



TRUMPET SOUNDS

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NOT A RAPTURE STORY

In my 20's I grew up in a church denomination that preached an early rapture. I had seen the Rapture type movies that were geared to an early catching away. I took my pastor's word for it, until God gave me a night vision that called this belief into question. One of the Scriptures in question is 2 Thess 2:1-10 generally regarded as the indicator of an early rapture, however, we must consider all content of the verses and not simply guess at one line. So if you are one like I was, believing in an early rapture, I would ask you to consider another possibility.

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means:

*for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

Falling away: apostasia, which is to say apostasy, a defection. This is not talking about rapture but an apostasy. Apostasy is the falling away from the Christian faith by Christians. It is a revolt against the truth of God's word by one who did believe. It can also describe a group or church organization that has "fallen away" from the truths of Christianity as revealed in the Bible. In other words, it does not mean that the people would necessarily leave the church but that the church would leave the Truth for the newer doctrines and the philosophies of man.

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

*6 And now ye know what **withholdeth** that he might be revealed in his time.*

*7 **For the mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now **letteth** will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Verses 6-7 are a repeat of verse 3.

Mystery of iniquity: refers to some hidden or concealed depravity...some form of sin which

was working secretly and silently, and which had not yet developed itself. Any secret sources of iniquity in the church...anything that would tend to corrupt its doctrines and destroy the simplicity of the faith of the gospel, would correspond with the meaning of the word.

Doth already work: There are elements of these corruptions already existing in the church. This is like watering down or adjusting the Scriptures to the palate of today's philosophies in a slow moving transition having been raised by degrees; and this is entirely in accordance with the statements of the apostle Paul. In his own time, he says, there were things which, if not restrained, would expand and ripen into that apostasy.

Only he who now letteth: Who now hinders, or restrains - *katechō* is the same word which is used in vs. 6, and rendered **withholdeth**, except that it is there in the neuter gender. There can be no doubt that there is reference to the same restraining power which is that Truth of the believer keeps evil at bay. It is the power which keeps a check on the growing corruptions within the churches preventing their full development, which when removed little by little gives opportunity for these corruptions to develop themselves.

Will let, until he be taken out of the way: Again, this will be an effectual check on these corruptions, preventing their full development until they are no longer a threat for which to contend, and then the man of sin will appear. It would be like a civil restraint, preventing the development of existing corruptions, but in the gradual withdrawal over a period of time in restraining; the tendency of the existing corruptions would be seen.

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NOT A RAPTURE STORY CONTINUED

Take a look at the church today. The emerging/emergent church movement falls into line with basic post-modernist thinking, which is about experience over reason, subjectivity over objectivity, spirituality over Biblical faith, images over words, outward over inward, feelings over truth. These are reactions to modernism and are thought to be necessary in order to actively engage contemporary culture. This movement is ever dismantling the restraints that have kept a barrier of groups choosing to take a post-modern mindset. In fact, the emerging church rejects any standard methodology for doing anything. Therefore, there is a huge range of how far groups take a post-modernist approach to Christianity. Some groups go only a little way in order to impact their community for Christ, and remain biblically sound. Most groups, however, embrace post-modernist thinking, which eventually leads to a very liberal, loose translation of the Bible. This, in turn, lends to liberal doctrine and theology.

For example, because experience is valued more highly than Truth, Truth becomes relative. Relativism opens up all kinds of problems, as it destroys the standard that the Bible contains absolute Truth, negating the belief that Biblical truth can be absolute. If the Bible is not our source for absolute Truth, and personal experience is allowed to define and interpret what Truth actually is, a saving faith in Jesus Christ is

rendered meaningless.

It was Shakespeare who said *a rose by any other name would smell as sweet*. In the case of the "new spirituality" that has pervaded so much of Christianity, *emergent church by any other name is just as harmful*. While some are saying they are not "emergent" but are emerging, the overall beliefs (and mission) of each, emergent and emerging, are the same.

How far does this reach into the churches? Well, since the **emerging church** calls itself a Christian movement of the late 20th and early 21st centuries that crosses a number of theological boundaries whose participants are described as Protestant, post-Protestant, Evangelical, post-Evangelical, Liberal, post-Liberal, Conservative, post-Conservative, Anabaptist, Adventist, Reformed, Charismatic, neo-Charismatic, and post-Charismatic.

Emerging churches can be found throughout the globe, predominantly in N. America, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. Some attend local independent churches while others worship in traditional Christian denominations. Proponents believe the movement exceeds such "modernist" labels of "conservative" and "liberal," calling the movement a "conversation" to emphasize its developing and reorganized nature, its vast range of standpoints, and its commitment to dialogue. Participants seek to live their faith

in what they believe to be a "postmodern" society. What those involved in the conversation mostly agree on is their disillusionment with the organized and institutional church and their support for the deconstruction of modern Christian worship, modern evangelism, and the nature of modern Christian community. In other words, it leaves Truth behind and Truth has been the check keeping the evil at bay, but once Truth is removed...you have your apostasy!

Why is this important to consider? I can give you two reasons:

1. That we not become complacent in our faith, and part of the apostasy emerging
2. Hearts will fail for fear at what is coming on the earth and many who have put all their eggs in the early rapture basket will be shaken in their faith and some could fall away also joining the apostasy

Another thing to consider is Jesus' parting words in John 17:15; **20 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil...Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word...** These are the days to secure our faith whether you believe in an early rapture or not. To me the only smart thing to do is build your faith to endure the times ahead, and if Jesus comes early don't argue the point!

CO-OPERATION

Faith is based upon two main ingredients: God's unfailing Word and man's co-operation with the Word. I can explain it in this way: When I taught in school all the right ingredients for learning were there. I was a good teacher and the students had good materials consisting of their own books, paper, desk etc. In other words, each student had all the right equipment to aid learning, and still those who did not co-operate with all that was given them would be the poorer for it. An education will not fall upon a person out of the blue just because he sits at a desk in a classroom. Without the student's co-operation, which is the willingness to learn and grow, an education will pass him/her by.

What does it mean to co-operate? It means to *act jointly working toward the same end*. Now, look at this Scripture: **3 John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.**

God wants us to prosper...above all things. He has already done every-

thing for us to prosper and be in health but the catch is that we must co-operate with prosperity and health. Our words must act jointly with the Word of God. Our actions must work jointly with the Word of God. If you pray for healing but speak sickness you are resisting the Word that with Jesus' stripes you ARE made whole. If you pray for prosperity but speak only of your lack you impede and handicap your own efforts. Instead of co-operating with the Will and Word of God we co-operate in the negative and wonder why God does not move!

God would not that one perish, and that above all things that we would prosper and be in health, but it will not run us down and take us over against our will, which in our speaking and actions is resistant to the very things we desire. God is moving; we just need to move **jointly toward the same end**, and that, My Friend, is co-operation.

RETIRED CHRISTIANITY

When I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the gifts in operation, I looked for a church that believed in the flow of the Holy Spirit. In my quest, I visited a church where people lifted their hands in praise to God, spoke in tongues and seemed to fit the bill for what I was searching. After months of being there, I found that even though these people had at one time experienced the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they had also experienced failures and weariness in fighting the good fight of faith. I came in with enthusiasm being new to everything and childlike in faith. Every faith testimony I gave was met with, "What a good idea." The Scriptures were more than a good idea but Truth and life and the vitality of faith. Then it dawned on me that these people, as dear as could be, had succumbed to the weariness of standing and had retired after putting in all the good years of youth. I remember witnessing the sight of this and praying that I would never become so old that I would lose my vitality in the Word of God and dilute it down coming to a place of retiring from the race of faith set before me.

God never intended us to retire from our Christianity to sit back while a newer generation comes in to benefit us as we sit on the sidelines. I am not referring to retiring from a position, because there are times in which we pass the mantle, but retiring from our

faith. Else why would the Scripture read: **Heb 12:1-3** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

Many in the church have interwoven failures into faith saying that they **hope** the Lord will heal this time, because they cannot say that they **know** by His own testimony that He will. For some reason we do not see God's Word as inclusive but exclusive to only a few. The irony of that is that we are the ones making ourselves exclusive **from** the promises thinking that we might not get our answer. Then again, we have some pastors that think it wise to say that God always answers but sometimes the answer is NO. There is no Scripture that bears this out, for the Word says: **2 Cor 1:20** *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

Faith is not something to retire from but to continue and build upon.

"ALWAYS A BRIDE'S MAID NEVER A BRIDE"

At prayer meeting 4/10/14 the Lord gave me a vision. I saw what looked as if bride's maids standing in the periphery of the Holy Spirit yet not receiving Him on the inside. The understanding followed that these are those churched yet, like half of the virgins, have no oil. The Groom is not coming back to take the bride's maids but the bride with her lamp illuminating and radiant.

Those bride's maids never received the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of tongues (un-acquired language), because this was for someone else not them. They were impotent of power and empty of oil. These sat on the edge of effectiveness

never quite able to accomplish. The song of the bride's maid is Que Sera Sera:

**Que Sera, Sera,
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours, to see
Que Sera, Sera
What will be, will be.**

However, we know that they wake up at some point to realize they have no oil and try to take the bride's. In that late day they began to search for that which they had neglected to do, and the groom came and took His bride while they ran about trying to figure it out. "Always the bride's maid, NEVER the bride!!"

There were once three lepers who asked themselves, "Why sit we here and die?" This is the same question I put to the bride's maids, "Why sit you there on the periphery of effectiveness?" One day you will see that you need that oil you were so lax about, but it will be too late.

Isa 55:6 *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*

John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

I could not have said it better.

COME, LET US UNLEARN TOGETHER

Listening is the greater part of prayer. As an intercessor, I have come to know this Truth. The more we speak in prayer the less we hear. So, in my listening time this morning, I clearly understood something God is trying to get across to the whole body. Before I can grasp or learn anything, I must unlearn all that I think I know. If we want to know the mysteries, we must first come into the place of unlearning what our Gentile minds have re-translated to faith. God's Spirit cannot force our minds to re-

ceive what it fights against.

Saul of Tarsus fought severely against Christianity and had a blinding close encounter of the God kind. He was not only a Pharisee but the son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6). He was ingrained in the ways of his faith from his youth. Many of us could say the same thing. I know, I was raised in the church and not all the same denominations! Then again, I must admit that I was raised in an unusual home with parents that read the Word and took it to

heart. Our denominational churches had taught us nothing of the power of the Holy Spirit or the supernatural gifts in that power, but my parents found them hidden in plain sight within the Word. As a teen I remember that my grandmother was sick and we got into a circle holding hands and praying for her in "agreement", because my mother stumbled upon that Scripture (Matt 18:19-20).

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COME, LET US UNLEARN TOGETHER (CONTINUED)

Another time my dad approached the elders to lay hands on my nephew for healing because the Word said to call upon the elders, yet this was not a practice in that denomination (James 5:14-15). The minister got up and had to show the congregation what the Word said before he could call the elders since this had been neither familiar to that congregation nor was it taught. I am not sure, though the elders were instructed that this was in the Word, that they actually believed it. In order to receive this “new doctrine”, they had to unlearn what their minds had not received.

Yes, my parents had to unlearn the “denominations” to receive many Scriptural Truths. My mother was raised Methodist and my father was raised Catholic so my pedigree was mixed up until a blood transfusion of the God type changed it all! Since my parents were raised in denominations and still were able to grow and flow in the Spirit, I know that there are more than we think sitting in the pews who are hungry and thirsty for more.

We were rather like misfits until the Charismatic movement took the Holy Spirit out of

the closet and allowed Him to flow, and we felt right at home. Because of my radically believing parents, I have had less to challenge revelation when it comes.

We unlearn to learn every day. Saying that is the same as getting a person lost in order for him to be found. In the denominations of doctrines, we had no idea that we were starving. We had to taste and see that the Lord was good before we realized we were hungry. We had not known we were thirsty until we took a drink of living water!

While the Charismatic movement motivated us to grow spiritually, in time they also set about their doctrines of faith in their own boundaries. Buildings of fellowship were built and new boundary lines are drawn just as in the denominations. It seems to be the way of man.

Today God’s hand pointed to paper and words have appeared instructing us to **unlearn in order to learn**. God sees what is coming and knows where we should be. There are things He wants us to learn and know but as Jesus said: **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of**

truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. John 16: 12-13

If the body of Christ is not willing to unlearn the things that resist revelation, we can never grasp what God’s Spirit is saying to us. All we will continue to do is strain gnats and swallow camels in arguing one dogma, tradition or idea over another as if we have arrived with our creeds set in concrete unwilling to flow in the Spirit.

This is in no wise a progressive, post modern thinking, which has reared its ugly head to the tune of apostasy, but the Truth within the Truth being revealed in its generation of fulfillment. There are still Truths to learn, but as Jesus said we cannot bear those things until we allow the Holy Spirit to speak into our hearts...pliable hearts that do not insist to know more than He.

Let me tell you that just as in the days of Noah there is a current coming, and you will either be able to flow on the top or sink to the bottom.

ADVERSITY

Prov 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

If you will notice in the beginning everything God created He called good. For you who can come up with adversity as made by God countering this Scripture in **Isaiah 45:7**, let’s get down to the brass tacks of it: **I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.**

- **Form** light: to form is yâsar to mould into form; fashion, form, frame, make (-r), potter, purpose.
- **Make** peace: to make is ‘âsâh to make in the broadest sense: accomplish, appoint, bring forth, dress, finish, fit, fly, follow, fulfill, furnish, gather, get, go about, govern, grant, bring (come) to pass, perform etc. etc.
- **Create** darkness and evil: has two opposite meanings, yet both accomplish a good purpose: bârâ’ can either select and feed or cut down

Looking at this Scripture, had the translators chosen what I believe to be more accurate use of the word bara, it reads: **I fashion and mould the light, and cut down darkness: I bring forth and furnish peace, and cut down evil: I the LORD do all these things.**

You must shed light to dispel darkness, for where there is light there is no darkness. Do you see this? In evil there is no peace, therefore it only makes sense that evil is cut down to make peace.

Going back to Prov 24:10, there is one way to defeat adversity and that is to grow in the midst of it and not faint. There is a story I like to tell on adversity of a chef whose daughter was complaining about all the bumps in her road and the unfairness of her “lot” in life. He calmly listened to her suffering tales of all the adversities afflicting her as he quietly put three pots of water on the stove to boil. In one pot he put a large, hard, whole potato; in the next a delicate uncooked egg in its shell and in the last he put in coffee grounds allowing time for each to boil. As he and his daughter sat to eat he took out the potato and remarked how that through the tumultuous, boiling water the hardness of the potato had softened. He took out the egg revealing how the delicate, fragile egg had been made firmer and not as easily broken as before. In pouring his daughter a cup of coffee, he disclosed that the boiling water had itself been changed by the grounds.

Through times of adversity we have the opportunity for our hardness to soften, our frailties to turn to strength yet also the ability to change adversity altogether.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS : " DRUGS "

In this generation children at a very early age are exposed to drugs and sin like never before. I recently heard a minister who had a childhood similar to mine. He is probably in his 70s and said that he was exposed to drugs ever since he could remember. He was drug to church on Sundays and drug to fellowship during the week and drug there on Saturdays, which left him no time to sin!

I, myself suffered being drug to church...and drug there we all were, when all I wanted to do was sleep in.

We learned at an early age that every day was the Lord's, and that

each feast time was either a thanksgiving to Jesus or about Him.

I knew that nothing could ever be done in secret, because even in the event of being away from the watch of my parent's eye, there was a Savior looking on.

I was taught to have a personal communication with Jesus any time and at all times so that I was never alone.

In every age and all episodes of my life I was aware of Jesus' presence. Though I was not a perfect child, I was a "watched" child, which curbs all thoughts to do

mischief. Technology was not the babysitter in our household, yet we knew we were always watched!

It is so unfortunate that many children today have not been "drug" to a Christian fellowship of their peers. Children today try to sort out their own problems by deciding what is right or wrong in their own eyes. A feeling of being alone brings about insecurities and wrong choices as well as the opportunity of sin because to them no one is watching.

While the usage of "being drug" may be improper in English

grammar it *is* the proper usage in bringing up a child in the way he should go, since it is those lessons to which they will return.

If we do not invest the Word of God in our children, they will not have it on which to bank when trials come. If their peers are not Christian because of their disassociation to church fellowship, then they are conforming to the peers of the world and subject to the prince of this world and drugs of delusion.

Children naturally want to sleep in and not want to be "drug" to church, but this was never a choice in my upbringing...THANK GOD and thanks to Godly parents!

RESPONSIBLE TO CHOOSE

Deut 30:19 *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

Lot in life: one of a set of objects such as straws, stones, or pieces of paper that are randomly selected as part of a decision-making process...the casting of lots
Fate: the predetermination that what will happen in your life was meant to happen regardless of our actions, which is like the Hindu karma or kismet...what will be, will be

Free will choice: The mental faculty by which one deliberately chooses or decides upon a course of action

God revealed the manner of both life and death, blessing and cursing, but then He made us responsible for the manner of what our life would be by saying CHOOSE life. In other words, He did not say our life was a cast of the "lot" or fate, which is another way of saying, "Whatever will be, will be."

We like to blame God for our "lot" in life by saying life and death, blessing and cursing are all in His control, yet the Scripture exposes the Truth that we are the deciding factor. Just as Adam and Eve were made in God's image and in perfect fellowship with Him, yet they chose by their own will to disobey and eat of death. The same thing happened in the celestial realm and Lucifer, who was abundantly blessed, chose the curse of eternal damnation rather than eternal Glory. Though the Bible tells us that we are predestined for a work and mission, by our own choices we fall short of that glory. When we fall, we have the choice to continue in a fallen state or be restored by the renewing of our minds.

Put these Scriptures together:

Prov 23:7 *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

Rom 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

Phil 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

I just gave you life points of healing the brain through healthy life thoughts, but they must be exercised and applied deliberately and constantly. God has made us responsible over our thoughts. How can you judge your thoughts? **Matt 12:34-36** *...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

Start listening to what comes out of your mouth and you will discover your heart. Are your words about yourself and others positive or negative? Is your tongue a champion of faith even in the midst of what you see, hear and feel, or do you declare the negative about others as if you are on the payroll for the National Inquirer? I know people that relish spreading the doom of others living contrary to the Word, yet know the principles of speaking life and do not apply it. If they could not express the negative story, they would have nothing to talk about. I would wager that they would even agree with this article but ignore its application as soon as they put it down. **James 1:23-24** *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

What I am telling you is actually and literally a matter of life and death...CHOOSE life!