

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #22 | Revelation 11:15-19 | The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:15 | The Seventh Trumpet and the Rapture

- The seventh angel **sounded** the last trumpet (v. 15).
 - The word used is σαλπίζω [salpizo], which is *to blow a trumpet*.
 - There are no more trumpet sounds in the book of Revelation.
 - At the rapture, there is the sound of **the trump of God** (1 Thes. 4:16).
 - This is a passage about *the church* in its *mystery age*.
 - The **trump of God** is not the trumpet of the seventh angel of Revelation 11:15.
 - When **the trump of God** sounds, deceased believers will be raised and all believers will be raptured, to meet the Lord in the air.
 - The Kingdom of God neither starts, is inaugurated, nor continues at the rapture of the church. Rather, what follows is the Tribulation, which itself concludes with *the seven trumpets*.
 - The seventh trumpet *is* the same as **the last trump** of 1 Corinthians 15:52.
 - Many Bible teachers confuse the 1 Corinthians trumpet to be the same as the 1 Thessalonians trumpet.
 - To do so requires one of the following:
 - You can explain (in vain) why there are seven trumpets after **the last trump**, all so that you can claim 1 Corinthians 15:52 as the pretribulational rapture of the church.
 - You can give up the pretribulational rapture of the church in order to continue to claim 1 Corinthians 15:52.
 - Since we believe in *verbal plenary inspiration*, and since we use a *literal and grammatical* method of interpretation, it is best to...
 - Consider 1 Corinthians 15:52 to be exactly what it plainly is stated to be: **the last trump**.
 - Reject this passage as a rapture passage, refusing to be confused by mixing **the trump of God** (1 Thes. 4:17) with **the last trump** (1 Cor. 15:52).
 - If we take (as I propose) **the last trump** (1 Cor. 15:52) to be the trumpet of the seventh angel (Rev. 11:15), then 1 Corinthians 15 *is not about the rapture at all*. Rather, it is about the resurrection which takes place at the second coming.
 - Therefore, we have **the trump of God** (1 Thes. 4:17) at the rapture, and **the last trump** (1 Cor. 15:52) at the Second Coming.
- At the seventh trumpet, **the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord**.
 - One must conclude that *currently the kingdoms of this world* are *not* under His direct control but are **of this world**.
 - One must then reject any *current Kingdom* teaching.
 - When the trumpet sounds, the victory sound has gone forth, but there are still a few things yet to happen.
 - Seven vials (bowls) of wrath will be poured out.
 - The Second Coming and its connected resurrection and judgment will take place.
 - The seventh trumpet, then, is *all inclusive* of the remaining events.
 - These events take place over a very short period of time.
 - *The reign of the Messiah* does not take place until after these events. Therefore, the Scripture uses the future tense in verse 15, **He shall reign for ever and ever**.
 - Verses 15 – 19 take place *in heaven*. In addition to the *legal transfer of title* of the **kingdoms of this world** from *the god of this age* (2 Cor. 4:4) to **our Lord, and...his Christ** (v. 15), the following is seen in heaven:
 - The 24 Elders rejoice that **God Almighty** has **taken to thee thy great power** by opening the seven seals and proving His ownership of all creation (vv. 16-17).
 - The nations became angry (v. 18, compare Ps. 2:1).
 - The **time of the dead** comes (v. 18, in reference to the first resurrection, the same as Rev. 20:4).
 - The destruction of **them which destroy the earth** (v. 18).
 - John (if not others) sees **the Temple of God which was opened in heaven** (v. 19). Within it was **the ark of his testament**.
 - The earthly Temple, along with its contents, is only a shadow of the heavenly temple, including the ark.
 - In my estimation, this is the ark of "His covenant," likely the new covenant of Jeremiah 31. Therefore this is *not* the ark of the covenant from the Old Testament.
 - In Revelation 10:7 tells us that the seventh trumpet concludes **the mystery of God**. At this trumpet, God is so fully in charge that the world can be considered to be, once again, under His total dominion.

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