumpet is no longer under the hand of a priest of Jehovah God and one wonders what has happened to the priests and Levites who are supposed to lead the people in the true worship of Jehovah God and in the battle against the enemies of God. It is sad that the children of Israel fall into apostasy ever so often and the priests and the Levites are no longer of any use to them to carry out their God ordained function to lead them in true worship. It appears that the use of the trumpet has been liberalized and centralized control is no longer the case. Notwithstanding, there is no confusion during the call to rise up to battle during this time of need and the gracious God of the children of Israel grants deliverance to them.

However, the use of trumpets during another war is of interest to note where this time, the sounding of the trumpets is not just to call the children of Israel to attention to get ready to battle but to see the salvation of the Lord in obedience to the instructions given to them in the use of the trumpets. So when the children of Israel sinned against Jehovah God, they were delivered to the Midianites to be under cruel bondage for seven years in which they were completely overwhelmed by the swarm of these enemies. The children of Israel were of no strength to resist and they went into hiding instead. ***And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.*** (Judges 6:1&2) How sad and tragic when Jehovah God promised to give them this land flowing with milk and honey but they rebelled against God and now the land was occupied by the enemies of Jehovah God. Nevertheless, Jehovah God still graciously calls a man to save His people from bondage.

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the

hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. (Judges 6:11-17)

So God called a nervous man hiding from his enemies to deliver the children of Israel from these formidable enemies. It is amazing to see God's point of view and His choice of vessel to use to glorify His holy name. Once again, Jehovah God is using the weak things of this world to confound the things which are mighty so that no flesh should glory in the presence of the Lord. Here the weak and frightened man Gideon is called not just a man of valour but a mighty man of valour. It must be amusing to Gideon to acknowledge such misplaced flattery during such perilous and appalling times under siege by the enemies. How could he expect a divine visitation from this rare visitor to confer such a title of enormous prestige during such times of uncertainties! It is unbelievable indeed for Gideon to agree with this visitor to take up this gigantic task to oppose the great armies of the Midianites that devour anything that stand in their path. Unlike Joshua who believed God without hesitation, Gideon takes a different approach. Having received this calling as a mighty man of valour to deliver the children of Israel from the Midianites, he begins to put the words of the Lord to the test. Like any good Israelite, he asked for a sign; ***For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*** (1 Corinthians 1:22) not once, but three times!

And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. And the LORD

said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. (Judges 6:19-23)

The first sign concerns the acceptance of his sacrifice by miraculous means just like the days of old where fire from heaven consumed the sacrifice when the children of Israel offered them! So after this initial proof that Jehovah God has called him, he takes the first step of faith by destroying the altar of Baal and builds an altar to the Lord to offer sacrifice on this altar in obedience to the commandment of the Lord (Judges 6:25-27). Of course, this act of desecrating the altar of Baal incurred the wrath of the Midianites who brought a huge army to exact vengeance and to show the children of Israel who is really lord over them. It is the event leading to this point that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and a trumpet is blown by him. ***But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.*** (Judges 6:34&35) Once again, a trumpet is put into use to call for an army to fight the Lord's battle. But then this mighty man of valour still has doubts and reservation as to whether the Lord will deliver the enemies into his hands and he seeks for more signs from God. This time he requests for the fleece to be wet where he placed it while the ground be dry and the Lord answered his request accordingly. Not satisfied with the confirmation of this initial sign he received, he reversed the request by asking for the fleece to be dry while the surrounding ground be wet instead and the Lord again answered him accordingly. Instead of rebuking Gideon who is supposed to be a mighty man of valour, God is honoured by this saint who proves Him by asking for signs to authenticate his calling. In fact Jehovah God always welcomes the children of Israel to prove Him by asking for signs from Him: ***Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.*** (Isaiah 7:11) Unfortunately, backslidden Israel would not ask God for a sign and God Himself gave them a sign that blew the minds of all reasonable sane men throughout the history of men: ***But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*** (Isaiah 7:12-14)

So now Gideon has a sizeable force of 32,000 men but now it is Jehovah God who will prove these men and the reason being: ***And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.*** (Judges 7:2) Here once again, Jehovah God will not share His glory with anyone and no flesh shall glory in His presence like He has made clear in Isaiah 42:8: ***I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*** Therefore, there is absolutely no place for self-aggrandizement in any way, form or shape before this thrice Holy God. So after two rounds of test, the number in Gideon's army is left with a mere three hundred men. However, Gideon is not complaining as he had already proven the Lord three times and it is only fair and reasonable that the Lord performs His own acceptance test for these recruits for this upcoming battle. ***And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place. So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.*** (Judges 7:7&8) Here is a demonstration that God is not interested in numbers and those who stand with God are always with the majority.

Though Gideon is not murmuring or unhappy with his small army left with him, being a man in the flesh, his reservation and skepticism are understandable. However, Jehovah God graciously granted him another sign which he did not ask this time to confirm to him that the victory would be sure: ***But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.*** (Judges 7:10&11) Having received the confirmation from the Lord through the enemies, the first thing that Gideon did was to worship God. How grateful he must be that the Lord strengthens this mighty man of valour for the decisive battle to come in a couple of hours' time. ***And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.*** (Judges 7:15) There will be no stopping him to take action now when his faith is strengthened and his valour made sure. ***And he divided the three***

hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. (Judges 7:16-18)

The strategy of using these trumpets differs greatly from the one adopted by Joshua many years ago at the battle of Jericho. There is no marching around their enemies in circles in broad daylight. There are no walls to be blown down by the trumpets. There are no priests present to blow these trumpets. The total number of trumpets used in this battle is three hundred and one trumpets altogether not two or seven. They come to their enemies like thieves in the night. They are to synchronize the blowing of these trumpets in unison and the last trump is the shout of “The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.” This is another amazing strategy that defies any military planners. There is no plan B incorporated in this strategy just in case the first plan fails to work. Apparently, Gideon takes the initiatives to lead these three hundred men into battle after receiving intelligence confirmation that their enemies would be given to them. In addition, there is no mention that the Lord told him to simply blow the trumpet and break the pitcher and stand still to watch a war movie enacted live before his eyes and those with him! Gideon having a penchant to prove the Lord with signs and eventually given a sign he did not ask for is now going to prove the Lord once again by letting the Lord do all fighting for him and his men. Such is the faith of this mighty man of valour fighting under the banner of the Man of War whose valour is beyond questioned and human description: ***The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.*** (Exodus 15:3) Hence, Gideon is just going to stand still to see the salvation of the Lord.

So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword

against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Beth-shittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.
(Judges 7:19-22)

What horror it must be for the enemies of the children of Israel to be set upon in the middle of the night with the loud blast of the trumpets as well as the lights that shine through the broken pitchers held in the hands of Gideon and his three hundred men! Trumpet sounds and piercing lights in the middle of the night are terrifying omens for these idol worshippers. No doubt, the Midianites are pregnant with fear when such extraordinary sounds and lights pierced the night during their sleep. These men's trumpets certainly did not give an uncertain sound: ***For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*** (1 Corinthians 14:8) The sounds of these trumpets are sounds of calls to the battle and not part of an orchestral performance to entertain the Midianites! They certainly come like thieves in the night when the trumpets sounded with the breaking of the earthen pitchers hiding the light that is now shining through brightly to confuse and confound the enemies of God. The first trump breaks the earthen pitchers for the light to shine through while the last trump culminating with the shouting of "The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon" causes all hell to break loose in the camps of the Midianites. The sounding of all these trumpets are remarkable indeed and the enemies of the children of Israel are completely routed and fled as fast as their feet could carry them during the night leaving behind many dead. No doubt this is a great victory the Lord wrought for the children of Israel who did almost nothing but to stand still and watch the salvation of the Lord. Such divine outpouring of God's wrath upon the children of Israel has happened before and Jehovah God delights in avenging the enemies on the behalf of the children of Israel just like the days of old under Moses: ***And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.*** (Exodus 14:13) In fact, many times the people of God should stand still and not fear but see the salvation that God will grant to them if they have been obedient to the Lord. For the Lord God has indeed exhorted: ***Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*** (Psalm 46:10) Here the trumpets are left in the hands of the ordinary people of Israel and the priests who are initially chosen to be the trumpeters are no longer the case during such a time. We are seeing a proliferation of the usage of the trumpets here, which originally is kept under the care of the priests. The sounding of the

trumpets by this army of Gideon points to a future day where the trumpet shall sound and the Lord will come like a thief in the night where the earthen vessels of the children of God will be broken to reveal the true light, the light of life, residing in them to the utter shame and destruction of the enemies of God. What a blessed day for Israel and a dreadful day for their enemies when the trumpets sound again from heaven in the day of the Lord!

So with the predictable pattern of apostasy that characterizes the nation of Israel, the original intent and purpose of the usage for the pair of silver trumpets kept by the priests has more or less been put on the back burner. In fact, the use of these trumpets is seldom mentioned at all for the glorious purpose in connection with the worship of Jehovah God in all their God ordained festivities and celebrations. Even for the purpose of warfare in which the priests are supposed to be involved as trumpeters to invoke divine blessings and assistance, it has also been rarely recorded in the Scriptures (Numbers 10:9) except for many times when they are oppressed by their enemies because of their rebellion against God. Such is the sad history of the nation chosen of Jehovah God to be a kingdom of priests and an holy nation to be a light to the Gentiles. As such, there are more incidents of the trumpets being used by the ordinary people among the children of Israel during times of war, which are not necessarily endowed with blessings from above. Moreover, some of these wars where the trumpets are used are the results of their disobedience to the words of Jehovah God in which the children of Israel are killing each other during civil wars. As a result, the glorious trumpet call that the children of Israel are supposed to hear during their God ordained feasts and their God directed wars to achieve victory are now mostly trumpet calls that will strike fear in their hearts during times of war.

During the times of the kings of Israel, Saul is recorded to be the first to blow a trumpet during a war between Israel and the Philistines as mentioned in 1 Samuel 13:3: *And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.* This first trumpet call is to gather the children of Israel to prepare for war against the Philistines and the message conveyed here contained some discrepancy in the reporting: *And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.* (1 Samuel 13:4) It was actually Jonathan who smote the Philistines but credit was given to his father Saul. From the Scripture records, Saul was not really a man of valour but he was a double-minded man who was unstable in all his ways. He was also a man who was quick to be envious of others' success and his persecution of David showed the tenacity of his flawed character in avenging his own honour without any basis at all. Here this overconfident man issued the trumpet call for the people to gather unto him but instead of

having faith in God's deliverance of their enemies into his hands, king Saul and his men went into hiding.

And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. (1 Samuel 13:5-7)

Did not king Saul read about the exhortation in the law of Moses in particular, Numbers 10:9? ***And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies. (Numbers 10:9)*** He has been too busy preparing for the physical expansion of his kingdom than to prepare his heart to serve Jehovah God as warned by Samuel: ***Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king. (1 Samuel 12:24&25)*** Had he relied on Jehovah God, the response by him and his men would be markedly different. Here is a man seriously lack of faith in Jehovah God and patience to wait upon the Lord and God's prophet Samuel. Moreover, he violated the law by intruding into the office that is not meant for him. ***And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. (1 Samuel 13:8&9)***

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee. (1 Samuel 13:13&14) When confronted by Samuel, Saul's response was one of self-justification and blame shifting. Because of

this incident, Saul failed his probation to continue as king of the children of Israel. How tragic to hear the trumpet call from the first king of the children of Israel that turns out to be a disaster!

The second occasion of the recorded use of a trumpet is found in 2 Samuel 2:28: ***So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more.*** This incident is not something the children of Israel should be proud of, as the battle here is brethren pitting against brethren and killing one another during a civil war. The reason for this battle is the result of a loose tongue when two groups of men met together.

And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise. (2 Samuel 2:13&14) In an unnecessary show of bravado, a general suggested that their men “play before them” as a form of entertainment! The game consists of mutual suicide just to demonstrate how brave and tough these people are which are rather silly to say the least: ***Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is in Gibeon.*** (2 Samuel 2:15&16) How barbaric, sickening and perverse are these people who are hell bent to do what is right in their own eyes! How irresponsible is this general, a captain of his own people, who will frivolously sacrifice the lives of his fellow men just to get a kick out of satisfying his own puffed up ego! Indeed how true is the saying of Solomon: ***Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.*** (Ecclesiastes 9:18) The battle that follows caused the death of the brother of Joab and hundreds of the lives of the Israelites. The battle could have raged on into the night had not this irresponsible general Abner appealed for a truce: ***Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?*** (2 Samuel 2:26) Had he treated his men and those of Joab as brethren, he should have been more circumspect in what he said earlier and the bad blood that is now brewing between him and Joab which eventually resulting in him being murdered by Joab in cold blood! So here

the trumpet call is a call to cease from pursuing their own brethren and retire from battle! Again, how tragic and sad to hear this trumpet call that is connected with this needless loss of lives! How sad to hear the sole trumpet playing “Taps” in a cemetery during a military funeral for the fallen soldiers! Doubtless, sadness fills the air for those present. This is a far cry from the trumpet that shall sound for the resurrection of the children of God! The glorious usage of the trumpets for the children of Israel has long been forgotten. The misuse of the trumpets is now the norm for a nation having abandoned Jehovah God!

Thankfully, when a man after God’s own heart becomes king, the proper use of the trumpet to praise and glorify God is recorded for the encouragement of the saints. ***So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.*** (2 Samuel 6:15) This time the trumpet call is joyous whereby king David is bringing the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem to be placed in a tabernacle prepared by him. ***And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.*** (2 Samuel 6:16-19) This is the right use of the trumpet that the children of Israel should expect and should delight in and the trumpeter is none other than their own king David. This is the sounding of the trumpet that glorifies Jehovah God with sacrifices of praises in which the Lord is most worthy to receive! What a blessed day it must be and the sweet sound of this trumpet surely brings much joy and gladness to the people when the right king is on the throne judging righteously. In fact, this is not the first occasion whereby king David blew the trumpet to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. However, this time the sounding of the trumpet puts an end to the reproach for his first failed attempt in bringing the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem when the Lord killed Uzza who put forth his hand to hold the Ark when the oxen that carried the ark stumbled.

This first blowing of the trumpets to bring the Ark to Jerusalem is recorded in 1 Chronicles 13:8: ***And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.*** The loud and joyous sounding of these trumpets becomes mute when Uzza died! All the celebration stopped abruptly. This is not something that king David and his people expected. The reason is due to David and the children of Israel not following God's prescribed commandments in bringing up the Ark of the Lord.

And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever. And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it. (1 Chronicles 15:1-3)

The motive and preparation to bring up the Ark to Jerusalem is done right this time. God is a God of order and He expects orderliness in His service and worship. No one should approach the Holy things of God unless he has been specifically called to do so.

And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. (1 Chronicles 15:11-14)

So David lays the blame squarely on the priests and the Levites for the initial failed attempt and the death of Uzza for not sanctifying themselves for the task of carrying the Ark of the Lord according to the Law of Moses. This certainly does not speak well of Israel and the Levitical priesthood. The people has rebelled against Jehovah God so often that the Levites and the priests have become unimportant in their national life and as such, these priestly tribes have also become indifferent to the holy things of God. The blowing of the many trumpets during the first attempt to bring up the Ark

are definitely not the pair of silver trumpets for there is no mention of the priests involved during that time.

And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obed-edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark. So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obed-edom with joy. And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams. And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen. Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps. (1 Chronicles 15:24-28)

During the second attempt, the sounding of the trumpet is carried out by king David but this time the priests are also involved in trumpeting their trumpets. King David leads in the sounding of the trumpet and perhaps the silver trumpets are being used by the priests who follow that glorious possession in bringing up the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem. According to 2 Samuel 6:15, the blowing of the trumpet by king David is accompanied with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. This shouting and the sound of the trumpet always go together when the trumpet sound comes with blessing and approval from above. So the people clap and shout unto God with the voice of triumph according to the psalmist mentioned in Psalm 47:1: ***O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*** The resounding approval from heaven is evident that the Lord God is gone up among His people during the possession of bringing up of the Ark to Jerusalem: ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*** (Psalm 47:5) Here king David himself is leading the children of Israel in true worship: ***With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.*** (Psalm 98:6) Hence, we find king David is now sounding the trumpet with regards to the worship of Jehovah God unlike those other records where the use of the trumpets have to do with wars and deliverance from their enemies.

This is a good beginning indeed after so long a time when the proper worship of Jehovah God has largely been ignored. With the installation of the Ark of the Lord in the midst of the tabernacle in Jerusalem, king David instituted the worship of Jehovah God with musical instruments. ***Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.*** (Psalm 150:3)

So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obed-edom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals; Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God. (1 Chronicles 16:1-6)

During the bringing up of the Ark of the Lord, the two priests Benaiah and Jahaziel are mentioned to be the trumpeters. Could they be sounding the pair of silver trumpets of old past down since the time of Moses, one could only speculate! This might very well be the case though. Here is the turning point in the history of the nation of Israel with regards to the worship of Jehovah God. No doubt, king David is instrumental in reviving the proper worship of Jehovah God with musical instruments and appointments are given out to individuals responsible to carry out their respective function in the worship of Jehovah God on a daily basis.

So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required: And Obed-edom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obed-edom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to be porters: And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that was at Gibeon, To offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel; And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and

the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever; And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun were porters. (1 Chronicles 16:37-42)

Here the trumpeters chosen to sound the trumpets are named and again two persons are mentioned by name Heman and Jeduthun. This shows the trumpets are to be sounded in pairs as far as the priests in carrying out their God ordained roles are concerned. The original priests during the time of Moses very probably handed down the silver trumpets from generation to generation in their priestly line who are originally given the care, custody and control of the pair of silver trumpets. How glorious and blessed the children of Israel must be living under the reign of king David with the restoration of the priests to their proper place to lead in the worship of Jehovah God and intercede on the behalf of the children of Israel for their spiritual and national well being!

Unfortunately, the good and pleasant times where the brethren dwelling together in unity under the true worship of Jehovah God with the sounds of the trumpets and other musical instruments did not last very long, for king David fell into sin concerning Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite. The daily sounding of the trumpets by the priests before the ark of the Lord is now obscured by another foreign sounding of a trumpet that brought great upheaval to the nation of Israel. For Absalom, the son of David has rebelled against his father and has taken over Jerusalem while king David and his men have to flee for their lives. ***But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.*** (2 Samuel 15:10) This sharp trumpet call for battle that pierced the air in Israel that day sent shocked waves throughout the nation. The whole nation rebelled against king David and king David is sent into exile. Not satisfied with reigning over Israel from Jerusalem, Absalom pursues his father David to finish him off once and for all in order to confirm the kingdom in his hand. The trumpet call that sent him onto the throne in Jerusalem is replaced by another trumpet call that signifies his demise. ***Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him. And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from***

pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people. (2 Samuel 18:14-16) For during the battle with the men of king David, Absalom is killed in the battle despite David's plea not to harm his son. This last trump signals the end of the rebellion of Absalom but not the trouble that follows because of the sin of king David. How sad to hear the sounding of these trumpets that brought in destruction and death and the reproach of the nation of Israel before their enemies! Undoubtedly, this is a tragic event that brought shame and sorrow to the nation of Israel. This must be one of the saddest trumpet sounds for king David and his people. The glorious sounding of the trumpet calls that brought the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem in times past is now history and is overlapped by such ignominious history of the nation during this revolt as a result of a moment of indiscretion, intemperance and folly of king David.

More trumpets sounding are to follow. This time, a trumpet is blown by a man to create mischief and instigate another rebellion when king David returns to Jerusalem to take over what remains of his kingdom.

And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel. (2 Samuel 20:1) Here is another sounding of a trumpet not for a godly purpose or a call for the people to come and worship Jehovah God with sincerity and thanksgivings. Naturally, another trumpet call is required to overturn this trumpet call and oppose this evil design of the first trumpet call. This second rebellion is swiftly brought to an end where another trumpet call signals an end to this conflict. ***Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.*** (2 Samuel 20:22) How sad when the joyful God ordained sounding of the trumpets are replaced with those frightening calls of the trumpet to assemble for battle without blessings from above! This is the sorry state of fallen men incapable of obeying the words of the Lord. Notwithstanding, king David left behind a legacy for his descendants to follow after his example of unwavering faith and devotion to worship Jehovah God. Before king David died, he made preparation for the building of the Temple where his son Solomon who sat on the throne after him built this first Temple for Jehovah God in Jerusalem. Once again, a trumpet is sounded for the anointing of Solomon to sit on David's throne.

And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah. And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David. So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them. And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar? And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings. And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king. (1 Kings 1:32-43)

This sounding of the trumpet by order of king David puts an end to another rebellion that is brewing that will take place once king David has passed away. The clear sounding of the trumpet removes the uncertainties that have plagued the kingdom as to who shall reign after king David. This trumpet ushers in a new king and brings joy to the kingdom for the people of God but the same trumpet calls strike fear in the hearts of the enemies waiting in the wing to launch a coup to take the kingdom illegally by force and conspiracy. How powerful is the use of a trumpet to deliver a call for the people of God to rise up and to rejoice in the coming of their king and how fearful it will be when the wicked always plotting to overthrow Jehovah God's appointed servant for the office to tremble and fade away in shame and dismay! One day, God the Father will order the sounding of a trumpet

from heaven to enthrone His Son on earth where the people of God will rejoice upon hearing this trumpet call and the wicked on earth will be ashamed. The legacy of king David's faith and faithful services for Jehovah God are passed on to Solomon who built a Temple for Jehovah God. All the Tabernacles services and the appointments of the priests and the Levites are now transferred to the services administered in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood. (2 Chronicles 5:12-14; 7:1&2&6)

During the dedication of the Temple, the trumpeters are once again employed and further magnified. This time, there are one hundred and twenty priests sounding their trumpets and this glorious and joyous occasion once again invited Jehovah God to be glorified in the midst of the people during these trumpets' calls. Since the time of king David and now under king Solomon, the use of musical instruments in the worship of Jehovah God has become institutionalized. ***Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.*** (Psalm 81:3) The regular trumpets calls to hearken unto God's servants and His king are part and parcel of the national life of the children of Israel. The proper use of the trumpets with blessings from above is restored and only to be discontinued

whenever the nation disobeyed Jehovah God and worship of false gods of other nations. From time to time when the children of Israel fall into apostasy, strange trumpet calls eclipse the holy trumpets calls in the worship of Jehovah God. However, when the children of Israel rely on Jehovah God during times of battle, the sounding of the trumpets grants strength and faith to those who follow God in the face of the enemies of God.

Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods. But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business: And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him. And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper. (2 Chronicles 13:9-12)

During this battle between Abijah of the Southern Kingdom and Jeroboam of the Northern Kingdom, Jehovah God grants victory to king Abijah and his people who rely solely on the Lord. The charges of Abijah against Jeroboam are true. Abijah claims according to the Law of Moses that God himself is with them for their captain, and His priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against them. So Abijah puts his faith in God and goes to battle against his enemies under the direction of heaven with the proper use of trumpets in times of war. The children of Israel of the Northern Kingdom would not listen and went ahead to ambush the army of the Southern Kingdom.

But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them. And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and

Judah. And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand. (2 Chronicles 13:13-16)

Without fail, what the psalmist has written is fulfilled: ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*** (Psalm 47:5) The defeat of Jeroboam and his army in this battle is swift and the destruction and death are unimaginable: ***And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.*** (2 Chronicles 13:17) No weapon of mass destruction such as that of a nuclear device has been invented yet but the slaughter in this battle caused the lives of half a million people! The trumpets as ordained of God to be used in battle turn out to be more dangerous than any weapon of mass destruction that could be invented by fallen men. It is incredible and frightening indeed! Never underestimate the power of the trumpets used under God's ordained means during times of war! The faith of king Abijah has a great impact on his son Asa who sits on his throne after him. Following his father, he has to engage a very huge enemy as well. The strength of this enemy is a million men! But what are a million men when he has Jehovah God with him and fighting for him!

And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour. And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. (2 Chronicles 14:8-12)

So there is no mention of any use of the trumpets here in this sweet victory granted to king Asa and his men. It will not however, be surprising if the trumpets have been used during this battle just like all other battles where Jehovah God avenges the enemies on the behalf of the children of Israel. Upon returning with this great victory, God sent a prophet to further encourage and strengthen this righteous king.

And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity. (2 Chronicles 15:1-6)

This is the sad state of affair when the children of Israel turn their back to Jehovah God. The priests have abandoned their post and surrendered their role. Worship of Jehovah God has either become a form or nonexistence altogether. But this prophet exhorts king Asa to follow after Jehovah God.

Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded. And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD. And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. And they sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about. (2 Chronicles 15:7-15)

Here is a revival in the land back to those glorious days of old under king David and king Solomon. The shouting with the trumpets is spontaneous after the return with the great victory God has given them when this prophet exhorts them to follow after the Lord. Temple worship is again instituted and musical instruments including trumpets are used to praise Jehovah God. So the people praise the Lord that day as commanded by the psalmist: ***With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.*** (Psalm 98:6) One wonders how long has it been that the trumpets stay silent in the Temple and only now start to sound forth again the joyful sound of God's goodness, mercy and grace towards His people! Having seen great victory granted them through the God ordained use of the trumpets in times of war, it should not be unreasonable to use the trumpets to praise the Lord during times of peace and prosperity.

Predictably, the children of Israel fall into apostasy again. The same scenario is revisited and this time, it happens during the reign of another godly king, Jehoshaphat.

It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from

them, and destroyed them not; Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. (2 Chronicle 20:1-13)

Here again, Jerusalem is in great danger and the children of Israel under king Jehoshaphat acknowledge their weakness and pledge their reliance on Jehovah God. The king is holding God to His promises to the children of Israel and he expects God to come to their defence. While they are waiting for an answer from Jehovah God, the answer of peace comes according to God's promise to their fathers when they stand before the Temple to pray unto Him.

Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. (2 Chronicle 20:14-19)

The promise of standing still to see the salvation of the Lord is still as valid as it was in the days of Moses, Joshua and Gideon. For this is the Lord's battle and God will be exalted among the heathen so the children of Israel just have to be still before God and believe in the words of the Lord. What sweet words of comfort to the troubled souls of the children of Israel who are now fully relying on Jehovah God for mercy, protection and deliverance!

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day. Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD. And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel. (2 Chronicle 20:20-29)

No weapon is more powerful than praising the Lord and waiting upon Him. The Lord has a penchant of listening to the trumpet call from the children of Israel requesting for help from Him. After all, it is God who told the children to supplicate in this manner since He gave the order to their fathers in Numbers 10:9: *And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.* God certainly has to keep His promise to the children of Israel. God likes to go up among them and fights the battle for them. All they have to do is to stand still like those days of old and see the

salvation from the Lord. Here the children of Israel returns to Jerusalem rejoicing with music and sounding of trumpets. What a happy and glorious day it must be when the sounding of the trumpets is carried out according to the order of the Lord! But then again such happy time would not last for long. After the demise of king Jehoshaphat, his sons after him turn their back to Jehovah God again and almost have the royal bloodline from which the Messiah of Israel would come completely cut off from the face of the earth. The wicked queen Athaliah has taken over the throne and has killed all the king's children except one providentially preserved from such a time like this. When this divinely preserved son of the king is old enough to be revealed, the trumpets sounded once again in the Temple to crown this young king to take over the throne from Athaliah, which is rightfully his to begin with.

And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him. And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David. This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you entering on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be porters of the doors; And a third part shall be at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD. But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they are holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever else cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out. So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go out on the sabbath: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses. Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in the house of God. And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along

by the altar and the temple, by the king round about. Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king. Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the LORD: And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason. (2 Chronicles 23:1-13)

The sounding of the trumpets signals the return of the king to take his throne from this wicked woman when Athaliah is killed. *And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.* (2 Kings 11:14) One can imagine the fear in the eyes of this wicked woman when she saw the king arrayed in full majesty in the company of the princes with the trumpeters sounding out her death sentence. How can the land not rejoice when her king returns and the wicked are forever banished! This points to a future complete destruction of Babylon, the great whore in the book of Revelation, in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth. What a wonderful day it would be when that trumpet finally sounds the end of wickedness and the beginning of the reign of righteousness on earth!

Even when Jehovah God anoints a king from the Northern Kingdom to utterly destroy the seeds of the wicked king Ahab and his wife Jezebel, the trumpet also sounded with the installation of this king. *Then they hastened, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.* (2 Kings 9:13) The sounding of the trumpet is so symbolic in the coronation that no king can come to the throne without the majestic sounding of the trumpets to usher in his reign. The last mention of the trumpets during the kingdoms of Israel is connected with Temple worship under the reign of king Hezekiah. Jehovah God has graciously granted them a revival during his reign after several evil kings hijacked the throne from time to time that brought great destruction and despair to the nation of Israel. By this time, the Northern Kingdom is on

the verge to be completely destroyed because of her sins of idolatry and rebellion against Jehovah God.

Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD. And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on the altar of the LORD. So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar. And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them: And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel. And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped. Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. (2 Chronicles 29:20-30)

Here is the last time the trumpets are recorded to have been used during Temple worship of Jehovah God before the children of Israel are completely sent into exile in Babylon. Notwithstanding, subsequently under the reign of king Josiah, the trumpets are very likely used when he observes the Passover when he sets in order those who are responsible to keep this feast: *And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the*

king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them. So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah. (2 Chronicles 35:15&16) So Hezekiah and his people follow what the psalmist commanded in Psalm 81:3: ***Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.*** What a glorious picture to see this orderly worship and the majestic sounding of the trumpet from the Temple in true worship of God! This is the original purpose for which the trumpets are to be used to sound out the glorious worship of Jehovah God to bring in joy and blessings to the people of Israel. But from time to time when the children of Israel depart from the true and living God, the foreign trumpets that sounded out strange tune brought much sufferings and destruction to the children of Israel. It is sad indeed that the trumpets ordained of God could not be constantly and consistently kept in the proper place for their authorized use for the glory of Jehovah God. However, the day will come when the King of kings will usher in His reign on earth with trumpets sounding from heaven to announce His royal arrival to the utter destruction of all His enemies who rebel against Him. The trumpet is indeed a terrifying instrument to the wicked but a blessed vessel to all those who wait upon the Lord and hope in His mercy and see His salvation! So all the people of God should praise the Lord: ***With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.*** (Psalm 98:6)

Having seen the trumpets in action during the periods of the kings of Israel, now is time to consider the trumpets as seen through the eyes of prophetic lens that many a time, speak of events that are way beyond the times of the prophets into the last days where Israel is the focus of Jehovah God's dealing waiting to be exalted as the head of nations on earth. The first blast of the trumpets from Isaiah speaks of such a time concerning Israel.

All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye. For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest. For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches. They shall be left together unto the fowls of the mountains, and to the beasts of the earth: and the fowls shall summer upon them, and all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them. In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion. (Isaiah 18:3-7)

This sounding of the trumpet is significant here. It is not meant solely for the population involved in the conflict in Israel, in particular, Mount Zion. This trumpet call is meant for all the inhabitants of the world and dwellers on earth. The sounding of the trumpets during the times of the kings of Israel concerning local battles has now taken a wider context involving the whole world. This trumpeter is an extraordinary trumpeter for when he blows the trumpet, all the inhabitants on earth are able and are supposed to hear this trumpet call for this particular event. The sounding of this trumpet has taken on a global scale unseen in the past while the most spectacular is the time when the children of Israel hear the trumpet calls from heaven on Mount Sinai regarding the receiving of the oracles of God. This event clearly speaks of judgment in prophetic language concerning those coming against Israel during the harvest in the last days where the enemies of Israel shall be destroyed. This is a time where God will come again to deliver the children of Israel and establish His reign on Mount Zion. This is also a time the Lord will take His rest in Zion and grant His people rest from their labour. This Lord of host is none other than the Lord Jesus

Christ, though not revealed to them at that time, and is still not recognized by the nation of Israel today.

The second sounding of the trumpet record, according to the prophet Isaiah, has Israel in focus again in the last days. But this time, the context has taken a new twist to address the spiritual realm where the arch foe of Jehovah God, the enemy that has been relentlessly trying to destroy the nation of Israel in order to thwart the coming of the Messiah from this nation is dealt with. ***In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.*** (Isaiah 27:1) This person mentioned here is the dragon, Satan, who will be directly and personally involved in attempt to exterminate the Jews during the time of Jacob's trouble. Notwithstanding this devilish onslaught, divine preservation is promised to the nation of Israel. ***He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.*** (Isaiah 27:6) The nation of Israel will prosper according to the decree from the Most High. Having gone through the baptism of Jacob's trouble in the days to come, Israel shall be saved as promised in the Scriptures. ***By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.*** (Isaiah 27:9) This is the time of refreshing the apostle Peter spoke of during his preaching to the children of Israel. ***Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*** (Acts 3:19-21) The magnitude concerning the physical upheaval during such a time leading to this event is reported by the prophet Isaiah: ***And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.*** (Isaiah 27:12) It is a time like this that the great trumpet will sound and this trumpet will announce the arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ to take possession of planet Earth and exalt Israel above all nations on earth. ***And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*** (Isaiah 27:13)

This is the first time an adjective is added to describe the trumpet in the Holy Bible. This is no ordinary trumpet to be blown by fallen man. It will be a trumpet to sound forth from heaven to usher in a time of unprecedented prosperity when the Son of God is reigning on earth from Jerusalem.

The Lord also spoke to prophet Isaiah to lift up his voice like a trumpet to show the children of Israel their sins. ***Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.*** (Isaiah 58:1&2) The watchman of the children of Israel is to warn the people and preach to them with a voice like a trumpet to sound an alarm against their sins to avert an impending judgment from Jehovah God. There is great power in the foolishness of preaching to turn the wicked back to the Lord just like the power in sounding of trumpets that causes great destruction and death in battles. Sound of voices and trumpets often go together to accomplish that which is decreed from heaven. The sins and hypocrisies of the people of God must not be tolerated and it must be exposed with voices from the desired effects derived from the power of the trumpets. Never underestimate the voice of man that has the effect of a trumpet especially when the Scriptures show the shout of the Lord in John 11:43 that brought Lazarus back to life: ***And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*** When Lazarus heard the voice of the trumpet call for his name, he responded and came forth. How marvelous the voice that God gives to men to accomplish that which is far beyond what they could ever imagine!

However, the sounding of the trumpets is to no avail when the people sin against God. Divine protection and deliverance will surely be absent. In fact, the children of Israel are challenged to sound the trumpet to prepare for war but they will be consumed. ***Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.*** (Jeremiah 4:5) The cities will be indefensible for it is God who will fight against the people of these cities: ***Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.*** (Jeremiah 4:6) All efforts will be futile and the sounding of the trumpet will be in vain. Jeremiah confirms this sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war that brought destruction upon his people because of their sins against

Jehovah God. *My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.* (Jeremiah 4:19&20) The sounding of the trumpet did not meet with swift deliverance from Jehovah God. This sounding of the trumpet by the children of Israel turns out to be for their destruction and sounding out their own doom. Jeremiah is lamenting and is pained to his very heart for the destruction of his people. He is pleading for the sound of this trumpet to be cut short and stopped. *How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.* (Jeremiah 4:21&22) This is definitely not the kind of sounding of the trumpet to praise Jehovah God or for God to fight the battle for the children of Israel that Jeremiah knows about. This is a sound of the trumpet that sounds against the very people that are supposed to be blessed and protected by divine appointment. Hence, when the children of Israel are hell bent in rebelling against God, the trumpets will turn out to work against them.

The evil that the prophet Jeremiah lives to see continues to cause him to lament and warn the children of Israel on the impending judgment. *O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.* (Jeremiah 6:1) The sounding of the trumpet here is to signal to the children of Benjamin to flee Jerusalem that is going to be utterly destroyed. There is no hope in the walled city in Jerusalem. The Temple in the midst of the city will be of no help for the Lord has abandoned the people. Jerusalem could not be spared as the people continue to rebel against Jehovah God. *To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.* (Jeremiah 6:10&13) Despite Jehovah God constantly pleading with the children of Israel to turn back to Him but they just would not hear. *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your*

souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (Jeremiah 6:16) Even when God sets up watchmen to warn them by sounding the trumpet, they still would not listen. *Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.* (Jeremiah 6:17) Hence, Jerusalem will be turned over to their enemies and the people will be sent into exile in Babylon. Evil is promised to come and it is from none other than Jehovah God himself. *Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.* (Jeremiah 6:19) Having rejected the trumpet God ordained for their use for their protection, the trumpet will now work against them to their own confusion and shame.

When Jerusalem has finally been sacked and the people carried away, the remnant that survives greatly fear the sound of the trumpet having personally experienced the devastation brought upon them from the sound of this trumpet. *Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell: And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there; Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die.* (Jeremiah 6:14-16) They wish to flee from war and reside in a peaceful place of safety. They do not wish to hear the sound of trumpet that ushers in war and destruction. Here they once again disobey Jehovah God when they are specifically told to remain in Israel but they will flee to Egypt to escape the war that ravaged the land in Israel. In spite of promise of divine protection for remaining in Israel, they have no more faith in God's promise of preservation. The promise they heard about according to Numbers 10:9 did not come true for them: *And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.* They do not want to hear the trumpet call anymore. This is the irrational response of those who have disobeyed God and yet expect God to keep His promise to preserve them.

So the children of Israel fail to see that Jehovah God is still in control of the sounding of the trumpet. This time, Jeremiah prophesizes of the sounding of a trumpet that will bring about complete destruction to Babylon.

And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD. Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain. And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD. Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers. Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion. And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant. (Jeremiah 51:24-29)

Here is payback time for the children of Babylon. The trumpet will sound against them this time. Jehovah God is keeping records and will recompense them accordingly. Ultimately the trumpet is still under the control from heaven to send judgment to those who most deserve it. The trumpets as seen by Jeremiah are not those that deal with worship of Jehovah God but the instrument of terror and judgment that could not be averted any longer because of the sins of the children of Israel. No one can escape from hearing the sound of the trumpet when his time is up and he is ripe for judgment.

The prophet Ezekiel also speaks of the sounding of the trumpet to prepare for battle but it will be in vain. ***They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.*** (Ezekiel 7:14) For Jehovah God will not listen to their trumpet calls anymore and will not respond to their plea for help. ***And I will give it into the hands of the strangers for a prey, and to the wicked of the earth for a spoil; and they shall pollute it. My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it. Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.*** (Ezekiel 7:21-23) Their crimes have certainly reached heaven and judgment must surely come. The promise of divine assistance according to Numbers 10:9 will not apply in this case. Instead, fear, trouble and destruction are promised to ensure that they know that this is the Lord's doing and it shall come to pass. ***Wherefore I will bring the***

worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled. Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients. The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ezekiel 7:24-27)

While Jehovah God on the one hand refuses to hear the trumpet calls from the apostate nation of Israel, He is still raising up His faithful servant to sound out the trumpet ordained from heaven to warn the children of Israel so that they might live and not be consumed.

Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (Ezekiel 33:1-6)

The watchman of the Lord is to sound of the trumpet to warn the people. He is supposed to do his job by sounding out the warning loud and clear. The hearers are to respond when the trumpet sounds. Those failing to take heed to the trumpet calls shall perish and the watchman is not responsible for his doom. The trumpet is a powerful instrument to warn fallen men to take heed to God's warning and not be consumed in the way. The watchman is responsible to warn the people on the behalf of Jehovah

God or blood will be required from him. Christians likewise are like watchmen who are supposed to sound out the warning to sinners by the foolishness of preaching with the powerful voice of a trumpet. Christians should emulate the apostle Paul's example and have the confidence to claim what he claimed: ***Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.*** (Acts 20:26) Let the gospel sound be trumpeted to the end of the earth so that sinners might be warned of the judgment to come!

Prophet Hosea also is called to be a watchman to sound the trumpet against the apostate Northern Kingdom of Israel. ***Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin.*** (Hosea 5:8) The denouncement from Jehovah God is unmistakable and judgment will surely follow.

Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor. And the revolters are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all. I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD. And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them. They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them. They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions. (Hosea 5:1-7)

The strong rebuke here is meant for the Northern Kingdom but Judah will not be spared from judgment either. The sounding of the trumpet signifies the demise of the Northern Kingdom, which is eventually conquered by the Assyrians and her people carried away. Hosea is told to set the trumpet in his mouth and continue to sound forth the warning to the children of Israel.

Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. Israel

hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him. They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off. (Hosea 8:1-4)

One can only imagine the deplorable state the nation in the Northern Kingdom has become. They have all turned out of the way and no redeemable quality is found in the nation and her people are set on doing evil and rebel against Jehovah God. ***I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing. They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt. For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.*** (Hosea 8:12-14) The charges against the nation raised by Jehovah God are very serious. For how can this nation that receives so much favour and blessing from above return evil for good! They have completely forgotten the Lord their God who brought out from Egypt and they are now condemned to return to bondage. One wonders how many will take heed to the warning from the trumpet that Hosea sounds out to turn them back to Jehovah God! This is indeed a thankless job and the trumpet from heaven certainly will work against the rebellious children of Israel.

Though Jehovah God has been sounding out trumpets of warnings and judgments to the rebellious nation of Israel, all is not doom and gloom. The Lord also raised up prophets to sound out other trumpets concerning events in the last days leading to the final exaltation of the nation of Israel. So in the midst of apostasy and appalling times for the remnant of the children of Israel, the prophet Joel is told to sound out this trumpet to prepare for the day of the Lord.

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame

burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. (Joel 2:1-3)

This trumpet call is to prepare them for the day of glory to come despite the temporal setback for the nation chosen of God but not living according to the Law given to them. This is a glimpse of the traumatic birth pangs of the rebirth of the nation during her conversion.

The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? (Joel 2:10-14)

Elements in nature will be altered during the day of the Lord. The rending of the natural elements calls for the rending of the hearts of the children of Israel to prepare for the coming of the Lord. This repentance is required for the whole nation has been travailing in pains of childbirth until such a time like this to bring forth the new nation to welcome back her King. Here the Lord their King will shout just like the psalmist has said in the days of old: ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*** (Psalm 47:5) The sounding of the trumpet will be heard in that day.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. (Joel 2:15-18)

So this trumpet once again functions like the glorious times of their forefathers to call the children of Israel into assembly. This is the proper and correct trumpet call the Lord delights to hear and His response will be quick and swift to come to the defence of His ancient people. This is a trumpet sounding forth repentance and faith waiting upon the Lord for deliverance from their enemies. In times past when king Abijah, king Asa and king Jehoshaphat leading the people in humble supplication before Jehovah God because of the oppression of the enemies and the impending onslaught by their enemies, this time the children of Israel are left without a king to lead them to supplicate before the Lord. Because they have rejected their rightful King Jesus, their Messiah, they are left without a King for many days. They are desperately imploring for their King to return to take the throne that has been left vacant since time immemorial. Surely when this people are ready to seek the Lord in that day, the Lord will answer their trumpet call and deliver them from their enemies.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. (Joel 2:31&32)

The calamitous events leading to this day of the Lord will be a remarkable day to be remembered. Even the terrestrial bodies will be moved during such a time in the midst of the convulsion of the birth of this nation in one day. The Lord will come back to Mount Zion as He has promised to set His name there and whosoever shall call upon His name shall be saved from that dreadful day. This is the time when the saint Enoch even prophesied of the coming of the Lord before the flood will be fulfilled in their very eyes. ***And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude 14&15)*** How marvelous is the future for the nation of Israel though during the times of their apostasy, Jehovah God still continues to graciously grant them a picture of their future exalted state! This is a trumpet call to prepare the children of Israel to receive their King who will come back to establish His reign on earth and all the families on earth shall be blessed.

While Israel has been on the receiving end of judgment by the sounding of the trumpets against them because of their sins and rebellion, the nations around them are likewise dealt with, with the sounding of the trumpet to seal their doom. Here is what the prophet Amos saw concerning the children of Moab.

Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime: But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet: And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD. (Amos 2:1-3)

The Lord has a penchant to punish sins of any people and the sound of such trumpets will signal their destruction. The Lord is still ultimately in control of the sounding of trumpets to bring forth His judgment unto the end of the earth. There is no misfire of the trumpet from above and the cry of war from the sounding of such trumpets will strike fear in the hearts of sinners who have sinned against the Most High. Here is what Amos preached to the rebellious children of Israel concerning the sounding of such trumpet of destruction and death.

Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it? (Amos 3:1&2&6)

The punishment of iniquities and the sounding of the trumpet are connected. When their iniquities are full, the trumpet will sound and who will not be afraid! The sounding of this kind of trumpet will usher in evil and take the wicked away from the earth. It is the Lord's doing and none can stop Him from His purpose. The trumpets as seen by the prophets of Jehovah God are often filled with terror; death and destruction are connected with the sounding of these trumpets. Events during the last days show the magnitude of the destruction of cities and people unknown to the children of Israel. It is fascinating and beyond comprehension of the fallen mind of man.

Prophet Zephaniah speaks of one such sounding of the trumpet concerning the day of the Lord.

The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. (Zephaniah 1:14-18)

Terrifying is the description of such a day of wrath, a day of trouble, distress, wasteness and desolation. This day is depicted with so much terror and the evil seems to be endless. Who would look forward to such a day! But this is a day decreed from heaven since the beginning of time that fallen men to be ruled under a perfect government will materialize. It is during a time like this that the trumpet will sound the alarm and all hell will break loose on the inhabitants on earth. It is precisely after such terrible calamities that the earth will be renewed and the time of refreshing will come as preached by the apostle Peter concerning the times of restitution of all things. Like it or not, this trumpet will sound according to the time table of God's prophetic calendar and no man can stop this prophetic clock from ticking towards the sounding of the trumpet. This sounding of the trumpet is also collaborated by the prophecies of prophet Zechariah.

And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the LORD GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids. (Zechariah 9:14-17)

Here the prophet describes the salvation of the children of Israel. It is the Lord himself who will blow the trumpet. The Lord will personally come to the defence of the children of Israel like the days of old: ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*** (Psalm 47:5) The sounding of this trumpet personally by the Lord will put an end of the day where all the enemies that come up against Israel and Jerusalem will be destroyed. This last trump will usher in the Kingdom where the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ will sit on the throne of his glory. This trumpet will sound forth the joy of all the earth where the Millennial Day will begin, of course, on schedule according to God's prophetic timetable. ***In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowl's before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.*** (Zechariah 14:20&21)

Having discussed the terror of the trumpets seen through the eyes of the prophets concerning the judgment of Israel resulting in the exile of the nation to Babylon as well as events concerning the last days regarding the final restoration of the nation of Israel to her exalted state, the trumpets mentioned during her temporal restoration back to their homeland are to be considered before moving on to the trumpets mention in the New Testament.

Though the children of Israel having been carried away to Babylon and resided there for seventy years, their distinct way of life is preserved and the hope of one day returning to their homeland in Israel is ever before them. Their dispersion due to their sins has not stopped them from longing for the day that they will go back to Israel and be restored to their former state where they can once again worship Jehovah God. This longing of going back to their own country is not simply an aspiration of nationalism but it is something that is built into their consciousness knowing that God has promised their forefathers to give them this land. The intensity of their deep-seated desire to go back to Israel is fully expressed just like what the psalmist has said: *How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.* (Psalm 137:4-6) So in the fullness of their punishment, it is time for the children of Israel to go back to their own homeland according to the Scriptures. *And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.* (2 Chronicles 36:20-23)

Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the

priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD. Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites. And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off. (Ezra 3:8-13)

So when the children of Israel having returned to Israel and have laid the foundation of the second temple of the Lord, trumpets are once again mentioned to be used during this dedication ceremony. After seventy years of exile, these people have not forgotten about their own distinct culture and their unique way of life. They are supposed to be a peculiar people, chosen by Jehovah God to be a kingdom of priests and an holy nation but they failed miserably. They are determined to make good this time after being given a second chance to have the temple built and worship of Jehovah God be restored in Jerusalem. So all the instruments pertaining to worship and the order by which they have been established of old since the time of David are now to be reenacted to praise and glorify Jehovah God. The trumpets being used of old are now being used again during the worship before the foundation of the second temple. In obedience to the order established in the past, the children of Israel are singing and praising Jehovah God. The younger generation shouted for joy while the elders of the past generation wept with a loud voice. There was mixed feelings during this dedication ceremony that day. This is understandable. The younger generation wishing to have a taste of the former glorious worship of Jehovah God has finally become a reality. Though in exile, it is something that they have heard about so much from their elders, they no doubt have been taught about their

glorious past and the victorious sounding of the trumpets in deliverance from their enemies as well as the majestic sounding of the trumpets during temple worship on their feast days. However, the elders having seen the first temple and tasted of their splendid time in worship certainly recall their sorrows and in addition, the present temple foundation is a far cry from their victorious past. Though there is sounding of trumpets with voices of shouting, God is not gone up with a shout to manifest Himself this time like those glorious days of old. Heaven is quietly observing the children of Israel in their worship and gauge their sincerity and zeal. Notwithstanding, during the rebuilding of the temple and the walls around Jerusalem, there are many obstacles laid in the way by the enemies of the Jews. Here again, a different use of the trumpet is required to thwart the evil designs of the enemies to discourage them and cause their restoration works to come to a complete standstill. Nehemiah is instrumental here in using this trumpet.

And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease. And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you. Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses. And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me. And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another. In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us. (Nehemiah 4:11-20)

The threat to disrupt the work of the children of Israel is very real including the lost of lives during such an evil time. The enemies this time do not seek an open confrontation but they secretly practice mischief. They are adopting a guerilla warfare whose strategy is to wear out the children of Israel. This 'hit and run' strategy can be very effective and damaging and the hearts of the children can very quickly melt away and abandon this most noble work. They are threatening them from outside and at the same time they are undermining their work from within with infiltrators functioning as the fifth column to weaken the hands of the people. Like any good captain of old, Nehemiah encourages the people to continue in the restoration work by practical means with weapons of war ever ready to be put to use as well as the most important instrument, the trumpet, to sound the alarm. Though Nehemiah is very practical in his approach, his most important weapon lies in his faith in the Lord in that the people are exhorted to remember Jehovah God who will fight the battle on the behalf of the children of Israel. Faith in Jehovah God and weapons of war including the trumpet ordained of God according to Numbers 10:9 go together in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. So while times have changed, the use of the trumpets has not changed. They are ever as effective as they have been in the past, and ever will be in the future, even unto the day of the Lord.

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps. And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi; Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem. And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall. And certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph: And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them. (Nehemiah 12:27-36)

Finally, with God's help, the walls of Jerusalem are completed. This definitely calls for a celebration and a time of thanksgivings giving all the honour and glory to Jehovah God. Whenever Jehovah God is to be thanked

and praised, the priests and the Levites cannot be excluded for they have been ordained of old to approach Jehovah God concerning the holy things on the behalf of the children of Israel. It is through the order of this tribe will God accept their worship and praise. Here again, musical instruments are employed which of course includes the trumpets to be blown by the priests in leading this dedication worship service. The proper order is kept and they are following the exhortation prescribed by the psalmist who told them to praise Jehovah God: ***With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.*** (Psalm 98:6)

So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me: And the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off. And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited. And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God. And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron. (Nehemiah 12:40-47)

So temple worship in Jerusalem is completely restored after their return from Babylonian captivity. The proper personnel involved in their respective functions are clearly appointed in the worship of Jehovah God. The commandments in the past concerning the observance of the feasts are to be observed accordingly and the priests and the Levites are to wait to serve in the temple in Jerusalem by course so that everything pertaining to the worship of Jehovah God is done decently and in order. So they are to follow the instruction in worship concerning the trumpet: ***Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.*** (Psalm 81:3) Not to be forgotten too is the praising of Jehovah God on a daily basis: ***Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the***

psaltery and harp. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. (Psalm 150:30&98:6) Such joyful praising and worship of Jehovah God is to be heard from afar. The original purpose for the choosing of the nation of Israel is to be a kingdom of priests and an holy nation unto Jehovah God. The nation of Israel is supposed to be a light to the Gentile nations and they have to live up to their high calling as the nation that shows forth the light of God.

While temple worship is restored, but the king of the children of Israel is still missing. Because of their past sins having forsaken Jehovah God, they are condemned to a position where they will have to abide without a king sitting on the throne in Jerusalem for many days. This restoration to their own homeland of the Jews is an important aspect in the coming of their Messiah and their King. With the Jews back in their own homeland and with temple worship fully restored, it is only natural that they wait for their rightful King to show up. So as they wait and seek for a King to rule over them like those days of old, the trumpets continue to sound forth with praises of Jehovah God in hope that their desires will be realized soon. For the next few hundred years the trumpet will continue to be blown by the priests. And with the passing of the days and years longing for the coming of the King, the children of Israel will just have to wait upon the Lord. Finally, their long expected Messiah, the King of the Jews, will soon be revealed in the New Testament with more revelation concerning the sounding of the trumpets in the future that will bring in the day of the Lord mentioned so many times by their own prophets and the eventual exaltation of the nation of Israel.

The children of Israel are back in their own homeland and the temple is standing in Jerusalem and the religious aspect of their national life has been instituted for some time now. Theologically, there are two well-established camps, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. These are the religious authorities during those days. Temple worship has been going on for the past few hundred years. However, they are no longer being ruled by the Persians. World dominion has changed hands several times according to the dream that Nebuchadnezzar dreamed and interpreted by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 2). Babylonian empire was long gone and while under the Medo-Persian Empire, the Jews were allowed to return and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. The Greeks then took over and ruled the world and later the Romans became the world power and during this time, the Messiah of Israel came unto the scene according to the promise and prophecies in the Old Testament. It is under Roman occupation that the children of Israel are thrown into political chaos when confronted with the choice of receiving their Messiah as their King or rejecting Christ and have their Kingdom promised them postponed to a future date until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in according to the revelation given to the believers in Rome by the apostle Paul: *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.* (Romans 11:25) Remarkably, with the trumpets mentioned extensively and illustrated throughout the history of the nation of Israel, the mention of the sounding of the trumpet occurs only two times in the four gospel records. It is not as though trumpets have lost its significance in the New Testament concerning God's dealing with Israel and the Church. One of the two verses that mentioned the trumpets actually has a far greater impact for the nation of Israel than any other prophet has told them about. It is this trumpet call that the Lord confirms to the Jews that the day of the Lord is about to be fulfilled as prophesied by their own prophets. Greater details are revealed concerning this event which is about to take place during the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom as John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus Christ and his disciples preached to the people that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand during that time. This discussion of the trumpets here will show that God's prophetic clock is still ticking towards the day where the sounding of the trumpet will culminate with the establishment of the Kingdom of heaven on earth to be ruled by the Son of God for the sake of the children of Israel: *That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.* (Deuteronomy 11:21)

Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (Matthew 6:2)

This first mention of the trumpet in the New Testament has a general usage in the case of an announcement. Instead of announcing an impending emergency in times of war, this trumpet has fallen into the hand of hypocrites who are sounding out their own strange trumpet calls to look unto them as the ultimate hallmark of spirituality and piety. Such is the sad state of affairs even though the children of Israel are already restored back to their own homeland; they exhibit more of a form than substance in the worship of Jehovah God. Hence in the closing of the Old Testament, Jehovah God warns: ***Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*** (Malachi 4:4-6) Indeed, what an unexpected way to close the Old Testament with such indictment against the people chosen of Jehovah God after having been sent into exile once and then restored back to their own homeland! It is no doubt during such an appalling time, the King of the Jews must come and the dreadful day of the Lord is coming on schedule! The next mention of the trumpet is certainly concerning the day of the Lord. The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament to fulfill all the promises promised to the forefathers of the children of Israel.

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:31) The sounding of this trumpet is unmistakably events concerning the last day, the day of the Lord many prophets of old have been talking about. This sounding of the trumpet needs to be studied more in depth with regards to the nature of the event and the target audience of those having to hear this trumpet as well as the action required of those living in such a time like this. Since this trumpet is mentioned only once with regards to this monumental event in the gospel, a more thorough examination of this chapter is necessary.

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. (Matthew 24:1&2)

This chapter starts off with the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples leaving the temple in Jerusalem. ***Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:1)*** The Lord has indeed come suddenly to His temple but He is leaving it now for the children of Israel have rejected Him! This is significant as the Lord Jesus Christ begins the revelation with reference to the temple in Jerusalem. The Lord has indeed left the temple and this temple will be destroyed.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (Matthew 24:3)

Obviously, the disciples desire to know when this event will take place as well as the sign of Christ's coming, as they are Jews who required a sign (1 Corinthians 1:22), and the event here concerns the end of the world. Who would not be curious concerning a topic of this nature! Hence, only the Lord himself must explain the sequence of events that will lead to this eventful day.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew 24:4-8)

The explanation from the Lord starts off with a stern warning for those living during such a time not to be deceived by any man. For during such a perilous time like this, deception will be common and will be the mainstay of the day. There will be many false christs masquerading as the Lord Jesus Christ to deceive those who do not take heed to this warning

from the Lord. Not only false christs are out to deceive, there will be great troubles of wars and rumours of wars and the people of God are not to be troubled by such happenings for this is not the end yet. Moreover, there will be many acts of God on nature that result in the upheaval of the natural environment on earth which fallen men called natural disasters which is definitely anything but natural where lost of lives will be great and frequent. This is still not the end of the world but simply the beginning of sorrows. Imagine what it would be like when the real end of the world comes into the picture!

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Matthew 24:9-13)

Now the discourse is getting close and personal which will have a direct impact on the believers of Christ as the Messiah of Israel. The believers will be under severe persecution and hated for Christ's name sake and many will be offended and shall betray one another and hate one another. This is unusual here as the disciples of Christ have been given a commandment to love one another. ***A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*** (John 13:34) This same commandment is also recorded in John 15:12&17. Moreover, those who hate their brothers are regarded as murderers according to the apostle John's writings: ***Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*** (1 John 3:15 & 4:20) These believers living during such a time certainly are not like the believers in the body of Christ, the Church, manifesting the love of Christ in them! In addition, false prophets will be out there to deceive them to follow the false christ, the antichrist, during this time and many will be deceived. As such iniquity shall abound and the love of many shall wax cold. Hence, betrayal of one another is common and is to be expected during this dangerous time of evil. Those living during such a time leading to the day of the Lord will have to endure to the end to be saved. They are to endure so that they might be saved from this end time trouble and this is not the same as the believers in the body of

Christ who are born again in Christ and saved from the wrath to come and hell fire to follow. Enduring to the end to be saved has to do with this period of time and salvation is the deliverance from all these evils that will come upon them during this terrible time.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) (Matthew 24:14&15)

While all the terrors and troubles happen during such a time of distress, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached again. This gospel is first preached by John the Baptist in preparation for the royal arrival of the Messiah of Israel their King to be accepted by the children of Israel. ***In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** (Matthew 3:1&2) This same gospel is also preached by the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 4:17: ***From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** Moreover, the Lord Jesus Christ also commissioned His twelve disciples to preach this gospel of the kingdom only to the nation of Israel and to none else. ***These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** (Matthew 10:5-7) This is historical fact as far as Scriptural revelation is concerned. The term "kingdom of heaven" is a Jewish term as God has promised the children of Israel that their days will be as the days of heaven upon the earth (Deuteronomy 11:21) hence this Kingdom is referred to as the kingdom of heaven.

This gospel of the kingdom is not the same as the gospel of the grace of God for the world at large when Israel has been set aside until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. The gospel of the grace of God is a gospel for this Age where those who receive Christ will be born again and become a member of the body of Christ, the Church and inherit eternal life. The gospel of the kingdom of heaven concerns the Kingdom to be established on earth where the Son of God will be reigning from Jerusalem over the whole world with Israel as the head of nations. So during the last days with events rushing towards the Kingdom Age, this gospel of the kingdom will be preached

again to the end of the world for a witness unto all nations before the end comes. These last day events concerning the day of the Lord will have a direct impact on all the nations of the world and not just the nation of Israel and her neighbouring countries. The preaching of this gospel of the kingdom by believers of Christ as the Messiah of Israel will also be assisted by an angelic being authorized by the Lord during this time. ***And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*** (Revelation 14:6&7) This everlasting gospel will surely go to the end of the world preached from heaven during such a time of chaos, trouble and uncertainty. The preaching of a gospel by any angelic being during this Age will be considered an abomination and the messenger is to be regarded as accursed according to the writings of the apostle Paul. ***But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*** (Galatians 1:8&9) For this messenger is preaching another gospel, a false gospel! So as long as the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God of the Lord Jesus Christ inviting sinners to be born again into the body of Christ as member of the Church, the Bride of Christ, is still valid, the elements of the day of the Lord are still not manifestly evident. It is when the Church is absent and has been removed from the earth, it is during such a time that the gospel of the Kingdom is once again preached and this time it is not restricted to the lost sheep of the house of Israel but unto the end of the world.

To make it unmistakably clear, this is a time when a particular incident as prophesied by the prophet Daniel will take place literally in a literal temple in Jerusalem. It concerns the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, which is absolutely Jewish in nature and has nothing to do with the Church. It is for those living during those days to be diligent and to understand the implications of this particular incident that takes place and act accordingly. This is certainly a sign for the children of Israel; the Jews who always seek after a sign, to take immediate action to save their own lives. Failing to respond appropriately will be fatal and the warning has been given by none other than the King of the Jews to alert them in advance on this impending dangerous event. The Lord is sounding

out this alarm though not with the voice of the trumpet yet, but the day will come when the trumpet shall sound from heaven to bring an end to all things concerning this time of Jacob's trouble and not the Church's trouble.

Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:16-22)

Very specific instructions are given for those living to see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place. Their response is to be immediate and this concerns those living in Judaea to flee into the mountains for great tribulation will come upon those living in Israel and in particular, Jerusalem. The action is so urgent that even taking of clothes will cause the lives of those who turn back for a little while attempting to get a little bodily comfort. There must be no turning back. They are to remember Lot's wife who turned into a pillar of salt just by turning back for a glance of what was happening behind her. This is terrifying indeed. It is like an avalanche is coming one's way or the earth is splitting up right behind one's back during an earthquake and he has to run for his life as fast as he possibly could. But those who are with young children would be in great trouble. The speed with which they could flee would be greatly hampered and their lives would very likely be taken during this evil time. On top of that, the Lord tells these people to pray that this incident would not take place during the winter which would definitely make their flight much more difficult or during the Sabbath day where the children of Israel would not flee and run because this is their rest day! This makes the implication inescapably clear that the time of Jacob's trouble concerns a time when God is dealing with the nation of Israel and not the Church. Mixing up such events for Israel and the Church will lead to serious repercussion for the Christian thinking that all these happenings concern him present on earth during such an evil time like this. This would lead him to wrong conclusions and he will be living out the wrong manner of life fearing the sounding of the trumpet that ushers in such a terrible time that concerns Israel.

Indeed such an evil time is unheard of in history and this is called the great tribulation. Moreover, unless those days are shortened for the sake of the elect of God, no flesh shall be saved. So terrible is this day and no wonder the prophets called this day a day of darkness. This great tribulation will bring in destruction of unprecedented scale. The time of Jacob's trouble is known to be a week of years in Daniel 9:24-27. The number of years, days and months for the time of Jacob's trouble are specifically mention in the book of Revelation chapters 11 and 13 to be forty-two months and one thousand two hundred and sixty days. However, these days of great tribulation shall be shortened as promised for the preservation of the elect of God but this will not shorten the time period already confirmed in the Scriptures. Just like the days are short and the nights are long during the winter, the number of hours each day during this time could be shortened. If Joshua could pray for the day to be lengthened for an entire day during his time and king Hezekiah could ask for the time to be reversed by a tenth, nothing would be impossible for the Almighty to shorten the number of hours for each day so that the elect may be able to survive this period of great trials and tribulation. They will be living under compressed time so to speak. This is indeed a time of unusual occurrence that requires divine intervention to elements in nature for the rebirth of the nation of Israel. The time of Jacob's trouble no doubt will be a terribly trying time for the inhabitants on earth.

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. (Matthew 24:23-26)

More warnings from the Lord is given to remind those living during this evil time to take heed and not be deceived for the consequence would be tragic and unimaginable. False christs and false prophets will be very common during those days and they will even be given the capability to authenticate their callings with signs and wonders which the children of Israel look for to deceive them and lead them into death. They will point the people to the wrong place to look for Christ, which will result in their delusion and even capture that will cause them their lives. They are not to believe these false prophets and their cohorts for their operation is design to deceive the very elect if it were possible so the sophistication of their

deception could very well be perfected into a fine art! The way to know the truth and find the true Christ is given after this second warning to the people living during those days.

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:27-31)

The sign to look for the true Christ is given here. Those people living during that time will have to look up and the sign will come from above and not beneath. For Christ has already ascended into the heavens nearly two thousand years ago and the Scriptures confirm His coming again will be from above. ***And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:10&11)*** There is really no point looking for Christ on earth for He will be coming again from above. Anyone preaching that Christ is on earth is a false prophet pointing the people to a false christ. The location where Christ is going to descend is also hinted and they have to look for the place of slaughter where the Lord will exact vengeance on all the enemies that come up against Israel during those days. The sign of the Lord Jesus Christ will only appear in heaven immediately after the tribulation of those days. This great tribulation is so horrifying and traumatic that even the powers in heaven will not be spared for these powers shall be shaken and the sun will be darkened and the moon will not be reflecting the light from the sun and even stars shall fall from heaven. Such calamitous times must strike great fear in the hearts of the people in those days. This is really the time of Jacob's trouble which is extraordinary where the trouble of fallen men whether saved or lost have never experienced before since the beginning of time. This period of tribulation is distinctly different from the tribulation a Christian may have to go through because the

shaking and darkening of the heavens and the falling of stars certainly do not accompany the Christian each time during his sufferings in times of trials and tribulations.

Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. (Joel 3:9-17)

This particular period of the great tribulation is spoken of by the prophet Joel. This is a terrifying time of war where the enemies of Israel shall come up against them to take Jerusalem. Here during the great tribulation is actually a time of judgment for the heathen. Their iniquities are full and the harvest is ripe for the taking. The powers of heaven are shaken and the heavenly bodies will be affected during this time of great trouble never before seen in the history of fallen men. Here is said that the Lord shall roar out of Zion like the days of old during the sounding of the trumpet: *God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. (Psalm 47:5,2-4)*

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread

upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? (Joel 2:1-3,10-14)

Joel also mentioned about the sounding of the trumpet during such a time like this for this is known as the day of the Lord in the Old Testament and the description of this day is no doubt a day of darkness and of gloominess where the inhabitants of the land shall tremble. This period of time has Israel as the focal point in history never before seen in such a grand scale. While during the Church Age where the powers of heaven and earth are relatively stable, the time of this great tribulation is a continuation of prophecy of the day of the Lord with respect to Israel where this God-called nation will be converted and become the head of nations during the Kingdom Age. Traumatic this period may be, like a woman with child travailing in pain, this nation will be born in just one day when her King returns from heaven to save her people and rule over the whole world with a rod of iron. This particular single day is unique to the nation of Israel. For it is in one day this nation is reborn. The sounding of the trumpet will be great during this time to signal the beginning of the end of the controversy with the nations vis-à-vis Israel as mentioned by Jeremiah. *Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil*

shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground. (Jeremiah 25:30-33)

Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. (Isaiah 66:5-11)

This extraordinary event of this single day is unheard of where a nation is born in just one day! It is astonishing and absolutely amazing to the fallen mind of sinful men. How could this be possible, yet the Scriptures confirm that such an event will certainly take place! The first birth of the nation of Israel is by divine appointment and so the born again nation will likewise be a deliberate act of the Most High. Like the travail and bondage experienced during the first birth of the nation of Israel, likewise during her rebirth, it will be troublous and trying when she travails in birth pangs to be brought forth as a converted nation that will accept their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, as her King.

Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. (Zechariah 3:8&9)

The promise to remove the iniquity of the land of Israel in one day is recorded in these verses. This collaborates with the rebirth of the nation of Israel in one day. This day will come when the nation of Israel repents in which the restitution of all things will be accomplished. ***Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*** (Acts 3:19-21) This is a day much spoken of by the prophets since the world began and before this day can come, the time of Jacob's trouble must run its full course under the sounding of trumpets where the carnage of this long awaited conflict will make all wars since the beginning of days to look like a small scale rehearsal for this tumultuous time of great terror and trouble.

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. (Zechariah 14:1-7)

The day of the Lord that is coming will culminate in one day which shall be so spectacular that it shall be known to the Lord that the day and night shall merge into one. On top of this, the geographical landscape of Israel shall be changed. This is a time where God will gather the nations against Jerusalem to settle the controversy concerning the land of Israel once and for all and the Lord will personally be involved in this mother of all

battles to bring an end to the time of Jacob's trouble. The trumpet will no doubt sound and God will go forth like the days of old to fight for the children of Israel. ***God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.*** (Psalm 47:5,2-4) As for the children of Israel, deliverance is promised and saviours will come for them. ***But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.*** (Obadiah 1:17&21) This deliverance is sure to the remnant of the children of Israel and whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ***And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*** (Joel 2:32) This shows the context of Matthew 24:13: ***But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*** Those who endure to the end will call upon the Lord to be saved from the time of Jacob's trouble.

The sounding of this trumpet from heaven will gather the elect to attend to this long expected day of the Lord. ***And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*** (Matthew 24:31) This is a day much anticipated by all to usher in the day of the reign of Christ on earth. This is the day where the nation of Israel, the Church and the Gentile nations are gathered in one in this day of rest during the Millennial reign of Christ on earth. ***Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*** (Zephaniah 3:8&9) The gathering of the nations must take place during the time of Jacob's trouble for it is the Lord who scattered the people on earth by confounding their languages several thousand years back and so the Lord must personally gather the nations again to give to the people a pure language to serve Him with one consent. This must happen, as those people in the past did not serve God with one consent though they

were of one speech and one language, but they chose to rebel against the Most High by building the tower of Babel to reach unto heaven. It is after this incident of the scattering of the nations that the Most High called out a man, Abraham, to choose him to bring forth a nation unto Him, the nation of Israel, that now is the time to gather the nations together again for the Kingdom Age.

Before the Kingdom Age can come, the history of fallen men must take its course and meet at the middle of the planet Earth to settle this controversy that has been brewing for the past thousands of years. It is here that the nation of Israel must be in her proper place before the end of the world can come. The gathering again of the nation of Israel in 1948 is marvelous in the eyes of Bible believers as many do not have this privilege in times past to behold how Scriptural prophecies have finally come to the point where all the events mentioned in the Old and New Testaments are soon to manifest in its fullness to authenticate the veracity of the words of the living God. So what God has promised, He will bring it to pass. *And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.* (Amos 9:14&15) This promise to the children of Israel that they will not be removed from the land ever again will become a reality during the Kingdom Age. However, before this aspect of the exaltation of this nation can materialize, the time of Jacob's trouble will iron out what will remain of this nation and those other nations that get to proceed to this Age of glory and rest. Here the fate of the nations that come against Israel during this time is already fixed whether they believe it or not. Their hatred against the children of Israel is motivated by Satan, the arch enemy of the Most High, seeking to defeat the Almighty and His chosen people during this conflict of all ages, to prevent the fate of his own doom and that of his cohorts.

The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee. Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again,

he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old. (Micah 7:16-20)

The doom of these nations that come against Israel on that day will be sure and certain. At the same time, the promises to the children of Israel will be realized and the sins of the nation of Israel will be blotted out in that day.

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

Finally, Israel has been fully redeemed. Their enemies are cast out and the burdens and afflictions of Israel will be a thing of the past. This is the time of rest for the nation of Israel after being afflicted for all those years during their apostasy. The Lord will be in the midst of the children of Israel to save them and deliver them from evil. The nation of Israel will be exalted in that day among all the people on earth. Those who trouble themselves with Jerusalem will be in great trouble in that day! The words of the prophet Zechariah against the enemies of Israel are unmistakable.

The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden

themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God. In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12:1-9)

Who can burden themselves with the beloved city which Almighty God chose to put His name there and not be troubled! Who can harden against the Most High and prosper! Their doom will be sure and inevitable just as the Lord has pronounced against these people through the mouth of the prophet. The enemies of Israel will be thoroughly astonished and completely destroyed by the Lord in that day. Israel will be magnified and strengthened for the Lord will defend them against all their adversaries. So Israel shall be saved in that day! How can some people who read the Bible be mistaken on this most vital fact that the Church needs to be saved in that day! It is just past finding out!

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.
(Zechariah 12:10-14)

The day of the Lord is the return of the King of the Jews to save Israel and restore the Kingdom to them like the apostles inquired before Christ's ascension: *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?* (Acts 1:6) The promise of the second coming of Christ is subsequently given to them. *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.* (Acts 1:9-11) The prophecies in the Old Testament must be fulfilled and when Christ comes again, He will return to the place where He left. When He came to His own people, they rejected Him. They rejected Christ as their King and insisted that the Romans crucified the Lord Jesus Christ. So when Christ returns to His own people, they shall mourn for they have crucified their own King. *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.* (Acts 2:36) It is at this time when Christ comes again to be revealed to His own people, the children of Israel, they will look upon their King whom they have pierced and they will mourn for Him. This is the proper occasion to mourn as restoration of this God-called nation climaxes when they welcome home their rightful King. What a blessed reunion day it would be to the nation of Israel!

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowl's before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 14:20&21)

Hence, the fullness of the glory of Israel will become a permanent reality in the final consummation of their rest in their God in that day. It will be a time of great rejoicing and praising the Lord of glory who is now sitting

on the throne of his glory in Jerusalem. All nations shall be gathered unto Christ the King of kings and Psalm 67 will be fulfilled to the letter.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him. (Psalms 67)

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. (Acts 1:6&7)

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. (Romans 11:25-27)

While the times or the seasons to restore the Kingdom to Israel are still hidden from the mind of men but Israel shall certainly be saved in that day. The events of the day of the Lord dealing with the nation of Israel are exclusively meant for them and not the Church, the Body of Christ, which needs not be saved. Indications as to the nearness of these terrifying times are given and they shall come to pass according to the words spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (Matthew 24:32-36)

Here is more information to indicate when the time of Jacob's trouble will soon take place. The key is the fig tree, which is a type of Israel. The fig tree in which the Lord looked for fruit but none was found was cursed. The fig tree is a type of self-righteousness which first appears in the Garden of Eden used to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve after they have sinned. The fig tree symbolizes this self-righteous nation of Israel that cannot bring forth fruits to God. When the children of Israel are gathered as a nation again, the time is near for all these events to take place. Notwithstanding the day and hour of this day is not revealed but the fig tree is just simply an indication of the nearness of this day of the Lord. Further details of this proximity to the prophetic calendar concerning the day of the Lord when the trumpet shall sound are also given.

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:37-39)

The coming of the Lord is compared to the days of Noah where no one believes that the flood would come. Just like during the last days, when no one believes the Lord will come again, this day will come when it is least expected. ***Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2 Peter 3:3&4)*** There will be many scoffers during this time when the Lord is about to come. Unbelief will be rampant as the love of many waxes cold.

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (Matthew 24:40-42)

During this time of Jacob's trouble, some will be taken away and others will be left behind to go through the tribulation. Those taken away are translated into the presence of the Lord. The exhortation is to watch for no one knows when the Lord will come.

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. (Matthew 24:43-47)

Hence, those who watch and wait for the return of Christ will be rewarded with authority during the Kingdom Age. Many trumpets spoken by the prophets will be sounding during this period of the day of the Lord culminating in the royal arrival of the King of kings and His entourage, the Church, as prophesied by Enoch even before the flood during the days of Noah: ***And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude 14&15)*** The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is to execute judgment on earth. So the good and faithful servants are blessed and enter the Kingdom prepare for them of the Lord.

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 24:48-51)

It is during this time of trouble that some will lose faith in the coming of the Lord. Some will no doubt fail to endure to the end to be saved from this time of evil. These people will start to think that the Lord will delay His coming even after witnessing the incident mentioned by Daniel concerning the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place. James aptly describes the behaviour of these wicked servants.

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be

a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. (James 4:1-9)

The context of these rich men oppressing the poor concerns the last days and culminates with the coming of the Lord. This form of wickedness shall plague the wicked servants during this evil time when the love of many shall wax cold. They lose faith in the second coming of Christ having heard the gospel of the Kingdom from God's witnesses and from the angel who preached the everlasting gospel from heaven and they begin to oppress the poor. The Lord is indeed at the door but they fail to believe this truth. So they live in pleasure and have been wanton corresponding to the condemnation from the Lord that they eat and drink with the drunken eventuating in their being cut asunder when the Lord comes at a time that they know not. Interestingly, their appointed portion for such crimes against humanity is to be with the hypocrites who blew the trumpet to get attention from others to behold their outward form of piety but within are full of dead man's bones. Thus, the trumpets for the hypocrites will trumpet their own shame and destruction in the light of the glorious coming of the Lord to take possession of the earth. They shall be cast out where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth according to the words of the Lord: *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* (Matthew 8:11&12) This is the just and proper portion they deserve for failing of the grace of God and turn back from the way of truth. Here the children of the Kingdom miss entering the Kingdom! They have an evil heart of unbelief like the Israelites in the days of old having seen great signs and wonders in Egypt but they perished in the wilderness without reaching the Promised Land. Here, they have a wicked

heart and so these evil servants will say in their hearts that the Lord delay in His coming. Having seen great signs of evil, terror and trouble during the times of Jacob's trouble, they perish without entering the Kingdom because of their unbelief. Instead of listening to the trumpets of the Lord from above, they choose to hearken unto the trumpets of the hypocrites and share in their portion of shame and doom.

Indeed many trumpets will be sounding during this evil time when Israel shall travail waiting to come forth as a new converted nation to receive her King to rule over them. All the trumpets spoken of by the prophets of old will be heard during this time of Jacob's trouble.

All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye. (Isaiah 18:3)

Will all the inhabitants of the world sit up and listen to the warnings to come during this terrible time of trouble? Will they believe a time of such great trouble that will plague the world that except those days are shortened, no flesh shall be saved?

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem. (Isaiah 27:13)

Will sinful men fear when this great trumpet sounds to signal the doom of the wicked and the coming of the Lord?

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. (Joel 2:1-3)

The blowing of this trumpet will no doubt sound out the time of Jacob's trouble never seen before in the history of men. The location of the conflict is Zion and Israel is the focus of the troubles that come during those days and not the Church.

The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wateness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. (Zephaniah 1:14-18)

Surely, this trumpet will usher in the judgment of the enemies of Israel for the great day of the Lord is near. None shall escape and their doom is certain for the Lord will avenge all wickedness on earth. This trumpet of alarm will pour forth judgment upon the sinners that have sinned against the Lord.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. (Joel 2:15-18)

This sounding of the trumpet will be heard by the Lord who will fight for the children of Israel to deliver them during this time of trouble before the establishment of the Kingdom. Here is the gathering of the children of Israel ready to accept their King. They are now humbly asking for divine intervention to their woes during the time of Jacob's trouble and their cries

will be heard by the Lord who will take pity on His chosen people just like the days of old.

And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the LORD GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids. (Zechariah 9:14-17)

This trumpet blown by the Lord will bring an end to the time of Jacob's trouble and Israel shall rejoice and be glad in the Lord. No one will fail to see the great trouble and destruction during which these trumpets are sounded. Chaos and confusion will be the order of the day for the enemies of Israel. Salvation and deliverance are the central themes of all these trumpet calls for the nation of Israel. Indeed, many trumpets shall sound during this tempestuous time and the trumpet call from Matthew 24:31 will summarize all these trumpets to end the time of Jacob's trouble. This is the last trump for the time of Jacob's trouble to come to an end.

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:31)

This trumpet from heaven will sound towards the end of the great tribulation and the Lord will descend from heaven with His hosts to bring in the Kingdom Age through the Seed of the woman promised to Abraham where all the families on earth shall be blessed. The trumpet calls that the children of Israel are so familiar with will be seen in action during these last days where the whole nation will undergo a complete transformation and be born in one day to receive her King to sit on the throne in Jerusalem to rule over them and over all the earth. This will include the change in the geographical landscape of Israel and many parts of the world. As Noah come forth in a transformed world to herald in a time of human government that failed miserably including the God-called nation Israel, the earth will be transformed in the Millennial Kingdom Age to bring about a new world

order under King Jesus ruling on earth ushering in a perfect government to fulfill His calling according to Isaiah 9:6&7: ***For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

The first two mentions of trumpets in the book of Matthew has strong Jewish connotations with one in connection with hypocrites parading themselves as the ultimate hallmark of spirituality and the other summarizing the final day of the events concerning the time of Jacob's trouble. Here in the last book of the Holy Bible, a particular set of seven trumpets is also mentioned in connection with judgments to be poured forth on planet Earth. While the trumpet mentioned in Matthew chapter 24 details the events of the last days with Israel in the Middle East as the target of judgment, this series of seven trumpets from the book of Revelation deals with judgment in a global scale. This revelation of the judgments to be executed on earth is revealed in heaven transported in time some two thousand years ahead of the time when the apostle John was caught away in the spirit to receive such amazing revelations. This is divine time travel to see beyond his time and describe events in his own vocabularies that are current according to the understanding of the apostle. Actually, there are a series of seven seals before this series of seven trumpets is introduced. At the end of the seventh trumpet, another series of seven vials opens up to complete the revelation of God's wrath and His judgments on earth during the last days concerning the time of Jacob's trouble.

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. (Revelation 8:1&2)

Here at the end of the seventh seal judgment, seven angels gets ready to receive seven different trumpets for seven different assignments. It is specifically mentioned that these angels will be instrumental in sounding of these seven trumpets. While in the Old Testament, men on earth often blow trumpets in celebration during feast days and worship of Jehovah God as well as in times of war to sound alarms and orders, in heaven, likewise angels are given trumpets to usher in events on earth according to orders from the Lord. Now these seven angels are ready to sound their trumpets once the green light is given. The trouble to follow and the scale of destruction are incredibly horrifying and no wonder the Lord remarked that except those days be shortened, no flesh shall be saved.

The First Trumpet Judgment

And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. (Revelation 8:6&7)

The terrific effects of the first trumpet finally gets started and the destruction is really beyond calculation for one third of the trees on earth will be burned as well as all green grass will be devoured. Wild fires will be raging out of control in many parts of the world. Vegetations on planet Earth will be reduced by a third. Imagine the impact to animal lives as well as lives of men! The yearly haze problem that plagues countries in South East Asia due to farmers clearing lands by burning in Indonesia will not be worth mentioning. This puts all the champions of preservation of mother earth, green peace activists and environmental protection agencies out of business. All talks on global warming, greenhouse effects and depletion of ozone layer will become meaningless. Any agenda to push for the preservation of the environment will be a joke as the scale of this destruction sent from heaven will cause the deaths of multitudes of lives of men and beasts. All conventions to discuss these environmental issues that are taken so seriously by those who worship mother Earth will be confounded leaving them without a platform to push their agendas any further. All celebrations for Earth Day will come to a halt for there will not be much left to celebrate after this first trumpet call of judgment on planet Earth. Here, Israel is not the only target but the whole world will be affected by this judgment of hail and fire mingled with blood never before seen in the history of fallen men. The hail and fire that hit Egypt during the time of Moses would not even stand as a small-scale rehearsal of things to come. Reports will fill rims and rims of newspapers all over the world to report on the devastation that hit their own nation during this time of hail fire judgment rains from heaven. When the hail fires hit the earth, it will light up the night skies for many nights. It will be so spectacular that all the fireworks celebrations for all the Independence Day celebrated by all nations combined would look like a small firecracker going off during a nuclear explosion. At least this time the fireworks sent from heaven will not cost sinners millions of dollars that go up in smoke for a few minutes just to demonstrate national pride and instill patriotism among her people. This time, fireworks on earth will be observed by the saints in heaven to celebrate the wrath of the Lamb taking vengeance

on sinners who persecute the saints and shed their blood. By the way, this is just the beginning of the first set of trumpet judgments and more devastating and horrifying destruction will follow as other trumpeters receive their orders to sound. The first episode is over and the next is coming very soon. The theatre of the wrath of God will be shown with watchers as active participants in this new series of reality show! How many will survive all the seven trumpets! Certainly, not very many!

The Second Trumpet Judgment

And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. (Revelation 8:8&9)

Having hit the earth with hail fire from heaven under the first trumpet judgment to prime the earth for more devastating punishment, this time the seas will be the next on target for destruction. A great mountain burning with fire will smash into the sea. This might be a meteorite fallen men have been predicting that will hit the earth for years and many movies have been made that will unify the world against a common enemy coming from outer space. Temporal conflicts between nations and political and ideological disagreement will be set a side during this time of emergency. The world will unite as one like in the days of Babel to deal with this imminent danger from outer space. While all the nuclear power states locked on their nuclear missiles to intercept and destroy this great mountain burning with fire to prevent it from entering the atmosphere on earth, all such attempt to thwart God's judgment on the sea will be in vain. The next global agenda will not be terrorism by extremists but terrorism from outer space. When this great mountain hit the sea, many island nations will become history and many continents will experience tidal waves never before predicted by scientists. Tsunamis that follow earthquakes will not be just a localized affair that hit a few countries. There will be no escape. Global warming is not the culprit. Finding a scapegoat to explain away this natural disaster would be an exercise of vanity. For how can anyone account for the death of one third of the marine lives and the destruction of one third of the vessels that ply the oceans for trade and pleasure! All talks on biodiversity, sustainable growth and protecting endangered species would be utter foolishness completely incongruent with the new reality during this unusual time. The lost is tragic

and immense and the shorelines of many countries will be forever changed. As recorded that the earth was divided in the past according to Genesis 10:5&25 (*By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations. And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*), this might perhaps be a time when the land reunite again to its original form. No man made emergency plans by any Civil Defence Agencies will be able to cope with such disasters ordered from heaven to punish sinners of earth who refused to acknowledge the God of heaven who made the heaven and the earth. On top of the destructive power that wreck havoc on life form on earth, the after effect is equally horrifying as the seas turn into blood. The stench from these corruptive elements from the seas will be unimaginable and life will be terribly miserable during this time of judgment. Cleaning up process will take forever as a third of the vessels are destroyed while the wild fires that results from the first trumpet judgment might still be raging in many parts of the world. How terrible to become active participants living during this time to act out the scripts written thousands of years ago in this new reality show of terror!

The Third Trumpet Judgment

And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. (Revelation 8:10&11)

As though the landmass on earth and the sea have not received enough punishment from heaven, this time, the sounding of the third trumpet by the third angel will badly damage fresh water supply system. Episode three will deal with man's most precious commodity – fresh water that sustains him and keeps him alive. Here a great star from heaven with a name called Wormwood will fall from heaven which will hit a third part of the rivers and the fountains of waters. Sinners on earth will have their fresh water supply cut short by a third and portable drinking water will become a precious commodity overnight. Inflation of the price of fresh water will be fantastic and no statistical model would fit such a phenomenal rise in the price of fresh water. Just as the price of fresh water skyrockets, ways and means to

obtain fresh water from the seas by desalination will be extremely difficult if not impossible, as many parts of the seas have turned into blood and not forgetting the horrible stench from the death of marine lives that are floating in the seas and littering the shores of many countries. A localized oil spill that required massive cleaning during our days will look like minor accident that is not worth reporting in the newspapers. In addition, many will die because of the water made bitter. Drinking water will be in short supply and then fallen men killing one another will be common just to have some water to stay alive during this time of judgment! Life on earth will be exceedingly bitter during this time. Interestingly, the word “wormwood” is mentioned seven times in the Old Testament in connection with judgment from God.

Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. (Deuteronomy 29:18-20)

The children of Israel have been warned not to fool themselves into believing that all is well when they walk in the imagination of their own wicked heart for departing from Jehovah God. This apostasy will result in gall and wormwood and they will be destroyed with their names blotted from under heaven.

For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. (Proverbs 5:3&4)

How bitter it is for those who have tasted of the fruits from the venomous lips of the strange woman that appears to be sweet as honey! King Solomon has a first hand experience of trouble of such nature when he said: ***And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.*** (Ecclesiastes 7:26) No wonder wormwood and bitterness go together and this wormwood is said to be more

bitter than death itself! How frightening to be fed with water tainted by wormwood during the third trumpet judgment from heaven!

And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. (Jeremiah 9:13-15)

So the children of Israel are fed with wormwood from none other than Jehovah God for forsaking their God and walk in the imagination of their own heart. No doubt the world during the days of the Lord deserves to be fed with wormwood as well for refusing to acknowledge the Creator God who made the heaven and the earth.

And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err. I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. (Jeremiah 23:13-15)

Once again wormwood is dispensed freely to those who walk on in darkness to commit wickedness and injustice. Sin definitely has a most bitter after taste and many are defiled so wormwood are their just desserts and bitterness shall be their portion for sinning against the Most High!

He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood. Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. (Lamentations 3:15&19) Jeremiah is lamenting most bitterly for witnessing the destruction of his own people. The children of Israel have repeatedly refused to listen to his warnings and they resisted his prophetic ministry to their bitter end. Jeremiah here is tasting of the wormwood figuratively as the rebellious children of Israel are fed literally with wormwood as promised by Jehovah God.

Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth, Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name: (Amos 5:7&8)

Sinning against God's commandment will produce the fruits of wormwood and end in bitterness. Wormwood is always spoken of in connection with God's wrath pour upon the sinners who refused to obey the commandments of Almighty God. So during the time of Jacob's trouble, wormwood will become part of the recipe of God's judgment on the inhabitants on earth for refusing to fear God and keep His commandments whom God has placed a conscience in every heart of man capable of knowing Him.

The Fourth Trumpet Judgment

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! (Revelation 8:12&13)

With planet Earth having been whacked hard on lands, seas and rivers by the wrath of God with the sounding of the three previous trumpets by the three angels, the next round to come will hit them hard on the heavenly bodies that have a direct impact on the lives on planet Earth. This new episode will take the theatre of God's wrath slightly away from planet Earth but the implications and repercussions for this judgment on earth are no less serious and terrifying. The inhabitants on earth are hardly recovering from the triple whammies and now they will have to deal with the effects of this judgment which they could do nothing about it. While sinners on earth may try to put out the raging fires from the first trumpet judgment, clear the seas and the resulting damage on land due to the second trumpet judgment and try to salvage the situation to restore some drinkable water after the third trumpet judgment, this time, they could not do anything about the darkening of the heavens. It is beyond their reach though fallen men have been sending vehicles to space for years! How futile have their efforts been having poured

billions of dollars to put men into space now only to be grounded without any real power to do anything about the trouble in outer space!

Global warming is turning out to be global cooling and in fact, global freezing would be more fitting for this case when one third of the lights from the heavenly bodies will not be allowed to enter the atmosphere of the earth. Lives of men and beasts will be greatly affected as the weather on earth turn erratic and chaotic. Weather forecast will turn out to be a joke, as all the meteorological stations on earth could not predict the weather patterns anymore. The credibility of the meteorologists will resemble that of a used car salesman. Migratory birds and animals that survived the first three trumpet judgments will be confused and men will be left in a daze, as their own biological clock will be sent into a panic mode. Sinners on earth will be badly hit during this time and life will be so unpredictable that suicide rates would rise beyond any official estimates while mental institutions would be unable to cope as demand greatly exceeds supply. This sudden global cooling from the previous massive heating that results from the raging wild fires, earthquakes and torrential downpours from tidal waves and the poisoning of rivers and fountains will cause such an unprecedented upheaval on planet Earth that the whole earth will be left in a drunken state not knowing its preordained movement as decreed from above. Sinners on earth who worship the hosts of the heavens will be ashamed and the astrologists who regularly published their forecasts on the horoscopes will be horrified. Astronomers who are masters of outer space will be retrenched when their services are no longer relevant as their continual professional education to enhance their professional qualifications fail them in this new faculty of science that is beyond any parameters of their learned studies. Paradigm shift on thinking out of the box advocated by scientists during such a time like this would be empty talk and no one would be interested in their proposed solutions to save the world from destruction. Changing the mindset of men who believe in the only constant is change itself would be too stupid to propose in trying to help humanity cope with the new challenges with the ever changing new realities of the time.

So when fallen men reject the true Light that lighteth the world, temporal lights from the heavens will be turned off and worst troubles will sure to follow. How many will die during this fourth trumpet judgment will be hard pressed to give any accurate and credible estimates! Moreover, while the heavens are darkened having lost one third of their lights, it will be lightened temporarily to manifest a visitor from outer space to pronounce

more judgments and trouble on the inhabitants on earth. The three woes pronounced by this angel flying in the heavens will be heard by the sinners on earth and the flight path of this angel will be clearly seen by the surviving inhabitants on earth. The next three woes to come will be heralded by the next three trumpets by the next three angels waiting for order from heaven to execute this continuous and relentless punishment on fallen men having exhausted the means of grace during the Age of grace. This fourth episode sort of brings the theatre of the wrath of God on earth to an interlude with the next three trumpets that are yet to sound after this angel announces the next three woes, which are soon to follow.

The Fifth Trumpet Judgment

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. (Revelation 9:1&2)

After a very short spell where sinners on earth hope to catch their breath after all those terrifying “natural” disasters that came their way, the fifth trumpet sounds to bring in a completely new dimension to the judgments they have hitherto not seen before. All the previous four trumpets deal with their natural and physical environment where the elements and forces of nature have been thrown into chaos, this time however; this trumpet judgment will afflict them in the spiritual realm. The star that falls from heaven goes to a particular place on earth as this is a particular star that is given a particular key will open a particular pit on earth that is said to be bottomless. The entrance to the bottomless pit on earth is hid from the curious eyes of fallen men and the inhabitants of this bottomless pit have been kept sealed away from men for thousands of years for the protection of Adam’s race but now it is time for these creatures to come forth to wreck havoc on the survivors of this reality show of terror from heaven. When the bottomless pit is opened, smoke arose to darken whatever light is left of the sun having been darkened by a third already. The intensity of the heat release into the atmosphere is unlike any volcanic eruption that ever took place on earth where the sun and the air are darkened by this unusual activity. Thus the remaining days of fallen men will be darker as the day goes by and their unending troubles have no end in sight.

And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. (Revelation 9:3-12)

All the horror movies combined would not adequately portray the true terror fallen men are going to experience live this time. The horror movies men are so accustomed to will be moved from the cinema to real life in the cities, villages, on the streets, in the schools, hospitals, army bases, shopping malls, office buildings, homes and there will be no place on earth where these monstrous creatures will be prevented from entering to torment sinners who survived the first four rounds of trumpet judgments. These are intelligent creatures able to distinguish between their preprogrammed targets and other forbidden targets and their primary objectives are to afflict fallen men that have not been marked by Almighty God, the 144,000 witnesses, who will be preaching the gospel of the Kingdom during this time of Jacob's trouble. They will afflict sinners with pain so unbearable that men will seek death. Unfortunately, for them where previously many probably committed suicide during the previous judgments, this time it will not be possible for those who have been struck by these locust creatures. They will be prevented from taking their own lives and they shall be tormented on earth for five months. These creatures are rather unusual as locusts are supposed to devour plants but these creatures have a different taste and they will leave plant life untouched and go for fallen men instead. How horrifying it would be to be

chased down by these creatures and get stung with unbearable pain as of being stung by scorpions and yet prevented from dying. This is indeed hell on earth when these locusts come into the scene when all hell really breaks loose on earth. These creatures do have a king by the name of Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. Fallen men have been so fond of these gods and now the gods are on earth led by their king Apollo. The penchant of fallen men to name their pet outer space projects after the names of fallen angels will now have a real taste of the power of these angels they revere so much. These creatures are fallen angels spoken of by Peter and Jude: ***For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*** (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6)

These fallen angels which God did not spare being kept in chains of darkness are now allowed to make some cursory appearance for a while during the time of Jacob's trouble to afflict sinners who worship and serve the creatures more than the Creator are now receiving just recompense of reward. This time of horror would be beyond description. The immense sufferings during this time will have no avenue of release as the victims are prevented from taking their own lives. There will be no cure to this affliction and medical doctors would turn out to be physicians of no value here for no pain killers would be efficacious to relieve sufferers from their terrible bodily pains. Weeping and gnashing of teeth will be literally present during such a time when victims have no way of finding relief of any form. Those not afflicted yet will flee from the victims lest these sufferers mad in their severe pain seeking any form of relief might bite them. No one will be daring enough to help them and the populace will be on a lookout for these 'monsters' that come from beneath lest they also fall prey to their painful sting. Will sinners at this point cry out to the Creator and ask for mercy? Very unlikely and instead the surviving sinners on earth will blaspheme Almighty God for causing them these immense sufferings. ***And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*** (Revelation 16:9,11,21) So this is only the first woe and two more

woes as announced by the flying angels will soon follow. Many active participants of this new reality show have been eliminated and the surviving contestants will go on to the next round and only to face the worst to come.

The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:13&21)

The sounding of the sixth trumpet brings the theatre of war closer to the Middle East concerning the holy city Jerusalem. The judgments from heaven are approaching from the general that deal with land on earth, the seas, rivers and fountains of waters, the heavenly bodies, the forces of darkness from the bottomless pit to the more specific with the holy land in view. Israel is the focal point of all conflicts and it is in Israel where the controversy must be resolved. Thus, with the sounding of this sixth trumpet, the great Euphrates river will be prepared for a time of battle and slaughter the world have never seen in the history of time. Here, four angels control the river so whenever rivers overflow their banks causing massive damage to lives and properties and calling them natural disasters is simply not acknowledging truths from the Holy Bible. This river will later be dried up according to Revelation 16:12: *And the sixth angel poured out his vial*

upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. This drying of the river Euphrates is to prepare for the slaughter of the enemies of Israel at Armageddon.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. (Revelation 16:13-16)

This great army consists of a combined force of two hundred million men. What an awesome march across Euphrates it would be when this river is dried up and coming towards Israel would not take very long on land! This army is led by the spirits of devils and all nations will be deceived and gather at Armageddon for the day of slaughter. Having survived the five trumpet judgments, these survivors are now going after another common enemy in Israel. It is always convenient to blame the Jews for all the troubles and conflicts on earth. This army is deceived to come against Israel to culminate in the final battle at Armageddon. Their arrays of weapons are impressive but the slaughter on that day will be a day much remembered. While half a million men have been recorded to have been killed in a single battle on a single day during the time of king Abijah when Jehovah God fought for him and his people (2 Chronicles 13:17), here those who perish will number more than sixty-six million when Almighty God sends judgment upon these sinners. What astonishing figures it is for so many to perish who fight against so few on a piece of land so small on planet Earth! The Promised Land must be an amazing piece of real estate where demand will always outstrip supply as far as human logic can figure where two hundred million men will be willing to converge on this piece of land whose population today numbers less than ten million people. This certainly cannot be some planned migration policy by all the governments of the world. These sinners are active participants of this reality show whose scripts are prewritten some two thousand years ago and they are living out their time to fulfill Bible prophecies to the letter. The Holy Bible is an amazing Book! Whether sinners will acknowledge God and His written words, they will still have to act according to these written scripts whether knowingly or not to

play according to the directions from heaven. They may not be the main actors and actresses but they will be led by the main actors, the dragon which is Satan, and his supporting actors, the beast and the false prophet during this troublous times to cast this reality motion picture live because of their rejection of the truth from above. Repentance from these sinners will be found wanting even for those who survive the slaughter on that day and having been deceived, they will follow the Devil all the way to their eventual doom. The sixth trumpet sounds to prepare for such a day of slaughter for the enemies of Israel which will result in the soon establishment of the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth to usher in the Kingdom Age of peace, blessings and prosperity.

The Seventh Trumpet Judgment

The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:14&15)

As the angel that flew in the heavens has proclaimed, the third woe is coming on schedule. This last trump from the series of seven trumpets opens up another series of seven judgments via the vials to be poured forth unto the inhabitants on earth. The last trumpet actually comprises of seven more judgments to summarize all the previous judgments and bring all these events to a closure. Here the seventh trumpet signals the preparation to take possession of the kingdoms of the world by the Lord Jesus Christ. This trumpet sounds immediately after the two witnesses have fulfilled their calling during the time of Jacob's trouble having been killed and resurrected and caught away into the heavens.

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their

enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. (Revelation 11:1-12)

At this juncture, there is a resurrection. A voice from heaven is heard calling unto these two witnesses to come up hither. This resurrection precedes an earthquake according to Revelation 11:13: *And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.* This earthquake corresponds with the earthquake during the previous resurrection after Christ accomplished the work of redemption on the cross of Calvary. *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.* (Matthew 27:50-54) So during this resurrection, others besides these two witnesses are possibly taken as well according to Matthew 24:40-42: *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.* The call to

come up hither is peculiar to the believer as a call to ascend into heaven just like the apostle John who heard this call in Revelation 4:1 caught away to heaven to receive revelation of things to come: ***After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*** This resurrection could also include the 144,000 witnesses preaching the gospel of the Kingdom sealed by God and miraculously preserved during all the previous judgments that fall upon the earth. Here is the translation of these saints just like Enoch before the flood caught away to heaven. So with more believers caught away to be delivered from more wraths to come, more troubles on earth will resume without a break.

After this seventh trumpet has sounded in heaven the armies in heaven will begin to assemble to get ready for their descend to take over the kingdoms of the world. But before the coming again of the Lord and the saints, this seventh trumpet opens up another series of judgments, which will fall upon the earth one after another. This third woe from the seventh trumpet will wipe out another huge portion of the remaining population on earth. All those judgments from the first six trumpets will be revisited but with a different perspective to bring all the judgments of the wrath of the Lamb to a close.

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. (Revelation 15:1,6&7)

With the ending of the seventh trumpet calls, the third woe comes in the form of seven vials. The angels responsible for administering these judgments are ready and waiting for order to carry out the final phase of judgments to exact vengeance on sinners who continually rebel and blaspheme the God of heaven. These angels are in possession of the vials that are full of the wrath of God. How frightening to hear of such words of terror when the wrath of God is full!

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. (Revelation 16:1&2)

The order is finally given and those who received the mark of the beast and worship his image are the targets of this punishment. What the promise given to the psalmist in Psalm 91:1-3 (***He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.***) will not be applicable to these sinners who have come under the banner of the Devil and his cohorts. This grievous disease will afflict them grievously and there will be no cure for this dilapidating disease. This is indeed a judgment deliberately targeting this particular group of sinners. It will be horrifying when sinners come within the cross hair of the judgment of Almighty God!

And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. (Revelation 16:3)

The sea once again turns into blood but this time, no huge mountain burning with fire hit the sea. Moreover, every living soul died in the sea. The two thirds that survive the earlier onslaught will not make it this time. It must be an amazing sight to behold the sea become blood red and those longing to have a sea view for their home would regret their decision after this event. Instead of waking up to a beautiful clear blue sea separating the light blue sky in the distant horizon every morning, it will be a damning red flood with floating carcasses and the heaven is brass! It will be a horrid sight with dead bodies decomposing in the blood red sea and the putrefying stench will cause nausea to those living near the sea.

And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. (Revelation 16:4)

This is another reenactment of the previous judgment on the rivers and fountains of waters but instead of turning the waters bitter because of wormwood, this time waters turn into blood. Just as the sinners thought they

have salvaged the situation and put remedial action into place to get portable and drinking water back to the market again, these waters turn into blood. How can man desalinate water from blood! Reverse osmosis would not be of much help and they are now forced to drink blood. ***And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.*** (Revelation 16:5&6) Horror movies will become a living reality during this time when the patrons turn into active participants as the reality show goes on with them drinking blood! The sinners on earth will turn into living vampires. It must be an awful sight to see sinners drinking blood because they have shed the blood of saints and prophets. This just recompense of reward for rejecting revealed truth from above is astonishing to say the least.

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. (Revelation 16:8)

While this fourth vial judgment might seem to parallel the fourth trumpet judgment, instead of darkening the sun with another third of its remaining light, the sun is ultra heated to scorch men with fire while the amount of light entering the earth remains unchanged. ***And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.*** (Revelation 16:9) Repentance will not be possible for these sinners even when they are tormented with this great heat and they will still blaspheme God. How amazing the hardness of impenitent sinners completely devoid of any saving grace! This shows that there will be no repentance in hell while continuous sorrows and pains ravage the sinners. Their unrepentant state becomes permanent and there will be no recourse and no higher appeal and no gospel preached would be able to saved these damned sinners burning in hell fire. So the trials and tribulations come one after another to punish sinners on earth for rejecting the grace of God during the Age of grace and now during the time of Jacob's trouble, the whole earth will travail in birth pangs waiting to be delivered from the corruptive bondage because of sins of fallen men.

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for

pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. (Revelation 16:10&11)

The judgment of God, this time from the fifth vial is getting more and more specific targeting the seat of the beast. By default, men forfeited their reign on earth because of sin and Satan becomes the ruler of this present evil world deceiving nations and damning men to hell. Here his very seat of power comes within the cross hair of the wrath of God. The kingdom of this world is already in darkness under the reign of terror of Satan but now it will become full of darkness. This is a total and complete blackout of his kingdom. Terrible pains are evident during this time and again instead of repenting, sinners will continue to blaspheme God. This horrible time spoken of by the Lord is now on earth giving the inhabitants on earth a foretaste of the horror to come.

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 8:12, 22:13, 25:30)

The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of darkness and weeping and gnashing of teeth are the natural traits associated with his kingdom. There will be eternal regret and eternal pains and gnashing of teeth will not in anyway, form or shape lessen the degree of pain experienced by the sinner in this kingdom of darkness. Unfortunately, men love darkness rather than light and they will spend their eternity in this kingdom of darkness to be forever tormented for their rebellion and rejection of the true Light from above. ***And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*** (John 3:19) This aptly describes the reason why they reject the light given to them. Because their deeds are evil and they continue to practice evil and as such, these sinners will be full of darkness and the kingdom of darkness will be a place most worthy of their residency. The only way to escape is to come to the true Light who will give the sinner light and be delivered out of darkness into Christ's marvellous light: ***I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*** (John 12:46)

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. (Revelation 16:12)

Here is accomplished what the judgment from the sixth trumpet prepared will come to pass. This is the battle of Armageddon that even the world is familiar with where movies have been made to awe the audience and condition them for such a time like this. What is missing in their portrayal of this event is the context in which Almighty God is judging the inhabitants on earth and refining the children of Israel where the Kingdom of Israel will eventually be restored after this event. This is the war that will end all wars on earth. This is the mother of all battles and the armies of the united nations will converge on a piece of land in Israel to fight it out and claim this land as their own. The Middle East in Israel will be the center of all attention during this time. The judgments of God will become more specific and is getting closer to home. This time, God's judgment is homing in on Israel where this great army of two hundred million men will assemble for the day of slaughter never before happen in the history of fallen men. There will be utter devastation to the enemies of Israel where many trumpets will be sounding on earth preparing the nation of Israel for this day and time of controversy of all human race. This is a war that will bring about a new world order so that men will not learn war anymore. ***And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*** (Isaiah 2:4) The command given before the time of Jacob's trouble in Joel 3:10 will be fulfilled and abolished. ***Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.*** Traumatic this war maybe, it is a necessary evil to bring to pass the blessing that will come because of the hardness of the evil heart of fallen men.

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. (Revelation 16:17)

Finally, it is done! The seventh vial is poured on earth to bring the judgment of God to a close. When Christ exclaimed, "It is finished" while hanging on the cross, the spiritual aspect of the victory is completed. The transaction for the redemption of fallen men is done. The ransom payment of divine blood is paid and the captive souls set free! Now the physical aspect

of the Kingdom comes into the picture. This is the day of vengeance that the Lord Jesus Christ withheld from preaching during His earth ministry when He read part of Isaiah 61:1&2: *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;* but now the second half of verse two and Isaiah 61:3-11 will come into the picture after this time: *To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

What a blessing it must be to see this Millennial Day dawning on the horizon of God's prophetic calendar! This is a war that will usher in the Kingdom Age where all the families on earth will be blessed as promised to Abraham through his seed.

And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. (Revelation 16:18-21)

The final judgment here from the seventh vial will complete all the judgments rain on planet Earth. Great devastation of cities among the nations will take place and multitudes will perish during this time. The voices, thunders and lightnings resemble the days of old when Jehovah God descends on Mount Sinai to give the oracles of God to the children of Israel when the voices of trumpet is heard. While the earthquake Moses and his people experienced was a local affair, this time the earthquake is so mighty that every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. This is amazing indeed and the landscape on earth will be greatly altered during this time. BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH will be judged and destroyed. As great hailstones from heaven fall, sinners continue their rebellion and blaspheme God. The trumpets spoken of by the prophets will be sounding on earth to bring to pass this event to herald the arrival of the Kingdom of Israel as the armies assemble in heaven ready to descend to take possession of the kingdoms of the world when the judgments of God come to an end. The seventh trumpet that opens the seven vials summarizes all these judgments in the third woe and as the righteous Lord promises to repay vengeance to those deserving recipients who are hell bent in rebelling against the Most High. *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. (Revelation 19:1-3)*

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice,

and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. (Revelation 19:6-9)

Here the Lamb's wife, the Church, having been delivered from the wrath to come after being translated into heaven before the time of Jacob's trouble, is now ready to proceed to the wedding celebration on earth to rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. The time of Jacob's trouble is peculiar to Israel vis-à-vis the Gentile nations on earth. The Church is a separate entity in the revelation of the Holy Bible that is distinct from the nation of Israel and the Gentiles.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:6-9)

Hence the seventh trumpet completes the wrath of the Lamb and usher in an Age with the reign of Christ on earth. The Church of the firstborn and the saints of all ages will be assembled in this army ready to return to earth. The enemies of Almighty God will be vanquished in this final battle written thousand of years ago and all the active participants of this reality show on earth having received the mark of the beast and worship his image will be eliminated and none who rebelled against God will survive. The seven trumpets to be blown in heaven during a time in the future will herald in a time of great horror and terror on earth during the time of Jacob's trouble. Only fools will ignore these trumpet warnings and not repent and come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ during this Age of grace while the Lord is calling out sinners to repentance to become members of His body, the Church, which is the Bride of Christ. There will be no survivors for those who reject the truths and think they can outlast the time of this great tribulation that will come upon the earth. These seven trumpet judgments will have a global impact upon all the inhabitants on earth while the trumpets spoken of by the prophets have Israel in view. Many trumpets will be sounding during that time and the accompanying terror is beyond description and only fools will dare tread where no angels dare to venture and think that they will not fear come what may! ***Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*** (James 2:19) Be warned, even devils believe there is one God and they tremble. What about you? Regardless of your response, the fate of rebels is sealed. ***And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.*** (Isaiah 5:15&16)

It has come a long way since discussing the trumpets in the Old Testament and those in the New Testament that primarily deals with Israel and the Day of the Lord also known as the time of Jacob's trouble. It is now pertinent to deal with those trumpets in relation to the Christians who have been for centuries being told to look forward to that blessed hope of the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. The trumpet call for the child of God is distinctly different from those that concerns the children of Israel with regards to their celebration during their feasts days and worship of Jehovah God, the call to arms during times of war that invoke divine assistance from above and the great tribulation during the time of Jacob's trouble.

As far as the Church is concerned, there is no record of the New Testament Christians employing musical instruments in their worship of God in spirit and in truth, let alone handle any trumpets at all. This does not however, suggest that musical instruments are forbidden to be used in worship. Because the child of God is commanded to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, any other facilities such as church buildings, air-conditioning and heating systems and equipment such as sound systems that are commonly used in churches to worship God are of secondary importance. It is the posture of the heart of the child of God that really counts for the Lord looks in the heart of man and not on his surrounding environment. God is certainly not impressed with the weak and beggarly elements that men may used to facilitate worship but the Lord seeks those who are of a broken and a contrite spirit to worship Him who is most worthy of all our praise, adoration, honour and glory.

The Christian warfare and the warfare of the children of Israel are also not the same for the child of God is told in Ephesians 6:12: ***For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*** So the trumpet for the Christians is of no significance in his earthly pilgrimage because he is told in 2 Corinthians 10:4: ***(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*** Thus a physical trumpet like the pair of silver trumpets the children of Israel were told to make to be used by the priests in the Old Testament has no relevance for the Church. The nation of Israel and the Church of the firstborn are explicitly separate entities, which cannot be mixed up in the study and the interpretation of the words of the living God.

Moreover, all the judgments pronounced by the Old Testament prophets against Israel and other nations concerning the Day of the Lord where the trumpets sound out exceedingly troublous times during the time of Jacob's trouble are not the portion of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The trumpets' judgments discussed previously show a time of great tribulation and terror where the population of the world will be greatly decimated during that horrifying time are not the judgments of the Church of the firstborn that requires some kind of purification before the Church is finally accepted to become worthy resident of that celestial land in the glory by and by! While it is true that the child of God being a member of the body of Christ, the Church, is told that he will experience trials and tribulations, no where is it indicated that during those trying times the heavens are shaken, the sun and the moon become darkened and stars start falling from the skies. The Christians in Thessalonica suffered tribulations as we are told in 1 Thessalonians 3:4: ***For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.*** No great earthquakes were reported during their tribulations let alone the shaking of heaven just because they went through tribulation! And enduring persecutions and tribulations they did according to 2 Thessalonians 1:4: ***So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:*** but none of them were told to sound a trumpet like the children of Israel to call for help from above!

The Christian's trials and tribulations are not the same as the great tribulation that will come upon Israel and the world during the time of Jacob's trouble. In essence, the child of God will definitely go through tribulation if he seeks to live his life right for the glory of God as we are told in 2 Timothy 3:12: ***Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*** So it would be utterly foolish to ignore such crucial biblical facts when studying the trumpets that sound during different times in the Holy Bible and applying events the same way throughout for Christians and Israel alike without taking into consideration the distinction between the nation of Israel and the Church. To make it unmistakably clear, the apostle Paul warned Christians not to give offence to three distinct groups of people on earth in 1 Corinthians 10:32: ***Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*** hence, failing to distinguish the three different groups will result in insane application and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. As such, the commandment given to Christians to study the words of the living God by rightly dividing them cannot be taken lightly:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Concerning the Church and the nation of Israel, there is this misconception that the Church has replaced the nation of Israel and as such, all the promises and blessings given to Israel are now proprietary of the Church by inheritance. Such claims are completely preposterous in the light of Scriptural evidence.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9&10)

The Church is a peculiar people called out of darkness into Christ's marvelous light. All members of this Church are a chosen generation conferred with the privilege as a royal priesthood to function in this holy nation. Christians are simply ambassadors for Christ to perform a spiritual work of reconciliation of lost sinners with God. These are all spiritual aspects of the blessings and privileges of the Church for the purpose of showing forth the praises of the Lord for now having obtained mercy, which in time past is not the case. This in no way extends the rights of the Church to lay claim to lands on earth, organs of government institutions, military affairs, and many other worldly matters pertaining to the running of the states. The Church being an holy nation comprising of all born again believing members of the body of Christ has not been given the authority to deal with individual states in the world in the physical realm. The power and authority of the Church are spiritual and not physical for the warfare of the Christians is not carnal but spiritual. When the individual local organized church intrudes into earthly affairs pertaining to the function of the state, this church has no authority to invoke the promise given to the nation of Israel to seek divine intervention on her behalf to accomplish the objectives of the church on earth. Those churches that meddle with the affairs on earth have lost their spiritual visions. To make matter worse for such misapplication concerning the promise of blessings for Israel and the curse for disobedience, the Christians are faced with the dilemma of the tribulations that Israel has to go through for disobedience and rebellion. Such is not the case for the Church because persecutions and tribulations for the Christians are the direct results of obedience to Christ and not disobedience. While it is

also true that Christians also suffered when they are disobedient to Christ, such sufferings are considered chastisement and not the curse that the entire nation of Israel has to face in times of apostasy. Hence, confusing the blessings and curses for Israel and applying them to the Church will bring about a nightmarish scenario where Christians are subject to the tribulations during the time of Jacob's trouble when the trumpets sound. The apostle Paul addressed this issue when he wrote to the Christians in Rome and cautioned them not to be ignorant of the distinction between Israel and the Church.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. (Romans 11:25-27)

The Scriptures here clearly show that Israel has not been permanently rejected by God but this nation shall one day be saved when the Deliverer who is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, the King of the Jews returns to deliver them and restore to them the Kingdom of Israel as promised to them in the Old Testament. During that time, God will take away all the sins of this nation. Meanwhile, this nation is set aside until the fullness of the Gentiles is accomplished and Paul called this a mystery which is hidden in the Old Testament. Indeed, Israel needs to be saved and definitely not the Church that needs to be saved. Confusing this most vital point will land one into unimaginable and inextricable 'Animal Farm's style' of interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. The Church is a mystery in the Old Testament but it is now revealed to the apostle who preached to the believers and the Church is no longer a mysterious entity still kept hidden away from angels and men. Notwithstanding, the Church does not replace Israel in any way, form or shape for the Church is the Bride of Christ given a high and heavenly calling whose ultimate destiny is the New Jerusalem, which is distinctly different from the earthly Jerusalem given to the seed of Abraham, in particular, the children of Israel.

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the

commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. (Romans 16:25-27)

Doubtless, this revelation of the mystery having been made known even the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ preached by Paul to all nations with regards to the obedience of faith is now an open secret. It is through this foolishness of preaching that sinners get saved and become members of the body of Christ, the Church, which is not an extension of the nation of Israel whose calling is earthly as far as the Kingdom of Israel is concerned.

If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. (Ephesians 3:2-7)

The mystery of Christ is now revealed to the apostles and the prophets by the Holy Spirit that the born again believers in Christ who are Gentiles by birth have become fellow heirs with the nation of Israel. The status of the Gentiles in the past were: ***That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*** (Ephesians 2:12&13) In the past, Israel was God's chosen nation in relation to the world at large but when Israel has been set aside for their rejection of their King, the Church is now the chosen holy nation on earth to converse with the world to both the Jews and the Gentiles as ambassadors for Christ. This does not in any way negate the restoration of the nation of Israel for the Kingdom of Israel in the future when the fullness of the Gentiles is complete.

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and

powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. (Ephesians 3:9-12)

Here again, the Church is the mystery hidden from the beginning of the world and not revealed in the Old Testament but now all members of the body of Christ are to understand the fellowship of this mystery by the preaching of the apostle Paul to the Gentiles. The apostle Paul also told the same to the believers in Colosse in this manner: *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:* (Colossians 1:26&27) Paul further affirms this matter concerning the Church to the Christians in Ephesus: *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* (Ephesians 5:32) The Old Testament Scriptures are given to the Jews and they are the custodians of the oracles of God and the gospel records in the New Testament are the continuation of where the Old Testament has left when God deals with the nation of Israel through the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom of heaven to prepare the Jews for the Kingdom of Israel. When the children of Israel have finally and completely rejected their King and even after His resurrection and ascension into heaven when the apostles preached to them, the Gentile Bride is now sought after to become fellow heir with Israel currently set aside until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. So the Church and the nation of Israel are heirs of the Kingdom but they have distinct callings while one is heavenly and the other earthly. Mixing up these two separate entities will result in irreconcilable mess in Bible interpretation concerning events of things to come.

Paul is chiefly instrumental in expounding this mystery through his epistles: *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.* (Ephesians 6:19&20) The gospel that Paul preaches that will saved souls and put them into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13) is a mystery hidden from the beginning which is only now made known primarily through his ministry being the apostle of the Gentiles. *For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:* (Romans 11:13) which explains the gulf of difference

between the doctrines in the Old Testament for the nation of Israel and the Church in the New Testament. Herein lies the distinction for the Old Testament doctrine of “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth” and the admonition from the apostle Paul: ***Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*** (Romans 12:19) Under the Old Testament, the children of Israel are given a pair of silver trumpets to avenge themselves with the help from heaven according to the commandment given to them in Numbers 10:9: ***And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.*** Under the New Testament, no such trumpets are ever given to the Church to seek vengeance upon the personal enemies of individual members of the body of Christ for Christians are commanded to love their enemies: ***But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.*** (Luke 6:27&28) For the vengeance of the Church occurs only at the coming of Christ to bring in the Kingdom Age where all families on earth shall be blessed as promised to Abraham: ***Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*** (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10) What a contrast in doctrine for the two separate and distinct entities concerning Israel and the Church! How can the trumpet call for Israel and the Church be the same!

But the day is coming where the purpose of God is fulfilled to gather in one all things concerning the nation of Israel, the Church and the Gentiles when the seventh angel is about to sound the seventh trumpet in his hand to bring to pass the mystery of God: ***But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*** (Revelation 10:7) According to the apostle Paul, this is the gathering together of all things mentioned in Ephesians 1:10-12: ***That in the dispensation of the***

fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Having laid the foundation concerning the difference between the nation of Israel and the Church of the firstborn, it is time to proceed with the trumpets in relation to the Christians concerning the Day of Christ, the blessed hope where all Christians shall be transported into the holy presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without first dealing with the distinction between Israel and the Church, the trumpets for these two groups would seem to be the same one for another and applying them interchangeably to the confusion of the Christian not knowing whether the time of Jacob's trouble indeed concerns him.

The apostle Paul made this remark concerning the use of a trumpet: ***For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*** (1 Corinthians 14:8) From the Old Testament usage, it is clear that trumpets are often used in battles as a means of communications and if the trumpet gives the wrong signal, the reaction and movement of the troops would be wrong and thus jeopardizing the lives of many comrades fighting in the battle. The sounding of the trumpet must be clear and consistent otherwise, confusion will reign and the battle lost. As far as a Christian is concerned, there is no need for him to listen to any trumpet call to rise up to battle. The battle of a Christian is not the same as that of national Israel! The real enemies of a Christian are unseen and concern the spiritual realm. As such when the trumpet sounds the alarm during the time of Jacob's trouble, it is not the trumpet he is supposed to listen to and take note of the impending battle. For the Church is not national Israel and the Church will not be involved in the armies of the united nations to come against Israel at Armageddon during that time. Neither will the Church put on military uniforms to join Israel on earth to fight against these combined force of two hundred million men during the great tribulation. For the Head of the Church is Christ and the Church will be in heaven during that time assembling with those armies in heaven where the Chief Commander is Christ, the Captain of our salvation! So there must be no confusion between the trumpets the Church should hear and those that the nation of Israel would have to hear in that day. The trumpet calls are not the same and the objectives in relation to those calls are also not the same.

The most prominent trumpet call a Christian dead or alive will have to listen to is the one given by the apostle Paul, the expounder of mysteries, 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.*** This no doubt is the most important trumpet call that concerns a Christian and yet some irreverent Christians would make fun of these verses by placing these verses prominently on the door of a nursery in a church building thus distorting the meanings and implications of the importance of these Scriptures. These verses undoubtedly speak of a resurrection when the trumpet sounds. These have been the hopes of multitudes of Christians dead or alive who have been looking forward to for the complete redemption wrought by Christ to be complete in body, soul and spirit as the true new man in Christ. The full force of this event is explained further by the apostle Paul in the following verses.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:53-58)

At this juncture, the child of God has undergone a complete transformation where corruption is a thing of the past and incorruption has come in and the power and presence of sin is forever banished. The mortal has become immortal never to be subject to the pains of death again like in the past living in the body of this death. Indeed, the sting of death is gone and the victory of the grave is over. Praise God who gives victory to the child of God this great and precious promise of the resurrection and the complete redemption of his lost estate where incorruption and immortality are now present and permanent realities never to revert to the former lowly, hopeless and helpless state. And as such, the child of God is encouraged to continue to labour for the Lord because his labour will not be in vain in the Lord because of the promise of this resurrection in the future. Here, the trumpet call is unheard of in those previous trumpets calls of doom and

destruction for Israel and the nations during the time of Jacob's trouble. This trumpet is not the same as those meant for Israel and indeed neither could be as the Church and Israel have different callings and they play different roles in God's overall plan of redemption for Adam's lost and helpless race.

To further differentiate the trumpets that usher in terrible judgments during the time of Jacob's trouble discussed previously from the trumpet that a believer will hear concerning a call to arise during the resurrection, some trumpet calls will be examined hereafter.

A few thousand years ago when Moses led the children of Israel to assemble below Mount Sinai, the trumpet sounded from heaven. This trumpet is recorded to be that of a voice speaking words from heaven: ***And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:*** (Hebrews 12:19) corresponding with: ***And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.*** (Exodus 19:16,19&20) This is not a trumpet call of judgment but a trumpet call from heaven to draw the children of Israel near to God by the giving of the oracles of God to this chosen nation. The trumpet call here is to signal to the children of Israel to come up to the mount according to Exodus 19:13: ***There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.*** The signal here is a long blast as the last trump for them to go up to the mount. So the trumpet call on the day of resurrection is alluded to even so early in the Holy Scriptures as a shadow and a type of events to come so far off in the future! Indeed, the Holy Bible is a marvelous Book! The trumpet call in this case is not a blast with hail fires falling from heaven with no voices heard at all like those that will take place during the time of Jacob's trouble. The trumpet call on the day of resurrection will come with voices heard by the child of God.

The apostle John also had an out of body experience when he was caught into heaven to receive revelations concerning things to come in the

future. Here is what he said: *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.* (Revelation 1:10&11) John testified that he heard a great voice and this voice is as of a trumpet. This voice is none other than the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. John is called into the presence of Christ to see what would be happening in the churches throughout the period of the Church Age. Here the trumpet and the voice are again present when the child of God is called into the presence of the Lord. The trumpet and the voices heard by Moses and the children of Israel are now repeated for the apostle John. By the way, this is not the only occasion he heard a voice from heaven. The second time whereby this same voice spoke to him is recorded in Revelation 4:1&2: *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.* The same voice that John initially heard from the “talking” trumpet is getting more specific. The command given to him is to “Come up hither”. The purpose is to reveal to John things which must follow concerning the time of Jacob’s trouble. John is called to go through a door to enter heaven. Spiritually speaking, the Lord Jesus Christ is the door, the true door by which all sinners may go through to enter into life. So the voice and the trumpet always come together for the child of God. Here, this is a voice that calls John into the presence of Christ in heaven to preview what will take place in the future on earth during the time of Jacob’s trouble and the present setting in heaven during his time. The command to come up hither is peculiar to the child of God. This same command is also given to the two witnesses killed on earth during the time of Jacob’s trouble.

And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. (Revelation 11:12)

This command is a call to resurrect these two witnesses whose bodies are left unburied in Jerusalem and they come back to life upon hearing this call from heaven. They then ascend up to heaven before their enemies after

hearing the call to come up hither. Another identical phrase concerning this call is also found one time in the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament.

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men: For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen. (Proverbs 25:5-7)

Interestingly, the preceding verses concern the removal of the wicked before the king so that his throne might be established in righteousness. This points to the future establishment of the Millennial Kingdom where the Lord Jesus Christ will come to reign after removing the wicked on earth. Self-exaltation based on one's work striving to come before the king is denounced. It is suggested that it would be better to wait for the command to come up hither before the king than to strive based on one's effort to come before the king. How amazing are the words of the living God and their truth past finding out! Hence, the command to come up hither has a very strong Scriptural connotation with reference to the resurrection and the translation of the saints into heaven to come before the great King. This command cannot be applied in any other way but this very narrow way as far as Scriptural evidence suggests. So John is caught into heaven after receiving this command upon hearing the voice of the trumpet and those two witnesses and even perhaps others with them also ascend into heaven upon hearing this same command from heaven. Even in the book of Proverbs that concerns coming before the king, this particular command appears again. It will be difficult not to regard this peculiar command as a trend given only to the believers in Christ that concerns the resurrection and translation when this particular trumpet from heaven sounds.

There are several Scriptural references given to the New Testament believers in Christ to look forward to the coming of Christ. This is not the same as the second coming of Christ for which the first coming of Christ to Planet earth concerns His birth and subsequent ministries on earth to offer Himself as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world and the second coming back to Planet earth to restore the Kingdom to Israel. As far as the born again child of God is concerned, the coming of Christ for him is the appearing of Christ from heaven. If this did not happen during his lifetime, he goes to be with Christ: ***Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the***

Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8) The coming of Christ for the believers of the Church Age will culminate on the day of resurrection for those who died in faith in the Lord and those who are alive shall be changed according to 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 regarding the mystery that the apostle Paul shows to the Christians in Corinth.

The coming of Christ for the Church with the last trump from the trumpet mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 is a time of transformation for the child of God to appear with Christ in glory and not tribulation according to Colossians 3:4: **When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.** The second coming of Christ for Israel is a time of tribulation during the time of Jacob's trouble when those terrifying trumpets sound. The coming of Christ for the child of God in leadership position as Elders of the Church will be a time of reward according to 1 Peter 5:4: **And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.** The coming of Christ for Christians is a time of confidence for having abide with Christ: **And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.** (1 John 2:28) This is because when Christ comes for the Church, believers in Christ shall be transformed and become like Christ having a glorious body as true sons of God: **Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.** (1 John 3:2) The Lord is actively perfecting Christians to prepare them to meet Him on that day of His appearing according to 1 Thessalonians 3:13&5:23: **To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Indeed the Lord Jesus Christ will certainly come and believers have been looking for Christ to appear for many years now and He will surely come. **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.** (Hebrews 9:28) This is true for the New Testament Christian while the reference is also meant for those Hebrew believers during the time of Jacob's trouble to look up for the second coming of Christ and endure to

the end to be saved which is their salvation from their enemies that come against Israel during those days. The same admonition is also found in James 5:8: ***Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*** The believers in Christ during those days have to be very patient during their time of trouble when they have to endure to the end of the time of Jacob's trouble to be saved upon the coming of Christ. Spiritually speaking, Christians are also to be patient to wait for Christ's appearing because this is the blessed hope of the believers in Christ who are peculiar people of the Lord according to Titus 2:13&14: ***Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*** The coming of Christ is indeed a blessed hope every child of God should look forward to but unfortunately for many who fail to rightly divide the word of truth, they have turned this blessed hope of the appearing of Christ into a hopeless blast from heaven by claiming that the Church will have to go through the time of Jacob's trouble with Israel! These people have confused the trumpets for Israel during the time of Jacob's trouble with the trumpet of the Church calling believers to come up hither into heaven to meet the Lord.

Truly many Christians have been troubled by end time events and even the believers in Thessalonica are also troubled when some imposters have been writing to them as apostles to trouble them on this issue. This issue is clarified by the apostle Paul when he wrote to them and comfort them: ***Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*** (2 Thessalonians 2:1&2) So the apostle went on to reveal the nature of the event during the last days.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall

consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
(2 Thessalonians 2:3-12)

Here is mentioned the abomination of desolation of Daniel which the Lord Jesus Christ also warned the disciples in Matthew 24 to flee to the mountains when this particular incident takes place. These few verses summarize the entire period of the time of Jacob's trouble with the coming of the Lord to destroy all the wicked in that day with the spirit of His mouth which turns out to be the sword from His mouth as mentioned in Revelation 19:21: ***And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*** This sword and the spirit is also known as the word of God according to Ephesians 6:17: ***And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*** for Christ who will be coming back is the Word of God: ***And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*** (Revelation 19:13) The second coming of Christ for the world is a time of judgment while the appearing of Christ for the child of God in Christ is a time of blessed hope and glory. The two events cannot be mixed as this will lead to error in rightly dividing the word of truth. The translation of the saints has taken place before while the Lord did not come back down to earth which is evident in the translation of Enoch and Elijah transported into heaven without undergoing the baptism of mortal death. That is why the appearing of Christ for Christians who are alive is called the blessed hope for what is there to hope for when Christians know for a certainty that they will have to go through the seven trumpets' judgments in the book of Revelation during the time of Jacob's trouble where the program for depopulation of the earth will take place! What kind of blessed hope is this when Christians are rocking on earth to behold the heavens shaken when they should be in heaven with Christ during those days! What kind of blessed hope is this when Wormwood falls from the sky to contaminate fresh water supply on earth when Christians should be with Christ in heaven who is the true river of life! What kind of blessed hope is this when the sun and moon are darkened in those days when Christians have been delivered out of darkness

into Christ's marvelous light and they are still on earth in the kingdom of Satan that will become full of darkness during the time of Jacob's trouble where there will be gnashing of teeth! Instead of basking in the true Light in heaven with Christ, false teachings have forced Christians to have fellowship with darkness in the kingdom of Satan when they fail to rightly divide the word of truth! What are Christians doing on earth during those days when the armies are gathered at Armageddon? Which side will they join? Are the Christian warfare supposed to be carnal? The folly of mixing up the Church with Israel and confusing the trumpets for the two separate entities is doing great damage to the faith of the child of God. The joy of the blessed hope quickly descends into the dread of the hopeless curse of the world!

But thanks be unto God for comforting the child of God with Scriptures which show otherwise that the child of God can certainly look forward to that true blessed hope from heaven. There is going to be a trumpet call from heaven calling the child of God to come up hither. This trumpet call has been heard by saints before when their names are called. Just like Lazarus was resurrected when he heard his name called by the Lord in John 11:43 (*And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*), the child of God will come before the Lord when he hears his name called out from the voice of the trumpet just like the one that John heard in the book of Revelation. There will be no mistaken identity when the trumpet sounds. For the trumpet will sound and the saints will be assembled and at the last trump, all shall meet the Lord in the air to be ever with the Lord. None will be missed out and all will make it safely home to the Father's house of many mansions. The other trumpet call for believers in Christ to meet the Lord on resurrection day, which parallels that of 1 Corinthians 15:52-58 is given in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Here the trumpet shall sound and this concerns believers in Christ. This is the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the translation of Christians who are alive and they shall be changed as in a moment in a twinkling of an eye. This event concerns the New Testament Church and not the Old Testament Israel. This event is the catching away of the Bride of Christ and not the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel on earth. Here the Lord Jesus Christ will personally come to invite His Bride home to the Father's house of many mansions He has gone to prepare as indicated by the phrase "so shall we ever be with the Lord". The Bride is caught away to attend the marriage of the Lamb and the Church will become the wife of the Lamb when she prepares herself to come back with the Lord at the end of the time of Jacob's trouble to rule and reign with Christ on earth. This trumpet signals the end of the Church Age and the ushering in of the time of Jacob's trouble where the program of the nation of Israel at one time suspended will be resumed. This event is called the blessed hope of the believer in Christ because this is indeed a great time of blessing when all Christians take possession of their glorified bodies at this point in time. The presence and power of sin will be no more and every child of God will be like Christ who cannot sin anymore. What a blessing and a blessed day it would be when Christians no longer have to groan and moan living in the body of this death where the propensity of the flesh is to sin against God! This trumpet call is not for the salvation of Israel because the result of this sounding of the trumpet is the resurrection and translation of believers in Christ and not restoration of Israel. Furthermore, up till this day, Israel still rejects Christ as their Messiah and King! There is no mention of anything that concerns Israel in these verses and how can the trumpet calls for the Church and Israel be the same!

These words of comfort are given to the Christians in Thessalonica because false teachers who are imposters masquerading as the apostles are trying to confuse and mislead them on the events of the last days. This is clearly the case as recorded in 2 Thessalonians 2:1&2: ***Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*** Why would not these Christians be troubled if they have to go through the time of Jacob's trouble! The answer is pretty obvious as they have been told that the Lord Jesus Christ has delivered Christians from the wrath to come according to the first epistles which they received in 1 Thessalonians 1:10: ***And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised***

from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. They are further assured that they are not appointed unto wrath: ***For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*** (1Thessalonians 5:9&10) But now some false teachers are telling them otherwise and are pointing them to a different set of trumpets meant for Israel concerning the time of Jacob's trouble to become part and parcel of the Church's trouble. Those who are hell bent in denying the difference between the Church and Israel will always mix up the persecutions and tribulations for Christians because they are living godly lives with the particular period in history known as Jacob's trouble for the nation of Israel because of her apostasy. Hence, those who do not rightly divide the word of truth will end up giving itching ears to false teachers to tell them to listen to the wrong trumpet call. These false teachers cleverly point the last trump of the resurrection trumpet for Christians to the last trump of the time of Jacob's trouble in the book of Revelation or Matthew chapter 24. Whenever a trumpet sounds, there will be a last trump when the trumpet sounded long just like the one Moses and the children of Israel heard beneath Mount Sinai. It would be irresponsible madness if one is to connect the last trump Moses heard to the last trump concerning the time of Jacob's trouble in the future! Such foolish conjectures of trying to match the last trumps are throwing Christians off track when they are supposed to look forward to the blessed hope of the glorious appearing of Christ.

Enoch is a type of the believer in Christ who was translated before the world went into tribulation of the flood during Noah's days. Noah was delivered from the wrath to come when he entered the ark to hide from the storm of tribulation and came out to a brand new kingdom where he reigned on earth. Lot was delivered before judgment fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. The Church is promised to be delivered from the wrath to come and will not go through Jacob's trouble for this is none of her trouble. The Church is the Bride of Christ who will be caught away into heaven to prepare for the wedding reception while all hell breaks loose on earth during the time of Jacob's trouble. That is why John is revealed that the wife of the Lamb is making herself ready as recorded in Revelation 19:7-9: ***Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto***

me, These are the true sayings of God. If the Church has to go through the tribulation of Jacob's trouble, there would not be time for her to make herself ready in heaven to march with Christ to come back to earth to inherit the Kingdom. The Church is in heaven and is ready to come back to earth with the Lord Jesus Christ to enter the Kingdom prepared of the Father. The trumpet call that the Church heard precedes those during the time of Jacob's trouble. The child of God can be certain that the time of Jacob's trouble is definitely not his portion.

When the Lord exclaimed, "It is finished" while on the cross of Calvary, this victory is already sealed and complete and the triumph has begun along time ago: *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* (Colossians 2:15) As such, Christians can have this full assurance of confidence to triumph in Christ for what He has done for the Church. *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.* (2 Corinthians 2:14) Christ who loves His Church and gave Himself for this Church will not subject His Body, His beloved Bride to the horror and terror of the time of Jacob's trouble: *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;* (Ephesians 5:25) and it is unthinkable indeed that any earthly husband would subject his wife to physical abuse during his life. What more, do we expect such treatment from the Lord of glory, the lover of our soul!

Dear Friend, if this is the first time you are reading about the trumpets from the Holy Bible, take heed! There will be sounding of trumpets very soon. The first to sound will be the trumpet to resurrect the Christians who have died in faith and the translation of the living Christians on earth and all will meet the Lord to be welcomed to the celestial shore in heaven. The trumpets following will be hell on earth where Israel will be dealt with and all the nations will be judged. It will be an exceedingly terrifying and frightening time that you would not want to go through. Call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and ask Him to save you from the wrath to come and join the millions of Christians who will be caught away into heaven to prepare for the wedding which will take place in heaven and then come back to earth again when the judgments on earth are over. There the Church and Israel will enter into the Kingdom Age with those nations that are saved to enjoy the blessings of peace and rest never experienced before since the history of man under the righteous reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. It will be a

glorious time in fulfillment of Bible prophecies spoken of by the prophets of old: ***They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*** (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14) This is not something you would want to miss! Call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins and save you today!

Dearly beloved, the blessed hope of the glorious appearing of Christ is true, sure and certain while the time of Jacob's trouble will also surely come upon Israel and the world. Let us do the work of Christ for the time will come when we can labour no more when the time is up according to the words of the Lord: ***I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*** (John 9:4) Because there is a resurrection and the trumpet shall soon sound, ***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*** (1 Corinthians 15:58) ***Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*** (2 Thessalonians 1:11&12)

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. (Revelation 22:16-21)

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kjp-asia.com.