

## The Coming of the Lord Part 2

### 1 Corinthians 15

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed.** 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

### Vs. 50

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Once again the Apostle Paul gives us a picture of what some call our blessed hope. A theme here is “We will be changed, instantly, at the sound of the trumpet”

The change that occurs that day will be a physical transformation.

When the Apostle Paul says flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable, it is clear that our bodies will be transformed into a new kind of body.

## **Vs. 51,52**

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

### **Vs. 51**

Listen, I tell you a mystery:

**Mystery:** hidden thing, secret

It is a mystery and hidden thing from the world and will take most by surprise, but should not be for you a believer in Jesus.

### **Vs. 52**

**in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Here it is

This is the Rapture of the Church

The Blessed Hope

The Apostle Paul says at the last trumpet...

So the question is; what or when is the last trumpet?

**The Apostle Pauls often used Roman analogy especially when he spoke to the Church in Corinth**

### **1 Corinthians 9:25**

**“Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”**

crown: stephanos - There are two kinds of crowns. There is one that is given to Royalty. There is also one that comes from a victory in competing in the games. Paul is speaking the Roman language so they can understand.

## 2 Corinthians 2:14

“But thanks be to God, **who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.**”

Again the Apostle Paul is using a Roman Analogy to illustrate a spiritual truth to the Church in Corinth. The Romans would often have a kind of Parade after a great victory. They would start with a triumphal procession of high ranking generals and officials along with trumpeters. They would have a burning of sweet smelling incense along with all the spoil from the battle.

*From our current text:*

## 1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Victory:** a conquest, triumph:—victory, to utterly vanquish

\* Often and especially with the Church in Corinth, Paul speaks with cultural language to the church. They live a Roman world and they understand this illustration.

## **Vs. 51,52**

We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Some believe this last trumpet is the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11 and that’s when the raptor will occur.

So is the last trump spoken of here the seventh trump of Revelation 11 or something else? That is a great question and a very compelling one...

Here is my thought:

- When you look at the Seventh trumpet of Revelation there is no indicator of a Rapture type scenario. Rather it describes something completely different.

### Rev. 11

17

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
the One who is and who was,  
because you have taken your great power  
and have begun to reign.

18

The nations were angry,  
and your wrath has come.  
The time has come for judging the dead,  
— — —

19

And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

This doesn't sound like a description of Jesus calling his church home but rather one of his power and reign, His anger, wrath and judgment.

- It's possible Paul was again using a Roman figure of speech that came from the Roman military, when they broke camp. The first trumpet meant, “strike the tents and prepare to leave”; the second trumpet meant, “fall into line”; the third and **last trumpet** meant “march away.”
- The **last trumpet** may not be the seven trumpets of Revelation at all, but simply be the “**trumpet call of God**” spoken of in **1 Thessalonians 4:16**. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet call of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- This will be the last trumpet we will hear on this earth, and will be our “March away” trumpet for sure...
- Either way when it happens, if I'm right, you owe me a snow cone in Heaven... 😊

- If you disagree and you're right, I owe you a Spam Sandwich when we get to Heaven... 🤪

## There are a four different opinions regarding the timing of the Rapture:

- The *pre-tribulation* rapture position believes believers are **caught up** before this final seven-year period.
- The *mid-tribulation* rapture position believes believers are **caught up** in the midst of this final seven-year period.
- The *pre-wrath* rapture position believes believers are **caught up** at some time in the second half of this final seven-year period.
- The *post-tribulation* rapture position believes believers are **caught up** at the end of this final seven-year period.

**Bonus:** pan-trib; those who believe no matter what, it's going to pan out...

These different views have existed for many years in the church and I don't think they should ever be a point of dissension or a cause for breaking fellowship among believers. The truth is we all know in part and prophesy in part and no one has it all figured out. We do our best to understand and trust the Lord for the rest

## 3 Things to consider about the Coming of the Lord

### 1. Scenarios regarding the predictability of the date of Jesus' return.

#### Matthew 24:36

36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Jesus makes something very clear here: "No one knows the day or hour"...

As a matter of fact when I meet someone tells me God told them the day of the Rapture, I quickly offer them a bet. Because if they're right were all

going to heaven and there isn't American money in Heaven. But if they're wrong they owe me and hopefully they learn to stop doing that...

I believe if someone accidentally figured out the day of the Rapture, God would change the date just to prove them wrong.

Moral of the story: Don't try to predict the date of Jesus' Coming

The Book of Revelation gives clear indicators of the tribulation:

**First Trumpet:** A third of the earth was burned up

**Second Trumpet:** A third of the sea turned into blood

**Third Trumpet:** A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters

**Fourth Trumpet:** a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

And so on and so forth...

These are not vague hard to discern world events, these are clear and would make the Rapture timing very predictable if you believed that the rapture happens at the middle or end. Jesus said "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

So if Pre-Trib people start seeing this stuff, they are going to say well I guess I got that one wrong on that one. Hopefully It's Mid-Trib

My point is this: These would be clear indicators and would give the markings needed to predict the Lord Jesus' return.

## **Thing to consider about The Coming of the Lord**

### **2. Different world conditions are described**

#### **World conditions leading up to the Rapture**

##### **Matthew 24:37-42**

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

**38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.**

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

**Jesus only gives two biblical analogies of what the world will be like before the Rapture of the Church.**

- **As it was in the days of Noah**
- **As it was in the days of Lot**

### **Luke 17**

28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

## **World conditions leading up to the Second Coming**

### **Matthew 24:21**

21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

### **Revelation 6**

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

It doesn't take much to see the different conditions of the worlds in comparison to what it looks like before the Rapture and before the Second Coming and the Millennial Reign of Christ.

### 3. The Different Manners of Jesus' return

#### For the Rapture of the Church

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

#### For His Second Coming

##### Revelation 19

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter."

Closing:

- The Lord is Coming and we will meet him in the clouds if he comes during our lifetime or not.
- For those who have made Jesus their Lord, we will all witness that day.
- The real question is not are you Pre-trib, Mid-trib or Post-trib. But are you ready to for the Trumpet to sound when it does?