

## “The Pre-Tribulation Rapture,” 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

- The title I've chosen for today's teaching is, “The Pre-Tribulation Rapture.”
- This because, the Apostle Paul in addressing the resurrection in this chapter, writes them concerning the rapture of the church.
- It's for this reason that I'd like to take a little different approach in our verse-by-verse study, and talk about the pre-trib rapture.

- I would submit the text before us today is one of many scriptural proofs that the rapture has to happen before the tribulation.
- I'm hoping you'll kindly allow me to explain why and how that is, as we look at what Paul says here about the “last trumpet.”
- First, it's important to note Paul is bringing the rapture into the discussion in the context of the literal resurrection of the dead.

- It's because of the resurrection Paul in verses 55-58, taunts death saying, where is your victory, where O death is your sting?
- In a sense, Paul personifies death, and in so doing he declares death a defeated foe by virtue of the Savior's victory over death.
- Then, after this, Paul goes on to encourage them and us as brothers and sisters in Christ to stand firm and let nothing move us.

- Actually, I believe the main reason Paul talks about the rapture in the context of the resurrection is to provide encouragement.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- Notice in verse sixteen how that Paul delineates between the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God at the rapture.
- The reason I point this out is because the “last trumpet,” in 1 Corinthians 15:52, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 are one in the same.
- As such, it provides us with the needed proof that the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ must happen before the tribulation.

- In Leviticus 23:23-25 we have the fifth of the Seven Feasts of Israel, the Feast of Trumpets in which they would blow the shofar.
- The blowing of the shofar was to be for a holy convocation, such that the trumpet communicated a calling out of God's people.
- The word for convocation in the original language carries with it the idea of called out, a public meeting, or calling an assembly.

- One has called this assembly a holy convocation for either a relocation, or a confrontation of, and with God calling His people.
- On the first day of the seventh month of Tishri on the Jewish ceremonial calendar the shofar was blown and it began the Feast.
- This is why the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah is a picture of the rapture of the church such that it's for our “relocation.”

- The trumpets in the scriptures are sounded to bring God's people up to meet Him or to assemble as His people for a wedding.
- The trumpets are also sounded for another reason, and that's to assemble God's people for a confrontation or to battle in war.
- This is why there were two trumpets, which served two purposes. We have the details of these trumpets in Numbers 10:1-7.

Numbers 10:1–7 (NKJV) — 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. 3 When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 4 But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. 5 When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. 6 When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. 7 And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance.

- In the Old and New Testament we have two trumpets for two different purposes. There's the first trumpet and the last trumpet.
- The first trumpet is for Israel, and the last trumpet is for us. We see this first trumpet for Israel in the book of Exodus 19:16-17.

Exodus 19:16-17 NKJV Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. (17) And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

- The last trump is for us, which we see in our text today, where Paul to the church of Corinth describes the rapture of the church.
- However, we do have a problem and it has to do with those who teach that the trumpet in Revelation 10:7 is the last trumpet.

Revelation 10:7 NIV But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

- The reason this isn't the last trumpet for us during the tribulation is because it's an angel that sounds the trumpet and not God.
- There are two distinct trumpets in scripture one of which is the trumpet of angels, and the other of which is the trumpet of God.
- The trumpet call of angels is for Israel, and the trumpet call of God is for the church. This trumpet in Revelation is for Israel.

Matthew 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.