

The Seventh Trumpet

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, saying, In the **seventh month**, on the **first day** of the month, you shall have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no servile work...” (Leviticus 23:23- 25). The **first** day of the seventh, i.e. the Sabbath, month will mark the end of the 6,000 years of man, and usher in a new era in man’s history.

God’s plan is based on the pattern of the Sabbath commandment. “**Six** days shall work be done: but the **seventh** day is the **Sabbath of rest**, a holy convocation; you shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings” (Leviticus 23:3). The six days of labor represent those whom God has called during the six thousand years of man, who have labored to “...overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

Beginning in the first month, with Passover, God has been drawing His people toward His eternal Sabbath rest. The Day of Trumpets pictures the Sabbath rest that we have been laboring to enter into. “There remains therefore a rest [4520, *the keeping of a Sabbath*] to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest [2663, *place of abode, dwelling, habitation*], he also has ceased [2664, *give final rest to*] from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest [2663, *habitation*]...” (Hebrews 4:9-11).

The dates of God’s appointed times have meaning. We are going to show that the Day of Trumpets, being on the **first** day of the month, pictures the **first** resurrection, and on that day the **first fruits** will enter into “...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...” (Hebrews 12:22). We will see that only those who stay focused on the heavenly goal will be called to that holy convocation.

The Seven Seals

In the Book of Revelation there is a series of seven seals (Revelation 6:1-8:1). The first five seals point to **false** Christianity, wars, famines, disease, pestilence, and the martyrdom of the saints. The sixth seal opens with an earthquake and heavenly signs, and great fear comes upon those who dwell on the earth because of the “...wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Revelation 6:16-17).

Following this, an angel says, “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed [4972, *to impress with a mark of acceptance*]: and there were **a hundred forty-four thousand**, of all the tribes of Israel” (Revelation 7:3-4).

The one hundred forty-four thousand are the only ones who will be in the first resurrection. Many have already “...died in faith, not [*yet*] having received the promises...” (Hebrews 11:13).

They are "...the firstborn, which are written [583, *having been enrolled, registered*] in heaven..." (Hebrews 12:23). Those who have died and are enrolled in heaven have already been sealed. The remainder of the 144,000, who have yet to be sealed, will be sealed during the sixth seal.

The forehead represents the mind, and we are to "...have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). It is only those who have the mind of Christ who will be in the first resurrection. Those of the 144,000 who are alive during the time of the end will be protected for a period of three and one-half years.

John was told, "...Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court that is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given to the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months**. And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy **a thousand two hundred and three score days...**" (Revelation 11:1, 2).

This is not an earthly temple that is being referred to, but the heavenly tabernacle, because that is where our place of worship is. "If you then be raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection [5426, *mind*] on things above, **not on things on the earth**" (Colossians 3:1, 2). John's measurement is a spiritual measurement of those who are worshiping in the heavenly tabernacle. "And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God..." (Revelation 8:4). The "court that is without the temple" is the earth.

The Place of Safety

When Satan, "...which deceives the whole world: was cast out into the earth....he persecuted the woman...And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the **wilderness**, into her place [5117, *region, locality*], where she is **nourished** for a time, and times, and half a time from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth" (Revelation 12:9, 13-16).

The "wings of a great eagle" symbolize Jesus Christ. "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bare [5375, *to lift up*] you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself" (Exodus 19:4). The Eternal led them for forty years in the **wilderness**, and **nourished** them with manna, which symbolizes the Word of God, that you may "...know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The wilderness symbolizes the world, which is a spiritually barren place. The "place of safety" is in God. "He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the

Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: My God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. **He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings shall you trust: His truth shall be your shield and buckler**” (Psalm 91:1-4).

The place of safety is not in a church, or a man, or some physical locale. The place of safety is in Jesus Christ, but we must first come out of Babylon.

Focusing on the True Goal

God’s people are warned to “...Come out of [*Babylon*], My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that **you receive not of her plagues**” (Revelation 18:4). You cannot have things both ways. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold [472, *cling to, be devoted to*] to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” (Matthew 6:24, 25).

The focus of our attention is not to be on our desires for the things of this world (Babylon). We have been given “...exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers [2844, *partner, companion, associate*] of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption** [5356, *destruction, ruin*] **that is in the world through lust** [1939, *longing for, earnest desire*]” (1 Peter 1:4).

There is a vast difference between fulfilling our actual needs, which the Eternal promises to take care of, and our wants. Covetousness “...is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5), and idolatry leads to spiritual blindness, because we lose sight of the goal which is above when we covet earthly things.

Of the church at Laodicea, Christ said, “So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot: **I will spew you out of My mouth.** Because you say, **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;** and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and **poor, and blind, and naked:** I counsel you to buy of Me gold **tried in the fire**, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes...that you may see” (Revelation 3:16-18).

They are spiritually well off in their own eyes, but not in the eyes of God. Nakedness represents sin, and spiritual blindness is caused by idolatry, i.e. attempting to serve two masters. Because of their idolatry they will be tried by fire. Of the Philadelphia congregation, Jesus said, “Because you have kept the **word** of My patience, I also **will keep you from the hour of temptation** [3986, *trial, affliction, calamity*], **which shall come upon all the world, to try** [3985, *to assay, examine, discipline*] **them that dwell on the earth**” (Revelation 3:10).

The difference between the attitudes of Philadelphia and Laodicea are the goals that they are focused on. Philadelphia is focused on the heavenly goal, while Laodicea's attention is on earthly interests. Because of their spiritual blindness they cannot see the light, and they have lost sight of the goal. "...God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:5-7). Those of Laodicea have deceived themselves into thinking that they are well off spiritually.

The Seventh Seal and the Trumpets

When the seventh seal is opened there begins a series of **seven trumpets**, which announces a series of catastrophic events that befall the earth (Revelation 8:7, 8, 10, 12; 9:1, 13; 11:15).

At the sound of the fifth trumpet a great army is unleashed. "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but **only those men who have not the seal of God in their foreheads**" (c. 9:4).

At the sound of the sixth trumpet a 200,000,000 man army is unleashed "...to slay the third part of men" (v. 15). Yet "...the rest of mankind which were not killed by these plagues...repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils...Neither repented they of their murders...their sorceries...their fornication, nor of their thefts" (vv.20, 21).

The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses will "...prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days....And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them....And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered them...And they heard a great voice from heaven saying to them, Come up here. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand and the remnant were afraid, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe comes quickly" (Revelation 11:3, 7, 11-14).

The Seventh Trumpet

At the sound of the seventh trumpet, which is the **last trumpet of the series**, a time of judgment and rewards is announced. "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....and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should give **reward to your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear your name small and great**; and should destroy them that destroy the earth.

And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of the testament..." (Revelation 11:15, 18, 19).

The Resurrection of the First Fruits

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we **shall all be changed** [236, *to exchange one thing for another*], 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory**" (1 Corinthians. 15:52-54).

At the sound of the seventh trumpet, which is the **last trumpet**, Jesus will come down to meet His bride in the clouds of heaven. "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. 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" (Matthew 24:30, 31). Then "...the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and **so shall we ever be with the Lord**" (1 Thessalonians. 4:16, 17).

The saints rise to meet Jesus Christ in the air, and where does He take them? Do they make a U-turn and return to the earth during the period of time that the seven last plagues are being poured out on the earth from heaven (Revelation 16:1-21)? Would it make sense for Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints to be on the earth during the seven last plagues? What purpose would that serve? The plain truth is that Jesus Christ will lead His bride to the heavenly Jerusalem, and they will stand before the throne of God in heaven.

The Heavenly Jerusalem

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with Him **a hundred forty and four thousand**, having His Father's name written in their foreheads. And...I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song **before the throne**, and **before the four beasts**, and **the elders**: and no man could learn that song but the **hundred and forty and four thousand**, which were redeemed [59, *purchased*] from [575, *separation, to depart, to remove, to expel from*] the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women [*false religions*]; for they are virgins. These are they which **follow the Lamb wherever He goes**. These were redeemed [59, *purchased*] from among men, being **the first fruits to God and to the Lamb**. And in their mouth was found no guile [1388, *deceit*]: for they are without fault **before the throne of God**" (Rev. 14:1, 3-5).

The resurrected saints **are standing before the throne of God in heaven**. The twenty-four elders and the four beasts are in heaven, where the throne of God is. **They are not on the earth!** A "... throne was set in heaven And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty eldersAnd before the throne there was a **sea of glass** like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts ...” (Rev. 4:2, 4, 6).

The saints are standing on the sea of glass before the throne of God in heaven. “And I saw as it were **a sea of glass** mingled with fire: and them that had gotten victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, **stand on the sea of glass, having harps of God**. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the Song of the Lamb, saying ...” (Revelation 15:2, 3).

Summary: On the day of Trumpets the **first fruits** will be called forth from their earthly home to assemble before God in heaven. **This will be a holy convocation unlike any other before it!** Those who will be in the first resurrection will be those “...who seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1). You must “Set your mind on things above, **not on things on the earth**. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then you shall also appear with Him in glory**” (vv. 2-4).