

Dispensationalism — Last Trumpet

Because Paul, in 1 Cor. 15:52 and 1 Thess. 4:16, said believers would be raptured at the sounding of a trump, many folks have tried to make it appear that the rapture trumps are the same trumpets found in Revelation 11:15-18, Joel 2:1, and Mat 24:31—which all occur during the tribulation.

When you have trumpets commonly used throughout the Bible, I think it's foolish to just assume any two of the 62 trumps or trumpets are prophetically related. To be able to make the claim that the tribulation trumpet soundings are the same as the rapture trumps, you would need a direct statement saying this is the case.

In the movies Ben-Hur and The Wizard of Oz, I recall hearing the sounding of trumpets. Are both these trumpets somehow prophetically related?

If your friend John said he went to his favorite restaurant last night, and another friend Larry said he also went to his favorite restaurant last night, is it logical for you to assume they both went to the same restaurant? Obviously not, because even though John and Larry went to their favorite restaurants, they may have had two different eating establishments in mind. The same logic should apply with the word trumpet.

With such a blind devotion to this one similarity, I have to wonder if these last-tumpeters are able to distinguish the difference between Tylenol and Exlax. They're both over-the-counter drugs, they come in pill form, and they can also be found in a medicine cabinet. Of course, one will make your headache disappear and the other will make your toilet paper disappear.

Pre-wrath proponents say that the Seventh Trumpet blown in Revelation 11:15-18 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 four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Rev 11:15-18 is the same last trump Paul spoke of in 1 Cor 15:52. However, they fail to take into account the fact that John wrote Revelation 40 years after Paul wrote his first epistle to the Corinthians. How could Paul refer to something that was not yet revealed?

Post-tribbers use a trumpet sounding in Joel 2:1 as evidence for a post-trib rapture on the Day of the Lord. I have three problems with Joel 2:1:

Joel clearly says that the purpose for blowing the trumpet is to "sound an alarm." According to 1 Cor 15:52, the rapture is something that occurs in the twinkling of an eye. Joel 2:1 says the Day of the Lord is nigh at hand. In order for Joel's trumpet to be the same one in 1 Cor. there would have to be a time delay between the sounding of the trumpet and the rapture of the Church. The fact that there is another trumpet being sounded in Joel 2:15 further clouds the possibility that these trumpets could have anything to do with the rapture.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians, he specifically said "the" last trump. During the Feast of Trumpets, the Jews blow short trumpet blasts. They end the feast with a long blast from what is called the last trump, which is blown the longest. Judaism has traditionally connected this last trump with the resurrection of the dead. Paul also made the connection. For many Christians, the association between the rapture and the Feast of Trumpets is so strong, they look for the rapture to someday occur on this feast.

Website Reference: <http://www.raptureready.com/2016/07/19/defending-pre-trib-rapture/>

If you studied the different trumpets in the bible you would know that even if you claimed the "last" trump was the "last" at the end of the Tribulation, you would still be wrong. There are more trumpets being sounded in the Millennium.

Zechariah 14:16-19 NASB

Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to

worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. [17] And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. [18] If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. [19] This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

The "Feasts of Booths/Feast of Tabernacles" is quite significant. Ever year throughout the reign of Jesus Christ there will be trumpet sounds, which completely destroys the argument that there will be no more trumpet sounds after the "last" trumpet.

Leviticus 23:24 NASB

"Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.'

The "last trump" is actually a military sounding trumpet. Paul makes this connection in the context of the previous chapter.

1 Corinthians 14:8 NASB

For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

σάλπιγξ can be translated as "bugle" or "trumpet" as it is in the KJV.

HELPS Word-studies

4536 σάλπιγκς – "properly, a war-trumpet" (WS, 797) that boldly announces God's victory (the vanquishing of His enemies).

In the OT, trumpets were used to call God's people to war, and to announce victory wrought by Him. That is, a military clarion that proclaimed the Lord inspired and empowered the victory on behalf of His people.

[The trumpet was the signal employed to call the hosts of Israel to march as to war, and is common in prophetic imagery (Is 27:13). Cf. The seventh angel (Rev 11:15)" (WP, 1, 193).

Trumpets in the OT summoned God's saints for His righteous wars (Nu 10:9; Jer 4:19; Joel 2:1). See also Lev 23:24,25; Nu 10:2-10; Ps 81:3.]

The trumpet sounded in 1 Corinthians 15 has two purposes as Dr. Renald Showers notes:

"When you study the Roman army and some of the Greek armies and even the Jewish army back in Bible times, when they went into war, they had a "last trump" that would be blown that would tell the fighting men, "Your time of fighting is over. It is time for you to go home and rest."

A "last trump" ended their time in the warfare."

And...

"In addition, when you read about the use of trumpets in the military of the ancient world, particularly with the Romans, they had a first trump that signaled when a man was to start his watch on guard duty, but then they had a "last trump" which signaled that his time on guard duty was over and again it was time for him to go home. In other words, before that last trump he's on watch; he's watching, watching, watching to be on guard. But when the last trump is sounded, that tells him his watching is done, he can go home."

<https://www.jashow.org/articles/when-does-the-last-trump-sound-the-rapture-the-second-coming-or-some-other-time/>

So, we can conclude that the "last trump" isn't the last trumpet that will be blown, negating that argument, and we can also show that the trumpet that is sounded is military preparing those who were on guard to come home.

Matthew 24:42-44 NASB

"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. [43] But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. [44] For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

Luke 12:40 NASB

You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

