

## New Features on Prewrathministries.org

Continually being updated on the website is the Frequently Asked Questions page or FAQ page. Almost every day, I get questions from visitors to the site ranging from theological questions to how to present or defend the Pre-Wrath view with others. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but it is a joy to help those who are trying to understand scripture and find the truth. I invite you to feel free to email me at [elbert@prewrathministries.org](mailto:elbert@prewrathministries.org) if you have a question, or if there is a concept you are struggling to understand. I try to answer all emails and give the best response I can. I may have to answer, "I don't know," but I don't mind digging to find answers.

## The Significance of the Pre-Wrath View

One of the most important questions we can ask is, "Why does it make a difference if we believe the Pre-Wrath view?" I titled my study *In View of the End*. Well, in view of the end—what difference does it make?

I believe that when we begin to see how prophecy fits together and the plan that God has for the last days several things happen:

1) **God's word becomes so much more relevant.** We live in a day when the Bible, and the church, are believed to be more irrelevant to everyday life than ever before. The Pre-Wrath view gives the reader the confidence that God has had a plan all along and that it IS as relevant today as it was when it was written. The result is the understanding that God is going to accomplish what He had set about doing from Genesis 1:1. The end of time is the culmination of all that has happened in scripture before.

2) **God's word becomes so much more clear.** It has amazed me that when I finally gave in to a Pre-Wrath understanding, so much more of the scripture came alive to me.

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## Feature Article: The Last Trump

*By Elbert Charpie*

In the book of 1 Corinthians 15:52 we have a message about the "last trump." The passage is :

**1 Cor 15:50** (NIV) I declare to you, brothers, 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?" (emphasis added).

There were questions raised in the church at Corinth because some were contending that there was no resurrection of the body. The Apostle Paul went into great detail to explain that when the dead are resurrected, they will no longer have earthly mortal bodies, but immortal bodies like Jesus had after His resurrection. In his description, Paul alludes to the rapture when he says that not all will sleep—as in death, but all WILL be changed to have immortal bodies. Then he describes how these will be changed. It will be instantaneous—in a flash—the twinkling of an eye, and it will happen at the last trumpet. There are some, then, that have used this passage to make a defense that the rapture will happen when the 7th trumpet in the book of Revelation sounds. I find this interpretation impossible for two reasons.

First, Paul is concentrating on the subject of the resurrection. This description would seem to coincide with the trumpets associated with the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Matthew 24:31. All three of these passages focus on the deliverance of God's people in the last days. In contrast, the 7th trumpet in the book of Revelation focuses on judgment of the dead and reward of the saints. This 7th trumpet is also called the third "woe" - which indicates that rather than deliverance, this is an event to be dreaded.

**Rev 11:14** (NIV) The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. **15** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." **16** And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying: "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**, and for **rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints** and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- **and for destroying those who destroy the earth**" (emphasis added).

There is nothing in this passage that implies the rapture of the saints. In addition to this, there is a much greater reason that these trumpets should not be confused. In Revelation, when the sixth seal is opened, the following statement is made:

**Rev 6:12** (NIV) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. the sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood

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## **The Last Trump** *(Continued from page 1)*

red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man 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 stand?**" (emphasis added).

The seventh seal initiates the seven trumpets. Therefore, most scholars agree that the seven trumpets are the beginning of the wrath of God. The greatest problem over associating the 1 Corinthians 15:52 trumpet with the 7th trumpet of Revelation is that God's people, then, endure the wrath of God. There are various scriptures which explicitly state that God's people will not go through the wrath of God.

**Romans 5:9** (NIV) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more **shall we be saved from God's wrath** through him! (emphasis added)

**1 Thess 1:10** (NIV) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, **who rescues us from the coming wrath.** (emphasis added)

**1 Thess 5:9** (NIV) For **God did not appoint us to suffer wrath** but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (emphasis added)

**Rev 3:10** (NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also **keep you from the hour of trial** that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. (emphasis added)

**Luke 21:36** (NIV) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to **escape all that is about to happen**, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. (emphasis added)

The conclusion is that the only connection between these two trumpets is that the 1 Corinthians 15:52 trumpet is called the "last," and the 7th trumpet of Revelation is the last in the sequence of judgment trumpets to sound. The reader has to assume that these are the same and to do so, violates the much more explicit descriptions of what will happen in the last days.

## **The Significance of the Pre-Wrath View** *(Continued from page 1)*

Passages where the scripture speaks of the wrath of God, or the coming wrath begin to make so much more sense—as do scriptures that speak of God's love and deliverance of His people. Scriptures such as...

**Romans 2:5** (NIV) But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are **storing up wrath** against yourself for the **day of God's wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. **6** God "will give to each person according to what he has done." **7** To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life. 8** But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, **there will be wrath and anger. 9** There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; **10** but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. **11** For God does not show favoritism (emphasis added).

...begin to take on new life and new meaning. It is almost as if a light has been turned on in the scripture.

**3) God's plan becomes so much more urgent.** One of the greatest concerns I have because of a Pre-Wrath understanding is that much of the church may be unprepared for what is to come. By far, the most prevalent view of eschatology is the pre-tribulational rapture. This is the view that was made popular by the best selling "Left Behind" series of books. This is the view I was taught and believed up until around six years ago. I believe Pre-Wrath now because, for the first time, all of the biblical prophecies fit together and make sense. I am sure I have not figured everything out, but I am just as sure that I am closer than ever before. For that reason, I am concerned for THE church that many may be deceived by the Antichrist believing that he could not come upon the scene until they had been raptured. I feel a great sense of urgency to somehow provide enough of a doubt in the minds of pre-trib believers that they may at least be open to another possibility if events should unfold in a way they do not expect.

I will be the first to admit that I would love to be wrong. And, if I am wrong, I really have nothing to lose. But, if I am right there is the possibility that many could be left unprepared for the 70th week of Daniel and unbelieving that it could actually be taking place. Believe me, I would much rather be gone! The thoughts in this article I plan to add as a closing to the final session of the study in the near future.