

Bible Study

~~~ left margin scriptures in bold relate to the main theme ~~~

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## 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 that moment, and what are the significant events to follow?***

Review these scriptures that associate the resurrection with the sound of a trumpet.

- 1 Cor 15:50-53** Resurrection at the time of the last trump.  
**1 Thes 4:15-17** Resurrection at the time of Christ's return with the trumpet of God.  
**Matt 24:29-31** Resurrection after the tribulation with a great sound of a trumpet.

We know that the last trump to sound in Revelation is the 7th trump or trumpet. 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 the 7th trumpet that Christ returns from Heaven to the earth.

### **Rev 11:15-18**

The 7 last plagues follow, but Christians have already been resurrected to meet Christ in the clouds above the earth. The wedding supper of the Lamb is the next important event for these resurrected Christians who, as the church, are collectively the bride of Christ.

### **Rev 19:6-9**

The saints will be kings and priests (or "a kingdom of priests"), assisting Christ during the Millennium (Rev 5:10, 20:6). Christ is not only King, but also High Priest. The work of a priest is to lead the unconverted to God and salvation. When all are saved who are to be saved, the New Jerusalem city, or City of God, descends from Heaven, prepared like a bride (Rev 21:2) in which the saved, the bride of Christ, will live (Rev 21:9, 27; 22:14).

The Biblical holy day of Pentecost (which means "count fifty"), and better understood 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 after 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 informed 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). It makes sense that the firstfruits will be those in the first resurrection, there being a second resurrection, a salvation opportunity for the unsaved dead, right after 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 foreshadowed the marriage supper of the Lamb which is described in Revelation 19:6-9, cited above, tying Pentecost to the last trump.

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

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

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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, conflict                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Matt 24:6-7</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Rev 6:5-6</b>   | 3rd Seal - famine, pestilence, scarcity                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Matt 24:7</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Rev 6:7-8</b>   | 4th Seal - death by sword, famine, and beasts over a fourth of the earth                                                                                                            |
| <b>Matt 24:7</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Rev 6:9-11</b>  | 5th Seal - martyrdom of some saints, tribulation, false prophets and signs                                                                                                          |
| <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, in fear of the Lord, men hide in the rocks and caves              |
| <b>Matt 24:29</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Joel 2:31</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Rev 7:1-17</b>  | The 144,000 of the tribes of Israel, and then a great multitude of others are 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 - 7 angels are given 7 trumpets, the actions of another angel results in thunder, lightning, and an earthquake                                                      |
| <b>Rev 8:7</b>     | 1st Trumpet - hail, fire, poison, 1/3 of trees and all 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 / 1st Woe - those without the seal (spirit) of God are tormented with intense pain for 5 months                                                                         |
| <b>Rev 9:13-21</b> | 6th Trumpet / 2nd Woe - 4 angels released that facilitate an army of 200 million to kill 1/3 of mankind                                                                             |
| <b>Rev 11:1-14</b> | The work, death, and resurrection of the two witnesses                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Rev 11:15</b>   | 7th Trumpet / 3rd Woe - the kingdoms of this world become those of Christ, the temple of God is opened in Heaven, there is thunder, lightning, an earthquake, and great hail        |

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| <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 with a great sound of a trumpet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Rev 15:1-2</b>     | The 7 last plagues are announced, and the saints are seen on a sea of glass, having escaped those plagues to next take place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Rev 15:6-8</b>     | The 7 angels with the 7 last plagues are also given 7 bowls of wrath.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Rev 16:1-2</b>     | 1st Bowl Plague - loathsome sores afflict those with the mark of the beast.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Rev 16:3</b>       | 2nd Bowl Plague - the sea becomes poisoned and all sea life dies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rev 16:4</b>       | 3rd Bowl Plague - fresh water sources become poisoned.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Rev 16:8-9</b>     | 4th Bowl Plague - men are scorched with great heat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Rev 16:10-11</b>   | 5th Bowl Plague - darkness and pain descend upon those of the kingdom of the beast, but they blaspheme God and do not repent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Rev 16:12-16</b>   | 6th Bowl Plague - Euphrates river dried up so that armies from the east can cross it to join with other nations at Armageddon, these nations being gathered by three unclean spirits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Rev 16:17-21</b>   | 7th Bowl Plague - noise, thunder, lightning, and greatest earthquake ever, cities destroyed, Babylonian system punished, islands disappear, mountains crumble, heavy hailstones fall upon men who blaspheme God.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Rev 19:11-21</b>   | Christ appears on a white horse with his robe dipped in blood, along with His armies clothed in white upon white horses, and they defeat armies and kings arrayed to fight Him at Jerusalem, also casting the beast and the false prophet into the lake of fire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <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 east-west valley.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Acts 1:9-12</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Rev 20:1-10</b>    | The saints, who do not have the mark of the beast, reign as priests with Christ on the earth for 1000 years, during which Satan is bound. After the 1000 years are complete, Satan is loosed for a brief time, and he goes out to deceive nations into attacking Jerusalem. The attackers surround Jerusalem and are consumed with fire from heaven. Satan is then thrown in the lake of fire.                                                                                                          |
| <b>Rev 20:11-15</b>   | The rest of the dead (those yet unsaved) are given another physical life to be lived, and be judged by their works and the teachings of the Bible. This is the second resurrection, and includes those very recently consumed by fire when they were deceived by Satan to attack Jerusalem. The Book of Life is opened to add the names of those who achieve salvation during this judgment period. Death and the grave, and any refusing the opportunity for salvation are cast into the Lake of Fire. |
| <b>Rev 21:1-4</b>     | There is new Heaven and the new earth and the New Jerusalem city descends from Heaven with God the Father to dwell with all the saved forever. There is no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1 Cor 15:24-28</b> | Jesus turns the Kingdom over to His Father.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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, huge numbers of 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 the returning 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 to Heaven as part of the rapture, and the others left behind on the earth to die. But this is opposite of scripture. Note the use of the word taken. It is used in the context of this next scripture to refer to all those who 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 to die, while to remain is to continue living on the earth during the events of the first 6 seals, awaiting the resurrection. Christ gave encouragement for those who would be enduring this time period of great trouble, during which men and the devil would persecute them.

### **Luke 21:7-28**

### **Rev 12:13-17**

One might call the resurrection of the saints a rapture, but it is not to escape the tribulation. However, the saints do clearly escape the 7 last plagues. We cannot say that it is a secret rapture, as all people on the earth will see Christ in the clouds (Matt 24:30). And it would appear that Christ and the saints remain in the clouds until the 7 last plagues are complete and armies have gathered around Jerusalem for the battle which they will lose to Christ.

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 front door to greet arriving guests. This custom was shown when, as Christ approached Jerusalem just days before his crucifixion, many folks went out to greet Him, spreading palm branches 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 6:8-10). 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. (Failure to do good is to 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 for his son.

Only the Father knows the day and hour of Christ's return. Of course Christ has a sense of its approach, as it is He who opens the 7 seals one by one, and knows that after the sounding of the 6th trumpet of the 7th seal, the next trumpet - the 7th trumpet - will announce His return. Christ also indicated that folks should be able to sense when events are near (Matt 24:32-33).

The reward that the saved now have in Heaven will be brought to them by Christ at His return. No doubt it is a spiritual reward. There are over 1000 years between Christ's return to the earth and the arrival of the final home of the saved - the city of the New Jerusalem, its 12 gates always open (Rev 21:12, 25). During a 1000 year millennium, and especially during the period immediately following, which is the opportunity for the unsaved dead to achieve salvation, countless souls will be saved. They will be part of the family and Kingdom of God.

This later great harvest of souls is pictured by the Biblical fall festivals - the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Ingathering. The things of God are made known to those who were not previously called, or did not have opportunity to learn, change, be baptized, and saved through the only name by which salvation is possible - the name of Jesus Christ. God will not let Satan be the winner in a contest for souls. God has an amazing loving vision, and the ability to bring it to pass.

**Mark 13:32-33**

**Matt 5:12**

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

**Rev 22:12-14**

**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.

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