

The Question of the “last” trump?~ Pastor Larry

I. Paul called the sounding of the Rapture trump the “last trump,” is this the same as the “seventh” trump in the book of Revelation?

This point is made by mid and post Tribbers to say that the only rapture is either mid or post Tribulation and to confuse pre-Trib. proponents. If the last trump is the seventh trumpet blast in the book of Revelation, then they would be correct to say that the church will go through the Tribulation period or part of it. This argument is sometimes used by both mid and post proponents. Let’s take a closer look.

A. There are four main Scripture references to “trumps”

1. The Rapture of the church- 1 Thess. 4:16. Sounds like three noises or possibly one.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ 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:

2. The Rapture of the church- 1 Cor. 15:52

1 Corinthians 15:52 (KJV)

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.

3. The Trump after Christ appears at Armageddon- The gathering of Israel, the blowing of a trumpet by God in that day (See Isa. 27:13; Joel 2:1,15;).

Matthew 24:29-31 (KJV)

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

4. The seventh trump during the Tribulation

Revelation 11:15 (KJV)

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.

These all are **three** different trumps, for **three** different events.

B. The first two verses are our standards for the future Rapture of the church. All agree on this point. Mid and post-Trib. try to make their theories fit these verses.

Walvoord: “The proper distinction is maintained between the prophetic trumpets of Scripture by pretribulationism. There is no proper ground for the pivotal argument of midtribulationism that the seventh trumpet of Revelation is the last trumpet in that there is no established connection between the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11, the last trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15:52, and the trumpet of Matthew 24:31. They are three distinct events.”¹

1. 1 Thess. 4:16 could be talking about three sounds: The shout of the Lord, the voice of an archangel, and a sound of the trump of God. I heard Dr. David Jeremiah say once - “One sound described 3 ways.” Is this one sound or three? Or maybe three at once?
2. 1 Cor. 15:52 state clearly the “last” trump is what raises the dead. If there is a “last” we assume there should be a first.”

3. Jesus told it this way in John 14:

John 14:2-3 (KJV)

² **In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

³ **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.**

4. Three Roman trumpet “blasts” explanation. The last trump is the final “let’s go!” Paul was possibly using a military analogy. In Roman days there were three trumps for soldiers.

1. Strike your tent-Just passing through, this world is not your own
2. All in line! Be alert and watchful
3. Move out! Let’s move to the next location

5. When the congregation travelled in the wilderness a system of trumpets were used-

¹ Walvoord, John F. (1979). The Rapture Question-revised and enlarged (pp. 270-274). Grand Rapids MI. Zondervan.

Numbers 10:1-6 (KJV)

¹ **And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,**

² **Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.**

³ **And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.**

⁴ **And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, *which are* heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.**

⁵ **When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward.**

⁶ **When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.**

6. Could it not just be the “last” trumpet of this age of grace, and the church age?
7. This trump is the pre-Trib. trump at the Rapture of the church

C. Matthew 24:29-31- The gathering of Israel- Another trump at the end.

1. This trumpet takes place “immediately after the Tribulation”
2. And *after* all the celestial signs including a darkened sun and moon
3. Also, *after* Jesus appears physically in the sky, He is the sign of the end- Isaiah 18:3, Zech. 9:16
4. All the tribes of earth begin to mourn- (Zech. 14:1-5; Rev. 1:7)
5. He is seen with the “clouds” or great company from heaven- Rev. 19:11-21
6. Angels accompany Him also- 2 Thess. 7:1-10
7. He comes with great power and glory- Matthew 25:31
8. Jesus the Lord God will blow this trumpet. A loud sounding trumpet starts the angels to the gathering of Israel. This is the same trumpet as the one in Isaiah 27:13, and possibly correlates with Revelation 14.

Isaiah 18:3 (KJV)

³ **All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.**

F. Dake: “Trumpets always sounded at gatherings of Israel (Ex. 19:13-19; Lev. 25:9; 1Sam. 13:3; 2Sam. 2:28). This trumpet is predicted in Isa. 18:3; 27:13; Zech. 9:14. This is not the same as the seven trumpets of Rev. 8:2,6 or the trumpets in connection with the resurrection of the righteous (1Th. 4:16; 1Cor. 15:51-58).”²

Isaiah 27:13 (KJV)

¹³ **And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they**

²Finis Jennings Dake, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text*, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1997), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: Matthew "Chapter 24".

shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Zechariah 9:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ **And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.**

9. He will gather the living remnant of Israel from the earth

Isaiah 11:11-12 (HCSB)

¹¹ **On that day the Lord will [extend] His hand a second time to recover—from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the coasts and islands of the west—the remnant of His people who survive.**

¹² **He will lift up a banner for the nations and gather the dispersed of Israel; He will collect the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth.**

10. He will raise the dead O. T. saints.

Daniel 12:1-2 (HCSB)

¹ **At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.**

² **Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to shame and eternal contempt.**

11. He will separate the tares from the wheat-Those good and bad-

Matthew 13:38-42 (KJV)

³⁸ **The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*;**

³⁹ **The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.**

⁴⁰ **As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.**

⁴¹ **The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;**

⁴² **And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

12. This could include a translation of living believers left on the earth, although living Israel will go into the Millennium in physical bodies.

Isaiah 65:21 (KJV)

²¹ **And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.**

Amos 9:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ **And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.**

¹⁵ **And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.**

Revelation 14:14-16 (KJV)

¹⁴ **And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**

¹⁵ **And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**

¹⁶ **And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.**

13. Revelation 19 is this event, although there is no mention of a trumpet sounding there.

Revelation 19:11 (KJV)

¹¹ **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

14. Armageddon happens next-

Why is this trump occurrence is not the Rapture of the church?

Mark Hitchcock: “Simply because the trumpet in 1 Corinthians 15 is called the “last” trumpet does not mean that it is the last trumpet in God's whole prophetic program. The last trumpet that will sound in conjunction with the Rapture is the final trumpet of this age.”³

1. The Rapture trump finishes the program for the present church age or dispensation. There can be many “last” trumpets based off of this concept. Like at school there are many “last” bells all day long.
2. If it were the last of a series then where are the rest of the trumpets mentioned in 1 Thess. 4? The verse would have read much different like, “when all of the trumpets have sounded, then the last trump will sound.”
3. If this is the Rapture mentioned in B above (the standard description), then where is the going to heaven? Jesus leaving and coming back we see, but a group going to heaven is not described here in Matthew’s trumpet occurrence. There’s no room for it.
4. The gathering that happens in Matthew at the end of the Tribulation and after the trump has sounded, will take some time to do. It is not instantaneous like the other verses describe.

³ Hitchcock, Mark. Could the Rapture Happen Today? (p. 29). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Walvoord: “The saints on earth who greet Christ on that occasion remain on the earth, in the flesh, and enter the millennial kingdom as either redeemed Gentiles or redeemed Israel. By contrast, the redeemed of this present age are translated, changed, and caught up to glory.⁴

5. This could be the last trump ever mentioned and is definitely the last trump of the Tribulation period. This period is not the church age.
6. If this is the Rapture at the end of the Tribulation, then who are those saints resurrected just days afterward who are dead? Why were they not resurrected? Rev. 20:4

Revelation 20:4 (KJV)

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

D. Revelation 11:15- A Tribulation trump- Is the seventh trumpet the Rapture of the church? If so, this would mean the church will go through the Tribulation.

Revelation 11:15 (KJV)

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.

1. Placement chronologically is either the middle or in the last part of the Tribulation after 6 major judgments at the beginning of the last woe and just before the last vials (bowls) are poured out. (See Dake quote below: he believes this happens at the middle and that this trump takes up the “man-child.”- This is definitely NOT Matthew’s 24:29-31 trumpet which happens after Christ appears. It is sometime before.
2. An angel blows this trumpet- It is after the second woe. How much later than the middle we don’t know exactly but it could be some time. The beginnings of the last judgments.
3. Something special happens here- God’s hidden plan is revealed

⁴ Walvoord. John (1955, 1977 eleventh edition). *The return*. (Under chapter 4). Zondervan Publishing House Grand Rapids MI.

Revelation 10:6-7 (HCSB)

⁶ He swore an oath by the One who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it: **“There will no longer be an interval of time,**

⁷ **but in the days of the sound of the seventh angel, when he will blow his trumpet, then God’s hidden plan will be completed, as He announced to His servants the prophets.”**

William Barclay: “That is to say, time as we know it is about to be ended and eternity to begin. It is more likely that the meaning is that there is no time left, that there is to be no further delay, that Antichrist is about to burst upon the scene in all his destructive terror.”⁵

2 Kings 17:23 (HCSB)

²³ **Finally, the LORD removed Israel from His presence just as He had declared through all His servants the prophets. So Israel has been exiled to Assyria from their homeland until today.**

Could this be about Israel’s judgment that Daniel outlined, or as Dake suggests: the casting down of Satan found in the next chapter?

Dake: “The mystery of God should be finished- This refers to the casting out of Satan:

1. It is to be finished during the days of the 7th trumpet (Rev. 10:7).
2. It has long been delayed (Rev. 10:6-7).
3. It will be no longer delayed (Rev. 10:7).
4. The casting out of Satan has been predicted since Adam's day (Rev. 10:7; 12:7-12; Gen. 3:15; Isa. 24:21; 25:7; 27:1).
5. It is one of the 3 woes announced by the angel in Rev. 8:13 (Rev. 12:12).
6. The casting out of Satan is the only event of the 7th trumpet that is necessary before the kingdoms of this world can become those of God and Christ, as announced in Rev. 11:15. It is the only event that fulfills the details above.”⁶

Isaiah 24:21 (HCSB)

²¹ **On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven above and kings of the earth below.**

Revelation 12:9 (KJV)

⁹ **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which**

⁵ William Barclay, *Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT)*, WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "The Divine Announcement of the End (Rev 10:5-7)".

⁶ Finis Jennings Dake, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text*, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1997), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 10".

deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

4. “The kingdoms and reign of Christ are announced to be the Lord’s. The last trumpet includes all the next vials judgments. The beginning of the end.

Walvoord: “The question that remains, however, is how can the kingdoms of the world become at this point the kingdoms of Christ when, as a matter of fact, the seven vials seemingly are still to be poured out?⁹ The answer as indicated previously seems to be that just as the seven trumpets are comprehended in the seventh seal so the seven vials are comprehended in the seventh trumpet. The process of destruction of earthly power is therefore already under way.^{10 7}

5. The six statements of the elders-
 - a. Thanks to God for using His power.
 - b. The nations are angry.
 - c. The time of God's wrath is come.
 - d. The time to judge the dead saints. (O.T. righteous) Daniel 12:1-3
 - e. The time to give rewards to the saints- (sheep and goats) Mt. 16:27.
 - f. The time to destroy those who would destroy the earth- Mt. 25:31-46
6. The temple opens, the ark is seen, lightnings, voices, thunderings, an earthquake and great hail.
7. We leave room for other catching aways, but this trumpet seems to be for other reasons. Could other catching aways be happening during these proceedings? Yes of course. If this happens at the middle then this trump does take out the “man-child.”

Why is this trump not the same trump as the Rapture trump?

1. The Rapture trump is called the “trump of God”, and the other is an angel’s trumpet.

9. Tacy W. Atkinson like Scofield begins the great tribulation with the seventh trumpet but like most others offers no evidence whatever for this conclusion (*A Guide to the Study of Revelation*, p. 44).

¹⁰ Norman B. Harrison identifies the seventh trumpet with the last trump, that is, the rapture, anticipated in the rapture of the two witnesses in 11:12. He holds that the rapture occurs three and one-half years before the coming of Christ in Revelation 19. This viewpoint confuses the trumps of judgment of the angels with the trump calling for the resurrection and rapture of the church. It further requires that there be no wrath prior to the seventh trumpet which is contradicted by Revelation 6:17 as well as the content of the preceding sixth trumpet (cf. *The End*, pp. 116 ff).

⁷ Walvoord, J. F. (2008). *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (p. 184). Galaxie Software.

2. The Thessalonian's trump issues in blessing, in life, in glory, while the trumpet in Revelation issues in judgment upon the enemies of God.⁸

3. V. 13- There is a great earthquake associated with the seventh trumpet blast with thousands killed and the remnant are afraid. There is no mention of an earthquake with 1 Thessalonians and the statement that church should be comforted.

4. The trump in Matthew 24 that comes after Christ appears is obviously the last recorded trump, how could the mid-Tribbers call this the seventh, the "last trump?"

5. Comments by **Tim LaHaye** about pre-wrath rapture proponents:

"Locating the Rapture and the period of wrath three-quarters of the way into the Tribulation forces it to occur 21 months after the Antichrist desecrates the temple (see Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4). This would cause the church to watch for the coming of Antichrist, which is obviously unscriptural. It also destroys imminency, which Rosenthal claims the apostle Paul did not teach (249). He then would have us believe that we can gain comfort (see 1 Thessalonians 4:18) from the fact that the church will be raptured before the battle of Armageddon."⁹

6. Comments by **Finis Dake**:

"The "trump of God" (1 Thess. 4:16) is not the same as the seventh trumpet of Rev. 11:15; 13:18. One is at the rapture of the Church and the Old Testament saints, while the other is at the rapture of the manchild; one is the trumpet of God, the other is the trumpet of the seventh trumpet angel; one is to herald one single event which takes place "in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:51-58), the other is to herald many events which are days in duration (Rev. 10:7); one is a trumpet of blessing, the other is a trumpet of "woe" (Rev. 8:13; 12:12); one is at or before the beginning of the Seventieth Week, the other is in the middle of the Week; one is before the saints, represented by the twenty-four elders, are caught up, the other is after the elders are already in heaven; one is before the seven seals and first six trumpets (Rev. 6:1-9:21), the other is after them. Thus we do not need to confuse this trumpet and rapture with the seventh trumpet and rapture of the manchild."¹⁰

⁸ Pentecost, J. Dwight; Pentecost, J. Dwight. Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology (Kindle Locations 3526-3527). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

⁹ LaHaye, Tim. Who Will Face the Tribulation?: How to Prepare for the Rapture and Christ's Return (Tim LaHaye Prophecy Library™) . (Kindle location 2999) Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ Dake, Finis J., Revelation Expounded, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Publishing, Inc., 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, P. 58.