

Bible Study

~~~ scriptures cited at the left margin relate to main theme ~~~

## BEFORE AND AFTER THE LAST TRUMP



***For Christians, the last trump is the moment in time when they will be resurrected to eternal life. What are the notable prophetic events that occur before this moment, and what are the significant events that follow?***

Review these scriptures that associate the resurrection with the last trump.

**1 Cor 15:50-53**

**1 Thes 4:13-17**

**Matt 24:29-31**

We know from Revelation that the last trump is the 7th trump or trumpet to sound. In Revelation, prophetic events are presented as each of 7 seals of the book of prophecy are opened by Christ. The 7th seal consists of 7 trumpets. The 7th trumpet is followed by several significant events, including 7 last plagues. But it is at the initial blowing of this trumpet that Christ returns from Heaven to the earth.

**Rev 11:15-18**

The 7 last plagues follow, but Christians have been resurrected to meet Christ in the clouds above the earth. The next important event for these resurrected Christians is their marriage, as the church, to Christ.

**Rev 19:7-9**

Clearly, the saints as the church are the bride at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. They will reign as kings and priests with Christ on earth during the Millennium (Rev 5:10, Rev 20:6). At the end of the Millennium, the New Jerusalem city that comes down from Heaven is said to be prepared like a bride (Rev 21:2). And then it is referred to as the bride of Christ (Rev 21:9). But at that time, the saved dwell in that city (Rev 21:27, Rev 22:14).

The Biblical holy day of Pentecost (which means "count fifty"), more correctly known as the Feast of Firstfruits, has associations with the salvation of Christians, and therefore with the last (7th) trump. It was at this festival season that the 10 commandments were given at Sinai, based on the time elapsed since the Passover when the Israelites left Egypt (Ex 19:1, 11). It was also on Pentecost that the New Testament Church was born with associated miracles and thousands of baptisms (Acts Chapter 2). After making appearances over a 40 day period after His resurrection, Christ had instructed the disciples that they would receive power in just a few days (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 8). And a few days later was the day of Pentecost.

The holy spirit appeared like flames of fire over the heads of the disciples on that Pentecost. The holy spirit begets Christians for salvation (1 Cor 4:15, 1 Pet 1:3, 1 John 5:1). They are then part of a "firstfruits" harvest of souls (Rom 8:23, James 1:18, Rev 14:4). And it makes sense that the firstfruits will be those in the first resurrection, there being a second resurrection and second death for others at the end of the Millennium (Rev 20:4-6).

Collectively as the church, the firstfruits are the bride of Christ. Jumping back to the time of Pentecost at Sinai, there is another event that is often overlooked. Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 elders ascended the mountain where there was a setting like a sea of glass. They saw the Lord and ate and drank. This event foreshadows the marriage supper of the Lamb that is described in Revelation 19:7-9, already cited above.

### **Ex 24:9-11**

Here now is a summary of prophetic events leading up to, and following, the sounding of the last (7th) trump.

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>Rev 5:1-7</b>     | Christ found capable of opening the 7 seals of the book of prophecy                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Rev 6:1-2</b>     | 1st Seal - false religion, deception                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Matt 24:4-5</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 6:3-4</b>     | 2nd Seal - war                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Matt 24:6-7</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 6:5-6</b>     | 3rd Seal - famine                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Matt 24:7</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 6:7-8</b>     | 4th Seal - disease                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Matt 24:7</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 6:9-11</b>    | 5th Seal - martyrdom of saints, tribulation                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Matt 24:9</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 6:12-17</b>   | 6th Seal - heavenly signs: a great earthquake, sun darkened, moon turns blood red, heavenly bodies fall to earth, stars cannot be seen, men hide from the Lord in the rocks and caves |
| <b>Matt 24:29</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Joel 2:31</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 7:1-17</b>    | Many individuals sealed with the spirit of God in their foreheads - a great conversion of souls following the 6th seal.                                                               |
| <b>Rev 8:1-6</b>     | 7th Seal opened - angels prepare to blow the 7 trumpets                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rev 8:7</b>       | 1st Trumpet - hail, fire, 1/3 of trees and grass burned up                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rev 8:8-9</b>     | 2nd Trumpet - a volcano in the sea, 1/3 of sea poisoned, 1/3 of sea life dies, 1/3 of ships destroyed                                                                                 |
| <b>Rev 8:10-11</b>   | 3rd Trumpet - a star, possibly a comet, falls to earth, causing 1/3 of fresh water sources to be poisoned, with many dying from that water                                            |
| <b>Rev 8:12</b>      | 4th Trumpet - 1/3 of the light from the sun, moon, and stars is blocked                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rev 9:1-12</b>    | 5th Trumpet - those without the seal (spirit) of God are tormented with pain for 5 months                                                                                             |
| <b>Rev 9:13-21</b>   | 6th Trumpet - 4 angels released that facilitate an army of 200 million to kill 1/3 of mankind                                                                                         |
| <b>Rev 11:15</b>     | 7th Trumpet - Christ becomes King                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Matt 24:30-31</b> | All people on earth see the glorious Christ in the clouds, He sends His angels to gather the saved                                                                                    |
| <b>Rev 15:1-2</b>    | The 7 last plagues are announced, and the saints are seen on a sea of glass, having escaped the plagues to now take place                                                             |

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| <b>Rev 15:6-8</b>   | 7 angels have the 7 last plagues, or bowls of wrath, in their possession                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Rev 16:1-2</b>   | 1st Plague - loathsome sores afflict those that have the mark of the beast                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rev 16:3</b>     | 2nd Plague - the sea becomes poisoned and all sea life dies                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Rev 16:4</b>     | 3rd Plague - fresh water sources become poisoned                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Rev 16:8-9</b>   | 4th Plague - men are scorched with great heat                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Rev 16:10-11</b> | 5th Plague - darkness and pain descend upon the kingdom of the beast                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Rev 16:12-16</b> | 6th Plague - Euphrates river dried up so that armies from the east can cross it, unclean spirits gather kings of the earth to battle at Armageddon                                                                                                    |
| <b>Rev 16:17-21</b> | 7th Plague - the greatest earthquake in human history, cities in nations fall, islands disappear, mountains crumble, heavy hailstones fall upon men and cause great destruction                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 19:11-21</b> | Christ defeats the armies and kings arrayed to fight him                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Zech 14:1-3</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Zech 14:4</b>    | Christ stands on the Mount of Olives after the battle, the same place from where He had last ascended, and it splits in two, forming a great valley                                                                                                   |
| <b>Acts 1:9-12</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 20:1-4</b>   | Satan is bound, saints reign with Christ on the earth for 1000 years                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Rev 20:5-15</b>  | The rest of the dead (those yet unsaved) given a physical life to be lived and judged, and the Book of Life is opened to add the names of those that achieve salvation during that judgment period, while the unsaved are cast into the Lake of Fire. |
| <b>Rev 21:1-4</b>   | The new Heaven and the new earth are seen and the New Jerusalem city descends from Heaven with God the Father to dwell with all the saved forever                                                                                                     |

We see that Christians will not be in physical form on the earth, but rather already resurrected during the 7 last plagues. Yet, we also see that they do live on the earth during the many difficult conditions and events that precede the 7th trump. Some will receive supernatural protection, while others are persecuted and martyred. After the heavenly signs of the 6th seal, many more souls are added to the Book of Life, and these continue to live on the earth until the 7th trump is blown and all souls ascend to meet Christ in the clouds.

The teaching of "the secret rapture" often includes an implication that Christians will totally escape all suffering. But we see from the above timeline, that this is not so. In the following scripture, some individuals are taken, and some are left. This is often characterized as some being taken away safely as part of the rapture, and the others left behind to suffer the tribulation on the earth. However, note the use of the word taken. It is used in the context of this scripture to refer to all those that died in the flood.

### **Matt 24:38-42**

In other scriptures, the word taken means that life is taken. It means death.

### **Matt 9:15** **Acts 8:33**

So to be taken is not a good thing, but to remain is to continue living on the earth during tribulation, awaiting the resurrection. Christ gave encouragement for those that would be enduring this time period, during which men and the devil would persecute them.

**Luke 21:7-28**  
**Rev 12:13-17**

One could say that the time that the saints are resurrected is a rapture of sorts, in that the saints escape the 7 last plagues. However, we cannot say that it is a secret rapture, as all people on the earth will see Christ coming in the clouds (Matt 24:30).

Saints rising to meet Christ in the clouds as He arrives from Heaven is in harmony with a custom of Christ's time. Folks would go out to meet those who they knew were coming to visit them, in order to accompany them on the last leg of their journey. This custom is known in other cultures, and still persists to this day in varying degrees. It is a show of friendliness and courtesy, even if all one does is to walk out of their home to greet arriving guests. This custom was shown when, as Christ approached to enter Jerusalem for the last time, many folks went out to greet Christ, spreading branches on the road and crying "Hosanna in the highest!"

**John 12:12-13**

Interestingly, Christ's arrival was on the 10th day of the 1st month, the day that the lambs to be killed for the Passover meal were selected. And indeed, Christ was the Passover Lamb, sacrificed once for all (1 Cor 5:7-8, Rom 6:8-11). The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the day after the Passover. Leavened bread is discarded prior to the feast, symbolic of sins of commission. During the 7 days of the feast, unleavened bread is eaten, symbolic of Christ and doing good works. (To do good is to not then be guilty of sins of omission.) Christ said that He was the bread that came from heaven (John 6:48-51).

The larger scenario of the church now being betrothed to Christ as His wife, His going away to Heaven to prepare a place for the saints, and then returning to earth only when His Father determines, also has parallels the customs of Christ's day. At that time, when a couple were betrothed, the bridegroom would go and build a home for his wife and himself. Only when the bridegroom's father considered the home to be good and complete, did he set the wedding date.

Only the Father knows the day and hour of Christ's return. The reward that we now have in Heaven will be brought to us by Christ at His return. The treasure that we now have in heaven will also be delivered to the earth. No doubt these are spiritual rewards and treasures. There is just over a 1000 year delay between when Christ returns to the earth and the arrival of our final home - the city of the New Jerusalem, in which there are many mansions. During that delay of a millennium, and a period immediately following it, countless other souls will be saved and become part of the church, the bride of Christ, their names being added to the Book of Life (Rev 20:5-15 and Rev 21:1-4 cited above).

**Mark 13:32-33**

**Matt 5:12**

**Matt 6:19-21; 19:21**

**Rev 22:12-17**

**John 14:1-3**

May you be found worthy to be at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Jesus Christ - Lord of Lords, and King of Kings), serve with Him during the Millennium, and enter through the gates of the holy city to live with Him and the Father forever thereafter.