

# Two Vital Verses Confused

The Bible actually reveals that at the End Time some of God's people will be blind to important scriptures which they don't want to believe, because they have been led to rely instead, upon a man's teaching.

Revelation 3:17, *'For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, **blind**, and naked.'* (Check 1 John 2:9-11, 2 Peter 1:7,9).

The two verses under discussion here are 1 Corinthians 15:52, *'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,'* and Revelation 11:15, *'**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.'***

This blindness has led to a complete confusion of these two key verses in the New Testament, which in turn has provided a completely false chronology of End Time events, as we will see if our minds are still open to the evidence.

Here in these two verses, the Apostle Paul reveals the mystery of the **last trump**, and the Apostle John reveals the mystery of the **seventh trumpet** of Revelation 10:7, *'but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.'*

The misconception that we will discuss, is that Revelation 11:15 is the 'last trump' referred to in 1 Corinthians 15:52, and so the seventh trumpet is then believed to be the time of the first resurrection. This belief was obtained by circular reasoning which robs us of the truth, in this manner:

The Bible tells us that the resurrection occurs at the last trump.

The seventh angel sounds the seventh trumpet.

The seventh trumpet is the last trumpet of seven.

Therefore the seventh trumpet must be 'the last trump'.

But, let us look more closely at these two verses, and at 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16, to see if, in fact that is so, *'For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen 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.'*

Obviously both 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 are about the first resurrection, *'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,'* and *'For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen 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.**'*

But what of Revelation 11:15? *'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.'* By examining its context we see that it is about Jesus Christ taking great power as he *begins to reign* in His Kingdom, not the earlier resurrection, verse 17, *'saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and **begun to reign.**"'*

The sound of the angel blowing the seventh trumpet brings both judgment and reward – judgment to Christ's enemies, the spiritually dead nations which (margin) corrupt the earth, Revelation 11:18, *'And the*

*nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, **that they should be judged**, and that thou shouldest give **reward** unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth'. Judgment here cannot refer to the judgment of saints, for the saints are judged *during their lifetimes*, in order that they may take part in the first resurrection, 1 Peter 4:17, 'For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?'*

'Reward' here is the reward due to God's servants who follow his commands, cf. Revelation 22:12,14, '*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.....Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life..*'

However, 1 Corinthians 15:52 is about a "trump of God", (1 Thessalonians 4:15) which calls the assembly of both living and dead saints, as they take on immortality at the first resurrection. We should understand that God's voice can actually sound as or like a trumpet, itself.

Revelation 1:10, '*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.*'

Revelation 4:1, '*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 show thee things which must be hereafter.*'

Matthew 24:31, '*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.*'

1 Corinthians 15:52, '*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 Thessalonians 4:16, '*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.*'

In all these verses the forms of the Greek word relating to trumpet are almost identical, indicating the trumpet of God Himself, which in some cases *may* even be the voice of God, as we have seen. The voice of God can sound like thunder to some and be heard as a voice by another, eg. John 12:29-30, '*So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.*'

At Sinai, only *some* of Israel *wanted* to hear the words of God. The rest of the congregation turned away from God and are a type of the church who have been persuaded to look instead to a man, as in Israel's idolatry of the golden calf. Further, only Moses and Joshua sought God with their whole heart and were able to continue on up the mountain, picturing the elect in the first resurrection.

The closer we are to God the more we will hear His voice because the more the scriptures will mean to us. Blindness to some scriptures will mean that most of God's people will not come out of Israel at the angel's call, neither will they know where to go then, or what to do, and so may experience the Great Tribulation, Revelation 18:4, '*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not **partakers of her sins**, and **that ye receive not of her plagues.***' (You need to read our article, 'What is Babylon', to understand that Rev.18 talks of Jacob, now two great nations)  
[http://www.ozwitness.net/docs/what\\_is\\_babylon.pdf](http://www.ozwitness.net/docs/what_is_babylon.pdf)

Returning now to Revelation 11:15, '*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.*' The word for 'sounded' here relates to the sounding of the seventh *instrumental* trumpet by the angel, with no connection to God at all, as the verse itself shows.

However, in Hebrews 12:18-29, we are specially warned not to ignore the 'voice' of God, for if those who heard it at Sinai and refused to obey did not make it into the promised land, how much more will we lose if we do not acknowledge His warnings in the Bible and so fail to keep His End Time instructions, Hebrews

12:25, *'See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.'*

.....Thereby risking their goal of God's Kingdom, because of their refusal to believe that in 1 Corinthians 15:52, the 'last trump' really is the trump of God, not the sounding of the seventh angel, so becoming unaware of what God clearly instructs us to do after we are to come out of 'Babylon'. Hebrews 12:28, *'Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, **by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.***' NAS.

We should remember that when the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:52 about the 'last trump', the book of Revelation had not been written, and the seventh angel was yet unknown. The reason why Paul did not explain 'the last trump' was that his readers already knew what the 'last trump' was about.

As W E Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words points out under 'Trump, Trumpet,' page 160, there is a link between 1 Corinthians 15:52 and Numbers 10:2-6... '(1) of the natural instrument, 1 Corinthians 14:8; (2) of the supernatural accompaniment of Divine interpositions,.....2(e) of the act of the Lord in raising from the dead the saints who have fallen asleep and changing the bodies of those who are living, at the Rapture of all to meet Him in the air, 1 Cor. 15:52, where "the last trump" is a military allusion familiar to Greek readers, **and has no connection with the series in Rev. 8:6 to 11:15**; there is a possible allusion to Num. 10:2-6, with reference to the same event, 1 Thess.4:16 "The (lit., a ) trump of God" (The absence of the article suggests the meaning 'a trumpet such as is used in God's service).'

Actually, in Numbers 10:3-6, we see that the first double trump (That is, with two trumpets) awakens the assembly to God's call. *'When both trumpets are blown, everyone must gather before you at the entrance of the Tabernacle.'* A single trumpet calls the leaders together, *'But if only one trumpet is blown, then only the leaders - the heads of the clans of Israel - must present themselves to you.'*; a second double trumpet call moves the first group. *'When you sound the signal to move on, the tribes camped on the east side of the Tabernacle must break camp and move forward.'*

The *last trump* calls the *second group* to begin *their* journey. *'When you sound the signal a second time, the tribes camped on the south will follow. You must sound short blasts as the signal for moving on.'* This is significant in the light of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, where *two* groups take part in the first resurrection; the dead rising first, and those saints still living, last, *'For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain 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.'*

It is notable too, that while the trump of God lasts but a moment, Revelation 10:7 indicates that the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet lasts for an unspecified length of time, maybe even for the duration of the seven last plagues, which make up the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, *'but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall **begin to sound.....'***

In the light of these scriptures we have examined, it is becoming clear that the "last trump" and the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> angel cannot be one and the same, which mistaken understanding is actually the basis of the false belief that the resurrection takes place at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet of Revelation 15.

This is very clearly and deliberately confirmed by Christ's words in Revelation chapter 14, where *six angels provide an End Time chronology that reveals two distinct harvests*. First, the harvest of the Firstfruit Saints, verses 14-15, *'Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud **one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, **for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.**"***' Second, the harvest of sinful humanity during the Great Tribulation, **which directly follows the first resurrection**, see verses 18-19 (See also our article 'Revelation 14'. <http://www.ozwitness.net/docs/revelation14.pdf>

*'And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in **your** sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe. So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of **the wrath of God.**'*

Thus we can figure that the harvest of the Firstfruit Saints takes place at the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal, **immediately before** the Great Tribulation starts, Revelation 6:16-17, *'And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For **the great day of his wrath** is come; and who shall be able to stand?'*

As can be seen from the next chapter, Revelation 7, though the resurrection has then already taken place, the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal is about to be opened, which is the 3 ½ year Great Tribulation, Revelation 7:14, *'And I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones **coming out of the great tribulation.** They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'* (This 'great multitude', Rev. 7:9, probably give their lives during the Great Tribulation, and having missed the first resurrection, will only serve God *after* the millennium, in the Great White Throne judgment. Remember, we are told only 144,000 marry Christ, Revelation 14:1)

As a result of this confusion of just two, but vitally important verses, many of God's people have no comprehension of what God requires of them during the 'tribulation of those days' (The first *five* Seals, Matthew 24:1-9, 29 during the first 3 ½ Years of a 7 year tribulation total) or where they will be during the *seventh* Seal, the Great Tribulation. This article is provided in the hope that, with these two verses clarified, this situation can now be remedied.

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