

Victory

15 - God's Covert Army
Church on the Park | Sunday, 28 August 2016

Text: Judges 7:15-23

Theme: Live in victory before you see the victory.

Intro: Gideon used three very unusual weapons to bring about God's victory: 1) Trumpets, 2) Empty Vessels and 3) Torches. In these instruments we learn that God's ways are not our ways. Today, we will focus in on the first of these strange and secret weapons: The Trumpet/Shofar. You will see how the Lord wants to equip you with this weapon as you arise into God's presence, plans and purposes.

1) God uses strange and secret weapons to bring about his victory (2 Cor. 10:3-6).

- Listen to **2 Cor. 10:3-6**.
 - The **weapons** of our **warfare** are not **carnal**. They are **out of this world**.
 - This means they are **not physical** and they are **not sinful**.
 - These weapons are for **building up** the body of Christ, **not for tearing** people down. They are for brining down **demonic strongholds**.
 - **Gideon's weapons** were very **unusual**—they were covert weapons. He has **three weapons**: 1) **Trumpets**, 2) **Empty Vessels** and 3) **Torches**.
 - They were held in both the **right hand** and **left**. These weapons were **God's sword** against the enemy.
 - “When the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the **torches** in their **left hands** and the **trumpets** in their **right hands**” (Judges 7:20).
 - “By the **weapons of righteousness** for the **right hand** and the **left**” (2 Cor. 6:7).

2) Begin everyday knowing God will always be victorious and you are on his side (Judges 7:15-23)

- Gideon didn't launch his attack until he was **certain** that he would be **victorious** (Judges 7:9-15).
 - In the same way, you have been **promised victory** before you begin
 - This is what the weapon of the **trumpet** is **all about**.
- Just like Gideon used the **covert weapon** of the **trumpet** (shofar), the Lord wants you to use **your voice** like a **trumpet** to declare God's victory before it manifests (Judges 7:15-23, cf. Isa. 54:1).
 - Psalm 118:15: “**Shouts of joy** and **victory** resound in the tents of the righteous of the Lord.”
- Gideon's use of **trumpets** (shofars) was **divinely inspired**. It was also **prophetic** of God's **triumph**.
 - Specifically, this trumpet was a **shofar**, a **ram's horn**. A trumpet could also be made of silver.
- I want to talk to you about **the weapon of the trumpet**.
 - Here is a very strange weapon that causes the **enemy's** army (when unified with light) to go into **confusion**.
 - *But, what does this trumpet mean for you and I today?*
 - Let's look at the **first appearance** and the **last appearance** of the trumpet (as well as in between) in Scripture to understand what this weapon is all about.
 - And especially, will want to ask, “*how can you apply this weapon in your own life?*”
 - **Do you all need to go out a buy a shofar?** No.
 - There's something more that the shofar was pointing to.
 - We **first** hear the trumpet in **Exodus 19:16, 19 & 20:18**.
 - Here **God as King** is **announcing** that he has **come** down.
 - It is all at the same time **declaring, warning and calling**.
 - The trumpet **announces** and **warns** that the **King** has come.

- This is what **Jesus** did in **Mark 1:14-15**.
- You blow God's trumpet when you **declare** that **Jesus** has **come**.
 - This weapon is not just for **evangelism**, but for **PRAYER & PRAISE**.
- The **Prophets** were like a **trumpet**: Ezekiel 33:3-6; Isa. 58:1 & Jer. 6:17
 - Here we see the sound of the trumpet as a warning.
 - You blow the trumpet when you **warn others**. But **first, warn yourself**.
 - In other words, hear the warning yourself and prepare your heart for the King.
- After Exodus, that we see the **feast of trumpets** that began the **New Year** (Rosh Hashannah). The trumpet proclaims that **something is beginning**, it gets our **attention** and **awakes** us. (Lev. 23:24)
- In **Numbers 10:10** trumpets were made to **call** the people to **gather** and to sound the **alarm** for war and attack.
 - God says hear that when the sound of the trumpet for **war** is blown, he will **remember** his people.
 - This is a blowing of the trumpet in **FAITH**, in faith that God would remember and come.
 - The battle is the Lord's
 - It's like the blowing of the trumpet **signals** the **hosts of heaven** (the heavenly armies) to come to the **aid** of God's people.
 - Remember, the **priests** blew their trumpets at **Jericho**.
 - The final trumpet blast meant the walls of Jericho would fall.
- In **1 & 2 Samuel** and **1 & 2 Kings**, the trumpet **proclaimed** a **new King**.
- Trumpets were used in **praise**, to praise God in **1 & 2 Chronicles** and **Psalms**.
 - When you praise God you are sounding God's trumpet and it calls all the heavenly hosts to join in with you.
- In **summary**, we see in the **Old Testament**, the trumpet has to do with God's **coming**.
 - Also, we see the trumpet is **associated** with **announcing, proclaiming, declaring, warning, alarm, war, new beginnings and gathering**.
- *What about in the **New Testament**? And what is the last trumpet in Scripture?*
- Jesus tells us **not** to blow a **trumpet** when giving to the **poor**. God has called us to do our acts of righteousness in secret, with humility (Matt. 6:2).
- Jesus tells us **in the end** he will send forth his angels with a **great trumpet** and they will **gather** the elect (Matt. 24:31).
 - This has to do with the **Lord's final coming in victory**.
 - So first, the King **comes** with the **sound** of a **trumpet** to **take** his people, Israel, as his **bride** through his **covenant** at **MT Sinai**.
 - The **last trumpet** is the King **coming** to **fulfill** his **covenant** and take his **bride** from **every nation and people**.
- Paul calls this the **last trumpet** in **1 Corinthians 15:52**.
 - He talks about this trumpet again in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
- The last trumpet is fully described by John in **Revelation 11:15**.
 - **Listen: "The Kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and he will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).**
 - Here is the **declaration** of the **Lord's eternal reign**.
- The **weapon of the trumpet** tells us that the Lord has **come** and will **come again**.
 - He is **King** and he **will reign**. He has **total victory**. In him we stand in **complete victory** over sin, sickness and satan.

3) Your life as a believer can be summed up in this three word confession: "Jesus is Lord" (Rom. 10:8-13).

- God's **trumpet** tells us that **Jesus is LORD**.
 - Not just a lord, but THE LORD.
 - He is the **King of kings and Lord of lords**. He is Lord over the heavens and earth.
 - This confession is **simple** and **clear**.
 - It's something a **three year old** can declare, but also a **sixty year old theologian** cannot fully fathom.

- Take Karl Barth for instance. He wrote six million words on the one confession: ‘Jesus is Lord.’
 - This confession is at the same time **simple** and **sublime**.
- The Christian life is all about him **becoming Lord** over **every part** of us.
 - Lord of your mind. Lord of your emotions. Lord of your heart. Lord of your decisions. Lord of your actions. Lord of your strength. Lord of your work. Lord of your family. Lord of your eyes. Lord of your ears. Lord of your mouth. Lord of your feelings.
- You need the trumpet of his **Lordship** to blow over every area of your life.
 - Blow that trumpet, Lord, over my life. Let everything within me be alignment with your Lordship. May every devil trying to afflict me going fleeing in terror at the sound of your blast.
- **Gideon’s victory** is **prophetic** of the **final victory** when the **last trumpet** will be sounded and the **light** of **Jesus Christ** will **flood** the earth. Satan will be bound and eventually thrown in the Lake of Fire.
- Let your **mind** and **heart** be **permeated** with the **truth** that “**It is finished!**”
 - Jesus has triumphed. The victory is ours. You will not lose if you are faithful to the Messiah.
- The **helmet of hope** must be **firmly** on your **head every day** you embark on your day.
 - **Hope** that Jesus will be **victorious** in every area of your life and in all the affairs of the world.
 - **Hope** and the inflatable **punching bag toy** (bop bag). The weight on the bottom (it’s foundation) caused it to keep bouncing back.
- *What area of your life is not saturated with **dew of hope**?*
 - “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in **triumph** in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” (2 Cor. 2:14).

Conclusion: The trumpet reminds us that God has come and will come again to lead us into total victory. Live each day with a mindset and attitude of triumph. Your Lord is the King of kings.

END NOTES

We use the trumpet by proclaiming the King and his Kingdom.

The King has come and is coming. The King is with us and will be manifested to us.

We must live in the victory of Christ's Kingdom—that's the weapon of the trumpet. Preach it to yourself and let it be known to others. As God said to Isaiah, "Raise your voice like a trumpet."

Your preaching (raising your voice like a trumpet) becomes the sword that Christ uses to defeat the enemy.

When you first say, "Jesus is Lord," you are sounding the trumpet for the first time. You need to continue to blow this trumpet as you circle through each week and year of your life, until the final victory manifests itself.

WE sound the trumpet by praising the King.

Thankfulness for who God is and what he will do.

Gideon only went into battle when he knew he would win.