

The Last Trump

If anything can illustrate the mistake of following the teaching of a man over and above the word of God, it has to be the confusion about the End-Time, brought about by those few words “the last trump” in 1Corinthians 15: 51-52, ‘**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.**’

As a result, the vast majority of God’s Church believe a totally wrong timing of the First Resurrection, called by some the ‘rapture’. Some place it before the start of the last seven-year Tribulation, some at the end of just a 3½ year tribulation, and just a few in or near the middle. In other words, confusion!

Sadly, such confusion largely stems from an unbiblical hierarchy and dominion still found within many churches, which Jesus Christ condemned, Matthew 20:25-27, “**You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.**”

This majority of Christianity is still held spell bound by this false tradition of dominion, clinging on to the error like the Protestant daughters of the Mother of Harlots in Revelation 17, for though some believe they have escaped hierarchical control, their ministers apparently lack the courage to reject the traditions of men, and their false teaching continues to be accepted without question. Mark 7:7, ‘**in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**’

Most of us have had the courage to reject Sunday for the true Sabbath, but should we not *diligently research* and reject *all* false traditions? That’s why you need to understand the truth about ‘the last trump’, for hinging on the correct understanding is a whole tranche of God’s End-Time instructions for His Church! The current misunderstanding also means that most will be quite unprepared for the return of Christ, because it comes so much earlier than they expect, like those virgins of Matthew 25, and it may even be *why* Christ asks, in Luke 18:8, “**Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?**”

One way or another the whole world is deceived (Rev. 12:9), but though the ministers have refused to listen and accept the truth from God’s word, even when it is presented to them, God’s people bear their own responsibility, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, ‘**For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**’

As a tragic result, because the ministers and the people will not believe the truth you will read here, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” John 12:40.

So, let’s get to the root of this important doctrinal error which misplaces the return of our Saviour, and future Husband, Jesus Christ!

In 1 Thessalonians 4:16, our Lord arrives in the clouds with a great shout of command, summoning the dead in Christ to rise first, with the voice of an archangel and the trump of God. ‘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.’ After that, those faithful Christians who remain alive will join them in the clouds, Matthew 24:31, ‘And he will send out his angels **with a loud trumpet call**, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’

Then, they will be taken to the *heavenly Mount Zion*, pictured in Hebrews 12:22, ‘But ye are come unto **mount Zion**, and unto the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels,’ and also note verse 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.’

And Revelation 14:1-4, ‘Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and **His Father’s name written on their foreheads**. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps. And they sang a new song **before the throne** and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been **redeemed from the earth**. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, [the teaching of false churches] for they are virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.’

Here they are clearly pictured before God’s Throne in Heaven after their marriage to the Lamb, for now they have the Father’s family name, and they are a full part of the family of God. Revelation 19:7, ‘Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.’

We should notice that there is no mention here or anywhere else of Christ setting foot on the earth during or after the First Resurrection. He has simply returned for His Bride and carries her away to Heaven in the same way in which He arrived.

*I need to insert here a little about the Sea of Glass, because it is there to which Christ takes His gathered Bride, in Heaven. We just read Revelation 14:1-4. There was no mention there of the Sea of Glass, just God's Throne in the Heavenly Mount Zion, but we have the explanation in Revelation 4:2, and 6, 'At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood **in heaven**, with one seated on the throne, 6 and before the throne there was as it were **a sea of glass**, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:*

The Sea of Glass is found before the Father's Throne in Heaven, and this is confirmed in Revelation 15:2-3, 'And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, beside which [on which] stood those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name. They were holding harps from God, and they sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and wonderful are Your works, O Lord God Almighty!'

*One minister has suggested that those in Revelation 7, a second 144,000 plus the innumerable multitude, will be there also. That could not be, because it is apparent from Revelation 7:14 that **they** experience the Great Tribulation which, as we will see, occurs **after** the First Resurrection: '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.*

Now, let us differentiate between the supposed "last trump" of **Revelation 11:15** and the First Resurrection "last trump", for they are not to be confused. (See also our article "Two Vital Verses Confused" where Vines Dictionary confirms that fact.)

That trumpet is blown, as the context reveals, not to celebrate the great event of the First Resurrection, but to announce the return of our Lord *with* his Bride to establish the Kingdom and the rule of God here on this earth, Revelation 11: 15,17, 18, 'Then the **seventh angel blew his trumpet**, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." 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.' - Christ has begun to reign by defeating the angry nations at Armageddon, (long after the resurrection) v18, 'The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the **time for the dead** to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.'

The word 'dead' in Revelation 11:18, as that trumpet is blown, is the same word that is used in Matthew 8:22 and Luke 9:60 and means the "actual spiritual condition of unsaved men" - Vines, under 'Dead', NEKROS.

That trumpet is blown by the *angel* for an indeterminate length of time, maybe *throughout* the 7 last plagues, 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.’

That trumpet is blown as the 7th trumpet of the 7th Seal, almost wrapping up the Great Tribulation, which is the 7th Seal, but Jesus Christ returned for His Bride at the 6th Seal, as we read in Revelation 6:16-17, *before* the great day of His wrath. ‘**calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”**’ (Also, you need to compare Revelation 14:15, the true *firstfruit* harvest of the Saints, with Revelation 14:18, the *later* harvest of the Great Tribulation). Also, the sequence of heavenly signs and the arrival of Christ in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6.

That Trumpet consists of the 7 last plagues, and from Revelation 15:1-2 we can see that Christ’s Bride is at that time on the Sea of Glass in Heaven, *before* the 7 last plagues are poured out, verse 7. Rev.15:1-2, ‘**Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside [on] the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.**’ Rev.15:7, ‘**And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever....**’

Now, in contrast, let’s look at the trumpet blown at the **Firstfruit Resurrection**.

This trumpet is blown by God Himself, Zechariah 9:10,14,16, ‘**I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.**’ 14, **Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.** 16, **On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land.**

1Thessalonians 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.**’

This Trumpet is blown to indicate the deliverance of God’s people at the Sixth Seal, escaping from the worldwide attacks of Satan during the 5th Seal, and the pursuing army of the beast who is inspired by Satan, Revelation 12:15, ‘**But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.**’ Just as it did with Corah and Abiram. These are the people of Matthew 24:15-21, whose warnings not to worship **the beast**, broadcast

from Jerusalem, have so annoyed him, so that they are his first target when his armies surround Jerusalem. This trumpet actually signifies **the end** of this church age.

This trumpet is [also] blown like the **'last trump'** in the series we read of in Numbers 10:1-7, verse 7, to finally gather in the spiritual Israelites at the Firstfruit Resurrection, **'But when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow a long blast, but you shall not sound an alarm.'** And 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.** Also, 1Thessalonians 4:16, **'For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout.....'** from 'kaleuo' a shout of command, 2752, a classical and military term still familiar to Greek readers, as a summons to gather together, from their commander.

This trumpet is blown only shortly, because it is directly linked to the words of 1Corinthians 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.'**

You must judge for yourself if the scriptures we have examined back up the tradition of the church, or show that the First resurrection occurs *before* the Great Tribulation,(So clearly shown in Revelation 14:15-18), and Christ's Bride is in Heaven when the 7 angels are given the 7 last plagues, in Revelation 15, placing the resurrection and the "last Trump" much earlier.

More and more people are recognising the implausibility of The Firstfruit Resurrection taking place at the War Feast of Trumpets, which is when Christ finally returns *with* His Bride, for the battle at Armageddon. Instead, they have found that it suitably takes place where God's plan, pictured by His Holy Days, shows it should be, at the correct firstfruit harvest time, in Israel!

The question is, are you relying on the traditions of men or the words of God? Colossians 2:8, **'Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.'** The one thing Christ looks for in His Bride, as we saw, is that she is diligently faithful to His words, rather than just accepting what *any* minister teaches!

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