



Rosh Hashana 5786

September 23, 2025

We are here today because ADONAI has given us a royal command to attend *Yom Teruah*, the Day of Trumpets. 23 Adonai spoke to Moses saying: 24 “Speak to Bnei-Yisrael, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a Shabbat rest, a memorial of blowing (shofarot), a holy convocation. (Leviticus 23:23-24 TLV). He said it was a מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ *mikrah kodesh*, a holy convocation. Our convocation, the event ADONAI called, is holy, set apart to worship Him.

Since *Rosh Hashanah* is one of ADONAI’s festivals that has not received its final fulfillment, how do we think He will fulfill it? It is possible that Yeshua’s statement to Caiaphas, the High Priest, was about how it would happen. He had been taken to the High Priest’s house, where Caiaphas and some members of the High Court, the *Sanhedrin*, were examining him. Yeshua had remained silent to their questions up until now. 61 Again, the *kohen gadol* questioned Him, “Are you *Mashiach*, Son of the Blessed One?” 62 “I am,” said Yeshua (Mark 14:61b-62a TLV). Caiaphas had asked two questions: “Are you the *Mashiach*, the Messiah?”, and “Are you *Ben-HaM’vorakh*, the Son of the Blessed One?”, a euphemism for YHVH. Yeshua answered and said: “I AM,” the same response ADONAI had given to Moses at the Burning Bush, אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה; *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*, I AM THAT I AM! In giving this reply, Yeshua said to Caiaphas, “I AM the *Mashiach*, the Anointed One to come; I AM the Son of ADONAI! I AM *Elohim*, G-d! What Yeshua said next is the clue we are looking for: 62 “and you shall see ‘the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Powerful One,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven!’” (Mark 14:62b TLV). Yeshua’s words employed a Jewish teaching method called *remez*, which alludes to another Scripture. In essence, Yeshua told Caiaphas: I am the individual in Daniel 7:13. Caiaphas would have immediately thought of these verses: 13 “I was watching in the night visions. Behold, One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was brought into His presence. (Daniel 7:13 TLV). Yeshua had said to him, “You will see בֶּן-אָדָם *Ben Adam*,” the ‘Son of Man,’ “sitting at the right hand of הַגְּבוּרָה *HaG’vurah*,” “The Power,” a euphemism for יְהוָה *YHVH*, ADONAI, “and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Caiaphas immediately understood and tore his clothes, crying out, “Blasphemy!” In these few words, Yeshua told Caiaphas that He is *Mashiach*, Messiah, the Son of I AM, who is The Power, YHVH. We, His disciples, know who He is, but He also provided additional information, telling us that He will “come on the clouds of heaven.” “On the clouds of heaven” is the way He left the earth. After He died and rose from the dead, forty days later, He ascended to His Father. 9 ...—while they were watching—He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9 TLV). While the disciples were watching, two angels appeared. They said: 11, “Men of Galilee, why do you keep standing here staring into heaven? This Yeshua, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11b TLV). Yeshua had told Caiaphas: “and you shall see ‘the Son of Man ‘coming with the clouds of heaven!’” And the two angels confirmed that Yeshua would return to the earth in the same way He left it.

For those paying attention, ADONAI announced Yeshua’s return long ago when Israel was in Babylonian captivity by giving Daniel a vision: 9 “While I was watching, thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His garment was as white as snow, and the hair

of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels a burning fire. 10 A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him. Thousands of thousands attended Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. (Daniel 7:9-10 TLV). This is a picture of the Day of Judgment to come. In his vision, Daniel saw Yeshua. He said: 13 *"I was watching in the night visions. Behold, One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days, and was brought into His presence. 14 Dominion, glory and sovereignty were given to Him that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will never pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.* (Daniel 7:13-14 TLV). The books were open in the heavenly court, two main books: one containing the names of the righteous and the other containing the names of the damned, those who would suffer eternal punishment. In Jewish tradition, there is a third book, the Book of the In-Between, for those whose names have not yet been written. But the names of the righteous are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain since the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8), and they will be able to enter the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27), a beautiful picture of the eternity awaiting Yeshua's righteous servants.

Thus far, both Yeshua and Daniel have said that He will come on the clouds of heaven. We don't view this as symbolism because when Yeshua ascended, His disciples saw the clouds. However, these clouds could be made up of Yeshua's angelic army, since He is the L-rd of Hosts, Leader of heaven's armies. Next in the line of clues, we have *Sha'ul's* writings to two different congregations. Whether Yeshua told him about this when they met on the Damascus Road, or *Sha'ul* paid attention to the first two clues from Daniel and Yeshua, we don't know. About 20 years after Yeshua died on the cross, around 50 CE, *Sha'ul* was in Corinth when he wrote his letter to the congregation in Thessalonica: 6 For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. 17 *Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air—and so we shall always be with the Lord.* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 TLV). Either Michael or Gabriel will give a mighty shout and sound ADONAI's *shofar* to alert us to Yeshua's coming. Here are the clouds once more. Then, those of us alive at that time will see Him coming on the clouds. The graves will be opened, and those who trusted in Yeshua will rise first, followed by Yeshua's living followers.

A few years later, while *Sha'ul* was in Ephesus around 55 CE, he wrote a letter to the congregation in Corinth. He explained more to them than he did to the Thessalonians, comparing our human bodies to a seed that must die before it can grow into new life. He wrote: 41 *There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption! 43 Sown in dishonor, raised in glory! Sown in weakness, raised in power! 44 Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body! If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.* (1 Corinthians 15:41-44 TLV). Our bodies are natural now, but a day is coming when we will receive a spiritual body—a glorious body with power beyond what we have today. *Sha'ul* continued: 45 *So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam (**Yeshua**) became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 Like the one made of dust, so also are those made of dust; and like the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.* (1 Corinthians 15:45-48 TLV). We must be born into natural bodies before we can receive our spiritual bodies from Yeshua, the last Adam. 50 *Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and what decays cannot inherit what does not decay.* (1

Corinthians 15:50 TLV). In nature, we die and decay, and that's the end of the physical bodies of those who do not know Yeshua. However, after they die, their spirits continue to live but go to a place separated from ADONAI for eternity. But *Sha'ul* has a surprise for those who have trusted in Yeshua: *51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.* (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 TLV). When the last shofar sounds, we will be transformed from mortal human bodies to glorious spiritual bodies, resurrection bodies.

Both Scriptures refer to the same event. *Sha'ul* wrote to the congregations in Corinth and Thessalonica, explaining to them what would happen at the final *shofar*. When it sounds, several things will occur. First, those who died believing in Yeshua will rise from their graves transformed. Second, those who are alive at that time will be transformed, and their bodies will change, becoming spiritual bodies. Third, we will all rise to meet Yeshua in the air, and afterward, we will always be with him.

So far, we have seen clues about Yeshua's return from Yeshua, Daniel, and *Sha'ul*. There is one more, from *Yochanan*. On the Island of Patmos, John received a vision, a revelation of Yeshua the Messiah. The angel that Yeshua sent made this statement: *7 "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn because of Him. Yes, amen!"* (Revelation 1:7 TLV). The tribes of the earth are the tribes of *Eretz Yisra'el*, the land of Israel. Zechariah saw them mourning: *10 "Then I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, when they will look toward Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son and grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for a firstborn.* (Zechariah 12:10 TLV). This is exciting because when that happens, it means the salvation of all Israel is near (Romans 11:25-29; Ezekiel 36:26-27).

We hope it happens soon, and several prophecies have circulated this season, suggesting that the Rapture will occur today. I would be thrilled if that were true, but I sincerely doubt it, not that Yeshua won't come on a future *Rosh Hashanah*. The symbolism of the *shofar* in this festival, along with the sound of the last *shofar* when Yeshua returns, indicates that this is the most likely day for Him to come back. But we don't believe in the Rapture because it is a theological term linked to a human Anti-Christ and the Great Tribulation. We believe that we will rise to meet Yeshua as *Sha'ul* described when the time comes. But no physical Anti-Christ is coming who will rebuild the Temple, allow sacrifices, then stop the sacrifices, and so on. We have previous teachings that explain in detail the fallacy of Dispensationalism and the mistake of the Seventieth week of Daniel. Many bad things could happen in the meantime, but they do not indicate the Great Tribulation, as that took place in Jerusalem in 70 CE, when the Temple was destroyed. Therefore, we must buckle down and carry out the work of Yeshua's ministry until it is time for Him to return.

No matter how much we believe we understand, *Yom Teruah* —the Day of the Shofar blast —remains a mystery. While we have verified scripturally that Yeshua will come for us on the clouds, we have no Scriptural proof of when it might happen. But soon, we hope. Where will we go with Yeshua? It appears most likely that we'll go to Jerusalem with Him, where we will be in His army at the Battle of Armageddon, because 1 Thessalonians tells us that when we join Yeshua, we will always be with Him. The Battle of Gog and Magog seems to be a different account of the same event. Ezekiel prophesied that this would occur at a time when Israel was living securely in peace. ADONAI said to Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: *8 "After many days you will be summoned. In the latter years, you will come against the land that has been brought back from the sword and regathered from many peoples on the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. But they were brought*

out from the peoples. When all of them are dwelling securely, 9 you will come up, you will come like a storm, you will be like a cloud covering the land—you and all your troops and many peoples with you.” (Ezekiel 38:8-9 TLV). While we fully believe we are in the time of the end, having witnessed both the rebirth of the Nation of Israel and the re-establishment of Jerusalem as its capital, it seems that a few more years are still ahead in our view of the Olive Tree generation of Jews. But before these events occur, our hope is that Yeshua will return on the clouds for us, something we are eagerly anticipating and in which we will spend eternity in new bodies that don’t ache or age. Maybe we won’t even need to watch our diets. *Chag Sameach!*