



A Promise of Great Comfort

The promise of the coming of the Lord should bring comfort and edification. Jesus comforted His disciples about His departure with the promise of His coming for the church.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. [2] In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jesus gave revealed the promise to the Apostle Paul for the church to be comforted and edified. It should encourage us to finish strong.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The Lord himself will descend into the atmosphere. The dead in Christ will receive their resurrection bodies first. We will be caught up! The Greek word is *harpazo* and carries with it two meanings, one is “to carry off by force”, and another means “to rescue from the danger of destruction”. (Great Truths to Live By—Kenneth Weust) Think of the word “harpoon”

The word most commonly used is rapture which comes from the Latin word “*rapiemur*” in the Latin Vulgate Bible. *Rapiemur* is derived from the root verb *rapiō*, which means to snatch, carry off or to seize someone or something quickly and suddenly.. (www.latin-dictionary.net)

This is the next big event on God’s calendar for His church! With this blessed hope we are to encourage one another to finish strong!—1 Thessalonians 4:18. We are to encourage each other as we see the day approaching—Hebrews 10:25



A great mystery

There is a generation that will not see death. This is a great mystery.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."

Time of redemption: Romans 8:23

Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Time of transformation: Philippians 3:21

who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Time of our perfection: Ephesians 5:27

He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Time of gathering: Ephesians 1:10

that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.



The Last Trumpet

The last trumpet is a reference to the journey of the children of Israel in the wilderness. Read Numbers 2,9,10,33 to have a complete understanding of Paul's thinking when he wrote "at the last trumpet". He calls the event a mystery but we can see a type and shadow of it in the Book of Numbers.

1. At Mt. Sinai God Moses received instructions to build a tabernacle called the tent of meeting, when it was completed the Glory of God fell.

Exodus 40:33b-38

So Moses finished the work. [34] Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. [35] And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. [36] Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. [37] But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. [38] For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

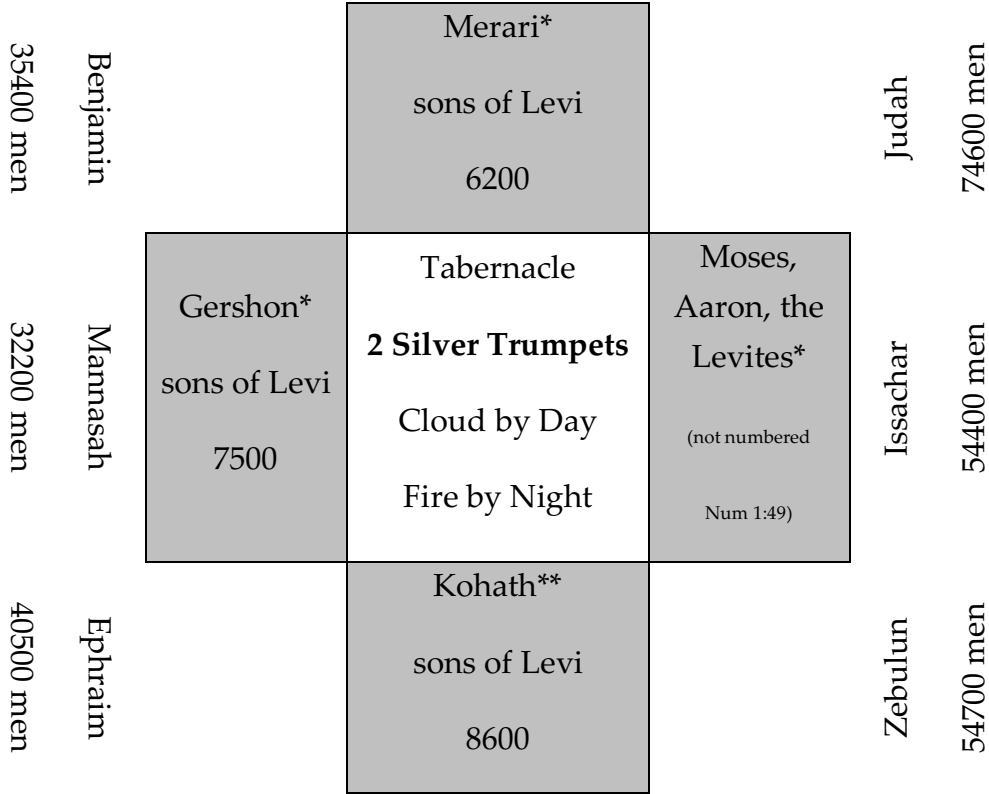
2. Moses was instructed to take a census of all the men over 20 who were able to fight, Israel had over 600,000 men (representing 1-3 million people)
3. Moses was instructed as to how the 12 tribes of Israel were to encamp around the tabernacle of meeting. (see illlus.)
4. Moses was instructed to make 2 silver trumpets. Its primary purpose was to signal the time of Israel's departure. When the cloud moved up from the tent the Levites would blow a succession of trumpets. East, South, West and North Campus would be signaled one at a time until all were assembled and ready for departure. (30 times)



Dan North Campus—157600 men (last trumpet)

Dan	Asher	Naphtali
62700 men	41500 men	53400 men

Ephraim West Campus—180100 men (3rd trumpet)



Judah East Campus—186400 men (1st trumpet advance*)

Gad	Simeon	Reuben
46650 men	59300 men	46500 men

Reuben South Campus—151450 men (2nd trumpet)**



When Paul says 'last trump' it means when the Body of Christ is now complete and ready for departure. God is patiently waiting for the harvest to be completed.

1. 2 Peter 3:8-9 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
2. James 5:7-8 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. [8] You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
3. Revelation 4:1-2 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." [2] Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Paul admonished us of this mystery to finish the work!

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.



The church's departure

The church will depart before the revealing of the anti-christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, [2] not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. [3] Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, [4] who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Wuest Expanded Translation verse 3...

“Do not begin to allow anyone to lead you astray in any way because that day shall not come except the aforementioned departure [of the Church to heaven] comes first and the man of the lawlessness is disclosed [in his true identity], the son of perdition.”

All of the earliest English Bible translations used the word departure and not falling away.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? [6] And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. [7] For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. [8] And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Wuest Expanded Translation verse 6...

And now you know with a positive assurance that which [namely, the departure of the church, the saints being assembled together to the Lord] is preventing his being disclosed [as to his true identity] in his strategic, appointed time.

The church as authority over the anti-christ. He can't arrive until we are removed out of the way.

1 John 2:18,20,27-28

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. [20] But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. [27] But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same



anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. [28] And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 John 3:1-3

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. [2] Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. [3] And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.



The Church exempt from The Day of the Lord

The Lord will come for the church before the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is a day of wrath (Isaiah 13:6,9) that is consummated with the Lord returning to the Mount of Olives with His church. All the details of that time is covered by the Lord in Matthew 24 and in Revelations 6-19

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. [2] For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. [3] For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. [4] But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. [5] You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. [8] But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

The times and seasons are a direct reference to the Lord's feasts. The Lord's feasts are a type and shadow of His sufferings and glory, His first and second coming to the earth. The church should understand the plan and program of the Lord—HE IS COMING AGAIN TO SET UP HIS KINGDOM FROM JERUSALEM.

Therefore we are to watch and be sober by putting on these heart essentials...

FAITH—LOVE—HOPE