

The Rapture As Taught In Revelation

Part Ten—The Last Trump And The Trump Of God

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What Is The Last Trump/Trump Of God:

The Last Trump and The Trump of God, neither of which can be the *blowing of the seventh trumpet* (the third woe) as given in Revelation 11:15—without doubt, carry the indelible signature of our Lord. Why is this? It is because this seventh angel blows his *trumpet of judgments* on the earth along with the announcement that the world has become the Kingdoms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, over which He shall reign forever and ever. Then the final judgments of this seventh judgment continues through chapter fifteen. Tim LaHaye makes the following statement concerning the blowing of this trumpet:

"The blowing of the seventh trumpet (which is the third woe) does not initiate anything on the earth. Instead, it is much like the breaking of the seventh seal of Revelation 8: 1. It merely introduces the next series of judgments, the seven bowls. Occurring exclusively in heaven, the scene introduces activities that project a meaning to the earth to be disclosed in subsequent chapters.

"... These events include the persecution of God's children (chapter 12), the antichrist, or the "beast coming out of the sea," and the false prophet (chapter 13), a heavenly vision (chapter 14), and the introduction to the last half of the Tribulation (chapter 15). This is a heavenly setting announcing the great events that will come on the earth. Awesome beyond description, it is called the "Great Tribulation" because it reveals the most fantastic events the world has ever before known."¹

The First Trumpet Judgment as well as the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth (The First Woe), and The Sixth (The Second Woe) are all terrible judgments poured out on all those who are dwellers of the earth.

The 7th Trumpet judgment is never called the last trump, and is associated with the judgment of Earth, not the Rapture of the Church. Nor is it ever called the *Trumpet Call of God* as in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16.

There are other trumpets mentioned in Scripture and in Jewish tradition. For instance the trumpet that closes the Feast of Trumpets is called the Last Trump. Does that mean the Rapture has to happen on the Feast of Trumpets? Or that the Trumpet judgments will occur during the Fall Feasts? Not necessarily.

But there is an interesting connection between 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Exodus 19:13, and both involve the Trumpet Call of God. In these two cases and only these two it's the sound of the trumpet that's important, not the trumpet itself, and in both cases the sound is said to be coming from God.

"Some theologians say these two trumpets of God recall the two horns of the ram caught in the thicket when Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac. They call the Exodus Trumpet the left one, or First Trump, and say that God will call the Israelites back to the Land in the End Times by blowing the right one, or Last Trump. If this is the case then the Last Trump could be blown at the close of the Battle of Ezekiel 38-39, placing the Rapture at the time of Ezekiel's battle.

"But the safest view is that Paul's use of the phrase last trumpet in 1 Corinthians 15 :52 is simply to identify the trumpet call that accompanies the Rapture as the last one the Church will hear on Earth."²

¹**Revelation Unveiled** By Tim LaHaye; Zondervan Publ. House; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Pg 192; ©1999.

²**Grace Through Faith.** Jack Kelley; www.gracethroughfaith.com

Only two passages teach that the Church will be removed at the sound of a trump. One passage calls it the "trump of God." And the other passage calls it "the last trump." The two passages are as follows: First, Paul wrote to the Church at Thessalonica:

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are 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: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (I Cor. 15:51-53).

Though Paul was a Roman citizen, he understood the Old Covenant much better than most Christians know and understand the New Covenant. He was taught by one of the greatest scholars of the Old Testament "Scriptures" who ever lived, Gamaliel. Having so great an understanding of the scriptures, Paul also understood the "feasts of the Lord". During the feasts, shofars were blown at certain times. The understanding of these feasts include the timing and the specific patterns of the tones and the lengths of these tones with certain suggestions or commands. For instance, let's use the pattern in use for the Fall Feast Of Trumpets: Please understand that the pattern will include each of 4 sounds of the shofar).

- 1) This sound is called *Tekiah*—a "blast" of the trumpet—to meaning to "wake up!", or "be alert!"
- 2) This sound is called *Sh 'varim*—"short blasts" to be broken, humbled, ordered repentance.
- 3) This sound is called *T'ruah*—"Repeated short blasts"; an alarm; Get prepared!
- 4) This sound is called *Tekiah Hagadolah*—"long tone", it's the Last Trump. Denotes Resurrection!

The Last Trump is none of the seven Trumpet *Judgments* of Revelation; and during the times of the Feasts Of The Lord, The Last Trump is *not* the first sound of the shofar; it is *not* the second sound, nor the third. The Last Trump *is* fourth sound—the last sound of a pattern of shofar sounds—the Resurrection/Rapture.

The Timing of The Last Trump: We do not know the timing of the Last Trump.

Jesus, as He was describing the Tribulation to His Disciples in Matthew 24:36, stated this about His coming *after* the Tribulation:

36) But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only. (Mt. 24:36).

The rapture of the Church will be at God's timing just as at the second coming will be; but when the Father is ready for the Son to rapture His Church, then He, the Father, will signal to the Son. At that time, the trump will be sounded and the dead in Christ will arise first; then we who are alive will join with those resurrected before us, to meet Jesus in the air. The antichrist will then be revealed to the lost world—for there will be NO Christians left on earth at that time because of the rapture spoken of by John in Revelation 4. From that time, man will be able to compute the timing to a certain degree, but it will not be possible to compute to the final days and hours to the second coming.

I believe Apostle Paul had in mind that all who fully trust the Lord and walk in His Spirit should realize the revelations received from the Holy Spirit in the studies of *The Word—Who is Jesus!*

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