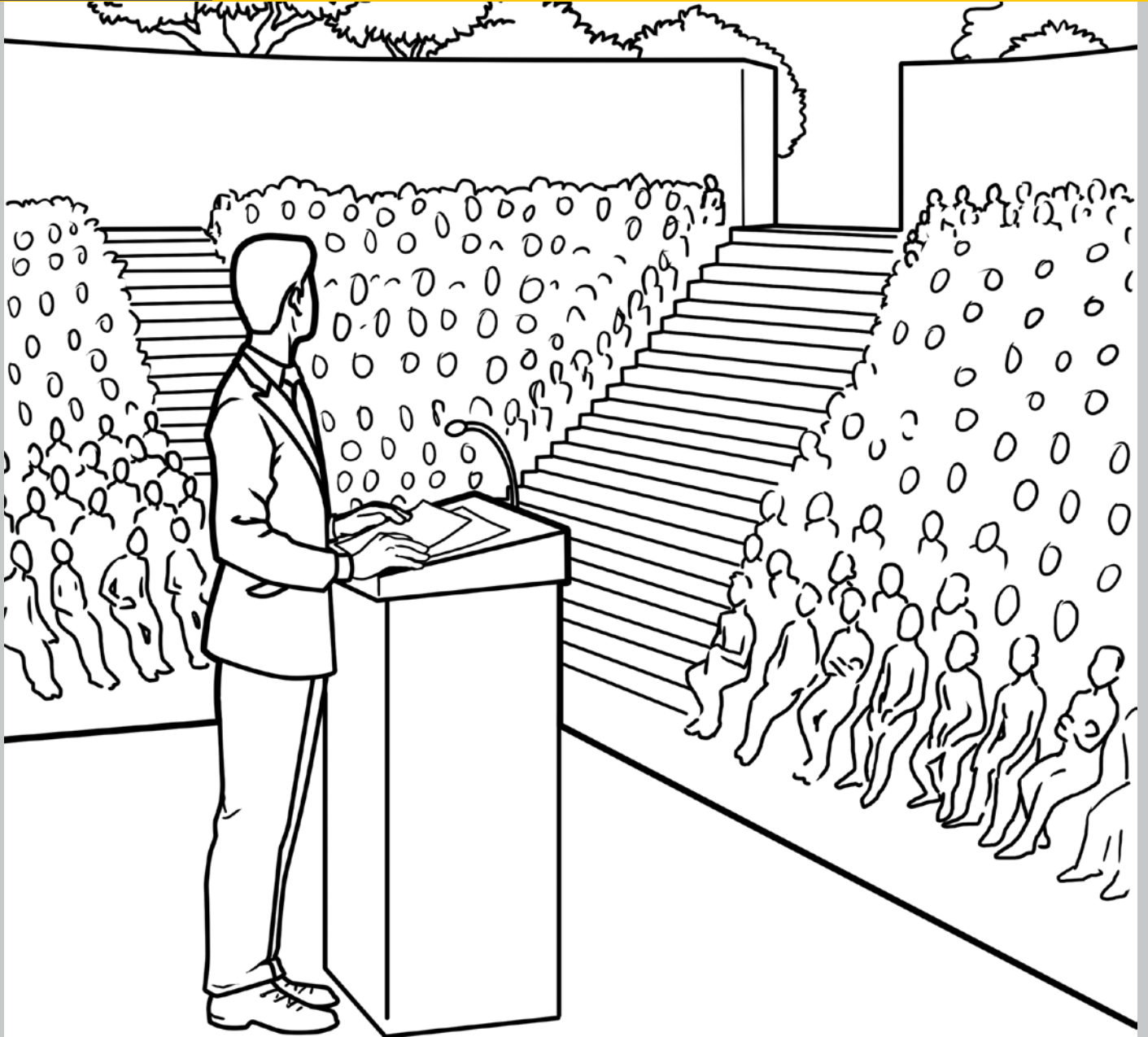




Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Special Fall Festivals Lesson

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This year, members of God's Church all over the world are looking forward to an inspiring fall holy day season! Each year, God's people strive to make these fall holy days more and more special.

These fall festivals are so special because they teach us God's plan! Along with the three spring festivals, the four fall festivals teach us how God is bringing human beings into His Family!

The three spring festivals show God's plan to first bring a small group of people into His Church. These people will marry Jesus Christ. Then, they will help Jesus Christ bring many others into God's Family. The four fall festivals are about those not in the Church today.

After fall begins, look to the sky for the first crescent-shaped moon. When you see this, you are at the beginning of the seventh month on God's calendar. All four of the fall festivals occur during this seventh month. The number seven is God's number of completion.

In this lesson, you will learn about

the *meaning* of these last four of God's festivals. These festivals are the Feast of Trumpets (step 4), Day of Atonement (step 5), Feast of Tabernacles (step 6) and Last Great Day (step 7)!

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The fourth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Trumpets. This festival is a high holy day. It pictures the most important event in the history of the universe: the return of Jesus Christ!

The number four is the number of new beginnings. The day of Trumpets sounds the beginning of a new age where Christ and His Bride will govern the Earth.

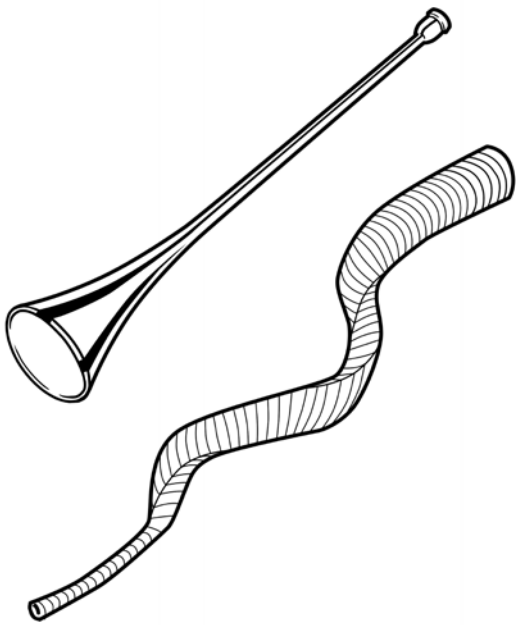
The ancient Israelites blew a trumpet made from a ram's horn to let everyone know it was time to start the Feast of Trumpets. This trumpet is called a *shofar*. The shofar makes a loud blast when blown. The ancient Israelites also blew two long silver trumpets. These trumpets could produce a variety of musical notes.

The people of Israel did not do any work on the day of Trumpets. Instead,



ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO

An Israelite blows the shofar to announce the beginning of the Feast of Trumpets.



The ancient Israelites used a shofar and a pair of long silver trumpets at the start of the Feast of Trumpets.

they gathered together for a special meeting. At this meeting, the priest offered a special sacrifice to God (Leviticus 23:23-25).

The Bible tells us that when Christ returns to Earth, a trumpet blast will sound (1 Thessalonians 4:16). This blast will be so loud, everyone on Earth will hear it!

When this trumpet blasts, something amazing will happen. All the people in God's Church who were faithful till death will be brought back to life! God will transform them into God beings in His Family! Then God will transform all the people in God's Church who are still alive. They too will be transformed into God beings.

When Christ returns to Earth, most people will not like it. They will form a

huge army and will try to fight Him! But Jesus Christ and all the people who have been born into God's Family will win. After Jesus Christ defeats this army, He will teach everyone on Earth to stop fighting and to start living peacefully. He will teach them how to love each other and to live God's way of life. This is the core of the special meaning of the Feast of Trumpets!

DAY OF ATONEMENT

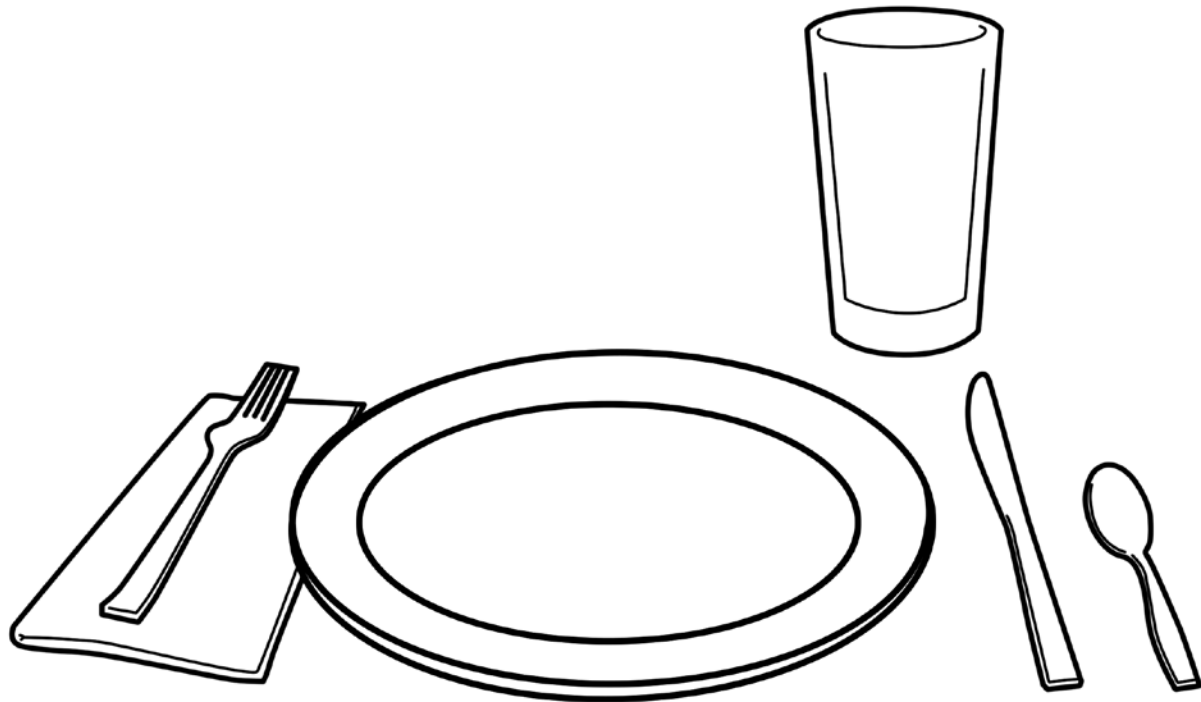
The fifth festival in God's plan is the Day of Atonement. It is a high holy day. God commands His people to fast on this day. Fasting means not eating any food or drinking any water from sunset to sunset.

God commands His people to fast so that we will realize how weak we are as human beings. After just a few hours without food or water, our stomachs start to growl, and we begin to feel weak. This shows us how much we need God, who created us. He gives us food and water. Without Him, we would not exist! This day shows us that we need to have a humble attitude to learn to live God's way of life.

It is very important to spend extra time praying to God and studying the Bible on the Day of Atonement. This is how we draw closer to God!

After Jesus Christ returns on the Feast of Trumpets, He will get rid of an evil being: Satan the devil.

Long ago, God created a wonderful angel named Lucifer. But Lucifer began to focus on himself. He be-



On the Day of Atonement, we do not eat food or drink water.

came evil, and he rebelled against God. God changed his name to Satan, which means *enemy*. Satan has convinced human beings that they should be selfish too. That selfishness has caused all the evil and suffering in the world.

On the Day of Atonement, we look forward to the time when God will get rid of Satan. He will lock him up in a bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-2). While Satan is in this pit, he will not be able to influence human beings to be selfish and evil.

With Satan gone, everyone will begin living God's way of life. They

will be *at one* with God. That is why this wonderful day is called the day of *At-one-ment!*

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The sixth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Tabernacles. The first day of this festival is a high holy day, and the festival lasts seven days. It represents a wedding feast to celebrate Jesus Christ marrying God's people! (Revelation 19:7-10).

In addition to being a wedding feast, the Feast of Tabernacles is a feast of ingathering because it celebrates the late summer/early



In the Millennium, snakes will not be dangerous.

autumn harvest (Leviticus 23:39). Just like Pentecost represents the time when God will harvest a small group of people into His Church, so the Feast of Tabernacles represents the time when God will harvest a great number of Spirit-begotten human beings into His Family during the 1,000-year period known as the Millennium.

The Millennium will begin when Jesus Christ returns. During this 1,000-year period, Jesus Christ and His people will teach everyone how to live God's way of life.

God commanded the ancient Israelites to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. For this festival, He told them to live in huts or tents. This reminded them that physical life is only temporary, the same way that you temporarily put up a tent. We cannot live forever unless we are born as spirit beings into God's Family. Today, people in God's Church keep this command during the Feast by staying in temporary dwellings like hotels or tents.

God even cares about making sure we have enough money to keep the Feast and to enjoy it. He commanded the Israelites to save one tenth of their increase for this purpose. God's people still keep this same command today by saving their second tithe. So when you receive a dollar, remember to set aside 10 cents in a special place. When the Feast of Tabernacles comes, you can spend that money.

God also commanded the Israelites to give an offering on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is a high holy day. In fact, He commanded them to give an offering on each of the seven annual high holy days. God's people today keep this commandment too. So when you receive some money, remember to set aside part of it to give to God on His high holy days. This teaches us to plan like God plans. More importantly, it teaches us to put God first and to have a generous giving attitude toward God. Most people live to *get* things for themselves, but God wants us to develop the habit of giving early because this is the way of life that will bring happiness.

The Feast of Tabernacles gives us a taste of what the Millennium will be like after Jesus Christ returns. If you are not baptized yet when He returns, you will continue to grow up as a human being and as a leader. During the Millennium, people will come to you to learn about God! They will also come to learn about God from your parents, who will be spirit beings like Jesus Christ.

During the Millennium, everyone will be learning God's way of life. Everyone will be living at peace. And everyone will experience *miracles* from God! God will heal blind people so they can see. He will heal deaf people so they can hear. He will heal handicapped people so they can walk!

God will also change the nature of animals. Fierce animals like tigers

and crocodiles will no longer be dangerous. Children will play with snakes, leopards and lions, and those animals will be gentle and won't hurt them (Isaiah 11:6).

On each day of the Feast of Tabernacles, God's people attend Church services to learn more about God's way of life. They learn about what the Millennium will be like and how to teach everyone about God and His laws. This is the core of the special meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles!

LAST GREAT DAY

The last festival in God's plan is called the Last Great Day. It is a high holy day. It pictures the time after the Millennium is over. At this time, God's Family will include God, Jesus Christ and many, many human beings who have become God beings in His Family at Christ's return and during the Millennium.

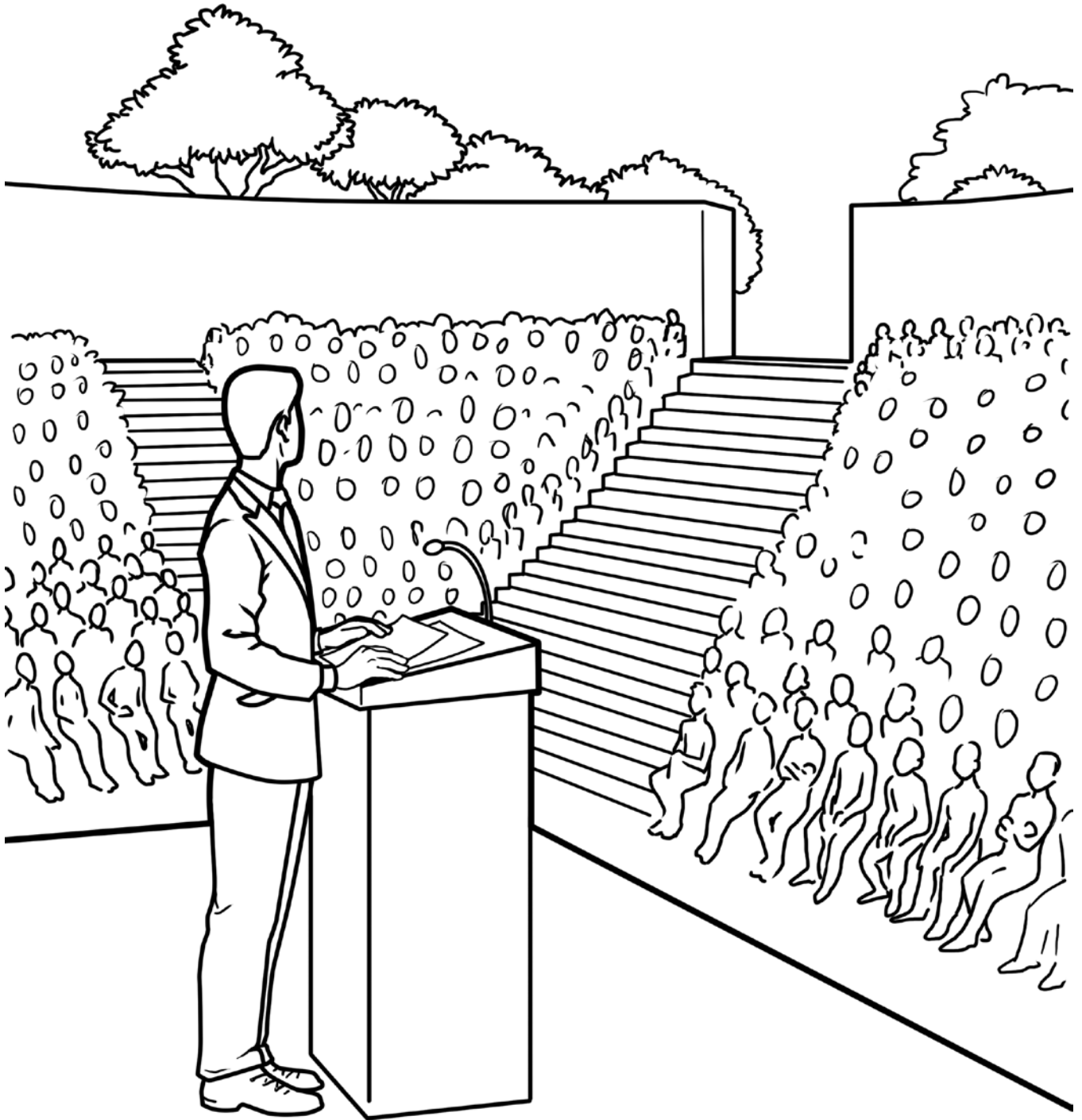
Then God will perform an *awesome* miracle: He will resurrect billions and billions of people! Everyone who died without knowing His way of life! That means a huge number of people will live again!

Billions and billions of people have lived and died without knowing God's way of life: old men and women, fathers and mothers, even children and babies. Some of them are your ancestors. Many suffered very hard lives. Satan influenced them to be evil toward other people, and he

influenced other people to be evil toward them. God loves them, and He wants to bring them back to life and give them His Spirit so they can know Him! That is exactly what He will do, and the Last Great Day points us to that time.

When God brings all these people back to life, He will give them 100 years to live. During this period, they will have the opportunity to choose whether or not to obey Him (Isaiah 65:20). At the end of the 100 years, God will judge everyone in the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-13). All people who refuse to live God's way and who instead live Satan's way will die in a lake of fire. No one will ever have to live forever in selfishness and misery. Everyone who accepts God's way of giving will be born into God's Family as a spirit being!

After the Last Great Day, God the Father will move His throne to Earth. Together with their new Family, God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe forever! Together with God, we will create new worlds and do amazing things that are so wonderful we cannot even imagine them!



At the Feast of Tabernacles, God's people attend Church services every day to hear messages from His ministry.

Feast Progress Chart

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	LGD
I did my part to keep our room clean today.								
I prayed today.								
I made a new friend today.								
I behaved well in services today.								
I used good manners at meal times today.								
I was joyful today.								

These are six things you should do every day at the Feast. At the end of each day, put a check mark in the boxes of the things you completed.

Addresses

Use this page to record your new friends' addresses so you can keep in touch after the Feast.

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Fall Festival Word Search

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J	A	U	P	B	F	S	O	L	O
Z	A	Y	M	O	T	F	E	A	T
L	Z	J	H	P	W	E	S	V	H
G	X	S	J	O	E	C	D	I	P
K	R	G	O	A	T	T	F	T	C
F	G	E	S	Q	L	C	S	S	A
V	Z	H	A	D	L	J	X	E	K
U	K	Z	U	T	U	Z	L	F	A

LAST
GREAT
DAY

BOOTH
FEAST
FESTIVAL

GOAT
SHOFAR
TRUMPETS