

The Last Trump

Question: What's with the 'last' in the last trump?

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **51** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **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.

...at the LAST trump: for the TRUMPET shall sound

I quickly learned, after becoming a Christian almost 50 years ago, that most believers can't prove the simplest doctrine in which their denomination supports. What's worst is once indoctrinated, on any particular issue, even the 'clergy', more often than not, can't or won't be persuaded otherwise.

There are certain things in life you don't walk away from without paying a price. It could cost you a job, career or perhaps worst of all, friendships. Changing your position on a particular doctrine after signing on the dotted line, in submission to a particular denomination, is like committing the unpardonable sin in the eyes of many.

One of the hardest decisions of my life was walking away from some key doctrines adhered to by the denomination I was trained & ordained in. Such is the case on this particular subject being the pre-tribulation 'rapture'. Narrowed focus will be on the word 'last' in Paul's statement... the 'last trump'.

There are 3 basic views regarding the timing of the 'rapture'; Pre-trib, Mid-trib & Post-trib. All has to do with when Christ returns for the gathering of saints in relationship to the seven-year tribulation period as outlined in the book of Revelation. There are SO MANY variables that are debated and for consideration within this topic: Daniel's seventh week, abomination of desolation, Israel, Jew, Gentile, beginning of the church, body of Christ, anti-Christ, wrath of God, vials, seals, trumpets and the list could go on & on & on...

I am a literalist, by nature I guess, so I take the Bible very literally unless bible-sense (common sense in studying the Bible) shows otherwise that something is symbolic. I had questions, from day one, when the mystery of **1 Corinthians 15:51** was being explained to me. My hang-up was on the expression 'last trump', which sure looked like to me belonging in Revelation grouped with the other trumpets. It was explained that this mystery was a 'secret' rapture not to be confused with any other prophecies regarding Israel & trumpets. It took me only a few years to figure out that this mystery had absolutely, positively NOTHING to do with a 'secret' rapture, but everything to do with... "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." **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

...Then WE which are ALIVE *and* REMAIN

Resurrection was an expectation under the O.T. (unless being a Sadducee; **Mt 22:23**) and now with concern that flesh & blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, there was anxiety as to what would happen to those that are ALIVE and REMAIN to the coming of the Lord. There had been those who died and Paul was giving assurance that AS those who had died 'in Christ' would be resurrected with glorified

bodies SO WOULD those who were ALIVE and REMAIN unto the coming of the Lord be changed! THIS was a mystery not foreseen in the O.T., as NOW being revealed by Paul!

1 Thessalonians 4:15 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.

...that we which are ALIVE *and* REMAIN unto the coming of the Lord

WHEN does this happen... "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..."

...at the LAST TRUMP: for THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND

... the DEAD shall be raised incorruptible, and WE SHALL BE CHANGED

There are 7 trumpets sounding in Revelation's 8-10 with comments given regarding the 7th in chapters 10 & 11. Notice carefully that 'days' are associated with the 7th trumpet as there are yet eleven more chapters dealing with these end-times and the wrath of God.

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

...in the DAYS of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall BEGIN to SOUND

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

...And the seventh angel SOUNDED

...The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ

...and he shall reign for ever and ever

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

...thy WRATH IS COME

...the TIME OF THE DEAD, that THEY SHOULD BE JUDGED

...thou shouldst GIVE REWARD unto thy servants THE PROPHETS, and to THE SAINTS, and THEM THAT FEAR THY NAME, small and great

Is it a mere coincidence that Paul not only mentions a LAST TRUMP & a TRUMPET SOUNDING, but also the resurrection of the dead and judgement including the dead & living... "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad." **2 Corinthians 5:10?!**

...WE must ALL appear before the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

...that EVERY ONE may receive the things *DONE* IN *HIS* BODY

...according to that HE HATH DONE, whether *it be* GOOD or BAD

Now, let's focus in on the word 'last' in last trump (**1Corinthians 15:52**), from a pre-trib perspective having Christ return BEFORE the 7-year tribulation even begins. The word 'last' is found 48 times in the N.T. and regardless of what anyone tries doing in running to the Greek, bible-sense tells you some kind of sequence is in play. If the 'last' trump isn't the 7th trumpet, preceded by the 6 trumpets in Revelation, then when was the FIRST trumpet which preceded this 'last' trumpet mentioned by Paul in 1Corinthians 15:52? Let's broaden this scope. Let's exclude a trumpet all together. What is the 'first' sequence of ANYTHING leading to the 'last' sequence to this 'last' trump? What scripture would be used in justifying this 'first' being Apostles, church age, body of Christ, a dispensation or any other thing that would be mentioned?

Why is this even important and significant to the day in which we live? Even though I have no idea as to when Christ will return and IF even in my lifetime, surroundings today regarding Israel can't be ignored!

On one hand we have the Trump administration declaring Jerusalem as Israel's capitol, the U.S. Embassy being moved and serious peace negotiations being made behind the scene via Trump's son in-law. On the other hand, as we continue to see Islamic nations breathing down Israel's neck, we have an ever-growing sentiment of anti-Semitism not only growing within our country, but now even within our own government! All of this has to catch the attention of the Bible believer! Intentions of the temple being rebuilt has been rumored ever since I became a Christian and let it be reminded that a covenant (**Dan 9:27**) will be broken half way through the seven-year tribulation period.

Though I jumped ship on the pre-trib position back in the 80's, when I have opportunity to teach on the 'rapture' topic, I present ALL views. My lean-to position is a Pre-Wrath 'rapture' and consider other scenarios not covered herein. Most important, I don't consider others with opposing views as heretics though I have grave concerns for those indoctrinated with a stanch pre-trib rapture position IF such turns out not to be the case. Unfortunately, not one out of 999 lay-people can defend or prove their position and the majority of the clergy, regardless of any viewpoint on this subject, hide behind the pulpit of their denomination; most preachers CAN'T AFFORD to change their doctrinal viewpoint on any issues dictated within a churches' Statement of Faith!

I conclude this post with Paul's exhortation to the Thessalonians... "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," **1 Thessalonians 5:1-9**

...when THEY shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon THEM

...and THEY shall not escape

...But YE, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake YOU as a thief

...For God HATH NOT appointed US to WRATH