

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 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 as 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 entrenched traditions of men, and their false teaching continues to be accepted without question. Mark7:7, ‘[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, 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?](#)”, because so few are following those instructions!

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 Timothy4:3-4, ‘[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 most people do not believe His words, “[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 hopefully 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 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 [spiritual] 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, 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 see in Revelation 14:14 and then 19, 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”)

Interestingly, the trumpet blown by the angel in Revelation 11:15 is not even the last trump anyway, for in Psalm 47:5 we have **another** trump sounded, **after** Christ has begun to reign in the Millennium, and as He ascends to Heaven, Psalm 47:2,5,8, ‘**For the LORD Most High is awesome.**

He is the great King of all the earth.... God has gone up with a shout, the LORD **with the sound of a trumpet**....God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.'

In Revelation 11:15, **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 nations at Armageddon, (3½ years after the true resurrection, as we will see).

Verse 18, '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 can 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 can compare Revelation 14:15, the true firstfruit harvest of the Saints, with Revelation 14:18, obviously the *later* harvest of those in the Great Tribulation).

That Revelation 11 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, just 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 examine the trumpet blown at the Firstfruit Resurrection. The same sequence of heavenly signs and the arrival of Christ in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 prove these are clearly the same event, the First 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, after the destruction of 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 during the first 5 Seals, 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 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.'

We should remember that when the Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 15:52 about the 'last trump', the book of **Revelation had not been written**, so the seventh angel was yet unknown, nor could be thought of as blowing the 'last trump'! 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 God; 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.'

So, do the scriptures on this subject back up the tradition of the Church, or show that the First Resurrection occurs *before* the Great Tribulation, (as we saw in Revelation 14:14-18), and show that Christ's Bride is in Heaven when the 7 angels are given the 7 last plagues in Revelation 15, placing the First Resurrection and the "last Trump" much earlier, *before* the Great Tribulation?

More and more people are recognising the implausibility of all the events of the Firstfruit Resurrection, the Sea of Glass, the Marriage, the return with Christ's armies and Armageddon etc.,

all taking place **on one day** at the War Feast of Trumpets, which is when Christ finally returns *with* His Bride. Instead, they have found that it suitably takes place where God's plan, pictured by His Holy Days, shows it should occur, 3½ years earlier (count back) at the Spring **firstfruit harvest** time, in Israel! View our film, shot in Israel, "The Month of The Abib" under 'Media'.

So, what have we learned? If we rely on the teaching of anyone more than our love of the plain truth of God's words, He will send us "strong delusion". 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, '[and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.](#)' The lie is a completely false End-Time scenario which ignores the truth of the scriptures and thus a true understanding of "the last trump". That delusion has brought many to reject the Church's God given End-Time role in Jerusalem, (Jeremiah 31:6-7) disobedience which makes them unprepared for the First Resurrection and leads to the Great Tribulation.

So, 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.](#)'

One of the main things Christ is looking for in His Bride, is that she is diligently faithful to His words, rather than simply accepting what *any* minister teaches!

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