

## Did You Recognize the Sound?

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and declare unto my people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins.” (Isa. 58:1).

The apostle Paul alludes to the purpose of a trumpet, saying, “Even things without life, giving a voice, whether pipe or harp, if they give not a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain voice, who shall prepare himself for war?” (1 Cor. 14:7-8)

Sounds are every where and mankind gives heed to what is heard. The sounds may be pleasant that call people together to rejoice, and other sounds warn against danger.

I can recall, back in the day, when automobiles had a look of class, and muscle cars were all the rage (who would have ever thought they would eventually all look like stink bugs?). In those days each make and model had a distinct sound of the engine: you could hear a vehicle approaching, sometimes miles away (depending on the lead foot behind the wheel). After years of working on, driving, and listening to an engine, a good mechanic can diagnose a problem just by listening: the mechanic could hear a miss in the firing order, etc. As I, and those of like interest, advanced in the art of listening we would also attempt to identify, not only what engine was installed, but also in what it was installed. Nowadays, they all sound alike, look alike and bear little in distinction.

When the children of Israel were on Mount Sinai, the Lord said, “when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount” (Exod. 19:13); In 2nd Samuel 2:28, “Joab blew the trumpet; and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more” (the army knew to retreat); When the people of Judah were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, and in danger of being overrun by their enemy, Nehemiah said, “In what place soever ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us; our God will fight for us” (Neh. 4:20).

So, here is the question: Do you know the sound of God’s trumpets and to what they signal?

“And he shall send forth 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” (Matt. 24:31).

When the apostle Paul wrote to the brethren in Ephesus, he spoke of the oneness of the things of God, saying, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.” (Eph. 4:4-6). Paul also said the Thessalonians “For from you hath sounded forth the word of the Lord...in every place your faith to God-ward is gone forth; so that we need not to speak anything” (1 Thess. 1:8). The word of the Lord proclaimed by those of Thessalonica would be the “one faith,” (i.e., system of faith) identified by Paul. If the child of God hopes to be able to distinguish between the Lord’s system of faith, and the many religious doctrines of the world, the child of God must have their hearing properly tuned to sound doctrine. Ross Triplett, Sr