

The Trump Shall Sound and the Church Shall be Gone!

(Excerpt from Can You Really Know Your Future? By Rob Lindsted)

Every once in a while, someone will say to me, “It seems like the Bible says that the church must go through part of the Tribulation, because it mentions the trump when speaking of the Rapture in I Corinthians 15.” Verses 51-52 say, “*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.*” Some people think the last trumpet here corresponds to the seventh trumpet in Revelation.

Revelation chapter 6 starts with the seven seals. When the first seal is opened, the Antichrist will come forth. We can also see that when the seventh (last) seal is opened, seven trumpets will come out. They announce seven more judgments. Let me show you why this reference to trumpets in Revelation cannot be the same as the last trumpet in I Corinthians 15 that signals the Rapture.

It is interesting that Corinthians was written in approximately A.D. 55, and Revelation was written about A.D. 95. How could Paul quote Revelation about the last trumpet when he was writing in A.D. 55? It would seem ridiculous to think that he would do that. Instead, let me suggest a more reasonable idea. At the end of the Jewish Feast of Trumpets, there is a long blast, called the Last Trump. There are 90 trumpet blasts in the Feast of Trumpets, and I think it is this last trumpet sound that is referred to in I Corinthians.

Overall, the Jewish feasts have a lot of significance for the church. Figure I shows that in the feasts, we will find the NT event contained in the OT event and the OT event contained in the NT event. The feasts are remarkable in terms of pointing to what is going to happen in the New Testament. For example, the Feast of Passover mentioned in Exodus 12 is a beautiful picture of Calvary. The Feast of Passover required a lamb to be killed and its blood put on the doorpost. When the angel of death saw the blood on the doorpost, he would pass over that house. When God sees the blood Christ shed on the cross covering those who have accepted Christ’s payment for sin, He causes death to pass us by, and He gives us eternal life.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, also in Exodus 12, has to do with the Lord’s Supper. The Firstfruits Feast, as described in Exodus 23, has to do with Resurrection. In Leviticus 23 is the Feast of Pentecost, which has to do with the formation of the church in Acts 2. In the Jewish calendar, these first four feasts cover only a three-month period. This is a picture of Christ’s three years of ministry. The fifth feast is called the Feast of Trumpets, and a four-month interval occurs between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets is a picture of the Rapture of the church, and after it comes the Feast of Atonement, or the Glorious Appearing. Next on the Jewish calendar is the Feast of Tabernacles, representing the Millennial Reign. These seven Old Testament feasts represent a beautiful picture of the prophetic calendar of God.

Figure I : The Old Testament Feasts As They Picture New Testament Events

1. Passover (Exodus 12:14)
Calvary (I Corinthians 5:7)
2. Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:15-18)
Remembrance Table (I Corinthians 5:8)
3. Firstfruits (Exodus 23: 19)
Resurrection (I Corinthians 15:20)
4. Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-21)
Church Formed (Acts 2:1)

INTERVAL

5. Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25)
Rapture (I Corinthians 15:52)
6. Atonement (Leviticus 16:30)
Glorious Appearing (Hebrews 9:28)
7. Tabernacles (Exodus 23:16)
Millennium (Revelation 20:1-6)

I have said all this to point us to the conclusion that the trumpet that will sound at the coming of Christ is from a parallel of the Feast of Trumpets. It is not the seventh trump in Revelation. The seven trumpets in Revelation announce judgment on all those in the Tribulation, but the church has been taken to heaven by Christ before any one of them begins.