

FAQ 33

Discerning HUGE Differences

Q #33 Others also teach the "Final" Trumpet of I Cor. 15 is the 7th Trump of Rev. 11. Are you in agreement with their understanding(s) of the Final Trumpet Rapture details?

It all depends on how the "other" *understandings* of this relationship are **defined**. **Let us cite a perfect example.** If you would place Endtime Ministries' view as "another view holding this relationship," for purposes of example, here's our answer:

Absolutely NOT! And THANK YOU for raising this good question. It's really important that these kinds of questions are asked ... and answered, for Truth's sake!

While Irvin Baxter and the ministry team at Endtime Ministries say they hold the Rapture takes place at the 7th Trumpet of Revelation 11, it's crucial that you understand The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering (FTRG) position is radically different in its chronological position while at the same time holds the final trumpet of I Cor. 15 is indeed the 7th Trumpet of Revelation 11. PLEASE, do NOT define or evaluate the FTRG of Endurance Ministries in light of Endtime Ministries' (ETMs') eschatological position, for ETM holds a major interpretive ASSUMPTION that bears **many** difficulties! No, the last-trumpet understanding of Endtime Ministries in no way represents the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering of the Church as defined by Endurance Ministries (in light of the **explicit** data in the Word of God).

WHY? Because ETMs' position is **POST - TRIB** in its claim AND states that Christ's Return (and the Rapture event) takes place at Revelation 19. This in no way relates to the **explicit** biblical data as highlighted in the *Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering* position.

But, you might ask, how is this possible given you both (EM - Endurance Ministries and ETM - Endtime Ministries) claim the "final trumpet" of I Cor. 15 is the 7th Trumpet of Rev. 11?

This is a GREAT (and important) follow-up question!

Here's how this is possible - **but please discern:** The two positions are NOT the same!

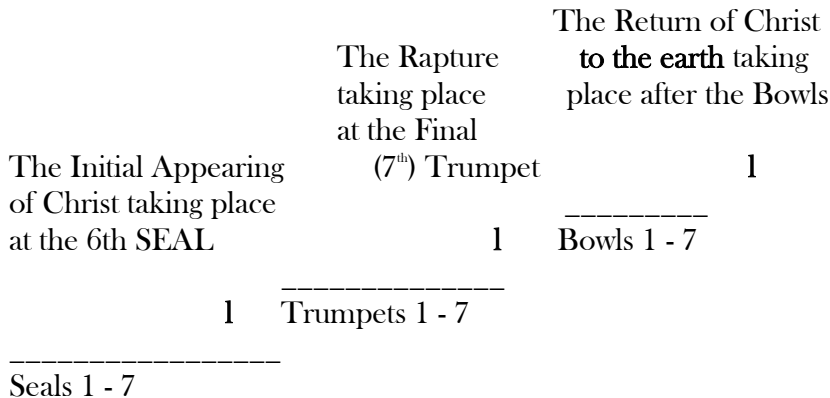
ETM teaches from the viewpoint that the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls are **superimposed** - at the very least, at key places. In other words, their position as to the chronological unfolding of the Book of Revelation looks like this (see their recent DVD release called *When Will The Rapture Happen?* for explicit examples of this teaching AND which demonstrates the coherence problems which we've described in our written response/handout referred to on the next page):

The Return of Christ
AND the Rapture
taking place here

1

Bowls/Vials	Vs 6 & 7
Trumpets	T 7
Seals	Ss 6 & 7

Endurance Ministries' position - on the other hand - holds the Bowls FOLLOW the Trumpets which FOLLOW the Seals. This is HUGE when it comes to coherence (of position). The position of ETM does NOT cohere; the position of Endurance Ministries does. (For our visual presentation on this important topic, please consider having us come out for a personal visit and we can more clearly detail our concerns.) The position of EM can be diagrammed in this manner: the Seals take place; (THEN) the Trumpets take place; (THEN) the Bowls occur:



So once again, the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering teaches the Church will NOT be present on earth when God's wrath takes place because we are gathered PRIOR TO the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath. (See I Thes. 5:1-11 and Rev. 3:10)

There are MAJOR reasons why the *superimposed* interpretation is biblically untenable.

Please write to us for a more thorough handout on the reasons why this is indeed the case. (Snail-mail requests, please.)

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(Note: The following was added on 4/11/12)

We've been made aware of a more accurate way to diagram Baxter's position. Having now done further research, we (at Endurance Ministries) believe there is indeed a more accurate way of illustrating Baxter's position in light of **what he (Baxter) says**. Here's our update:

In light of these quotes from Baxter (also stated on the DVD mentioned above):

“Obviously God's not going to pour out His wrath on His Church. ... The wrath of God is poured out right at the last of the great tribulation and right at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.” “So the great tribulation is not the wrath of God. The great tribulation Is the wrath of Satan. Now the wrath of God is in the book of Revelation. It's in Revelation chapter number 16 under the seven vials of the wrath of God.”

and in light of other explicit statements in this same DVD presentation, the following is a more accurate way of presenting his **Post-Trib** position:

The Return of Christ
(The Battle of Armageddon)
AND the Rapture
(The Marriage Supper of the Lamb)
taking place here

1

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Vials 1-7

Trumpets	T 7
Seals	Ss 6 & 7

But now we find even greater coherence problems! Let me simply introduce two of them here:

1. Because Baxter now departs from a Full Superimposed position, he needs to give **BIBLICAL** reasons why he does so.
2. Baxter also says (after affirming **ALL** the Vials are the Wrath of God),

“And those [the seven vials of Rev. 16] are the vials of wrath that will be poured out on the invading armies that will be coming down against Israel at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.”

This, dear friends, is a major problem on **many** fronts. Why?

Let me simply state **one** problem here:

How can Vials 1 - 5 be poured out on something that has not yet gathered? The armies of Armageddon are not gathered until the 6th Vial. This is what Scripture says anyway.

We anticipate Endtime Ministries will need to give counter responses to these major problems - in addition to the other problems with their position. We HOPE and PRAY you will consider their responses in this manner: Does what they are saying measure up to what the BIBLE actually teaches? Once again, as we have been saying for decades: **What does the Word of God explicitly say?!**

I've sent the following to Endtime Ministries - seeking further clarification from them on some of these matters. I'll share it here for information purposes:

April 9, 2012

Dear Irvin and Dave (Robbins) - precious Brothers in Christ,

THANK YOU for your general appeal: Let's be **ready!** AMEN!

In the hopes of helping your ministry efforts - especially that of guarding against logical fallacies when the biblical text is used - we wish to bring to your attention a few concerns RE: your end time position:

1. You state in your DVD* that the Seals, Trumpets and Vials (Bowls) overlap - at least occasionally. You diagram it in a way similar to this full superimposition view:

The Return of Christ
AND the Rapture
taking place here

1

Bowls/Vials Vs 6 & 7

Trumpets T 7

Seals Ss 6 & 7

2. You then go on to say **all** the Vials (which are the wrath of God) are poured out on the armies of Armageddon (which would then be communicating a partial superimposed viewpoint).

In light of some of **your** comments in the DVD, it almost seems as if this would be a better way to diagram your position:

The Return of Christ
(The Battle of Armageddon)
AND the Rapture
(The Marriage Supper of the Lamb)
taking place here

1

Vials 1-7

Trumpets

T 7

Seals

Ss 6 & 7

Question: How can it be that ALL the vials are poured out on the armies of Armageddon when the armies don't gather until the 6th vial when the Euphrates River dries up and the demonic deception fosters the kings of the east to gather their armies? (The text has very clear data on this event.)

3. How can your superimposed position be true in light of Rev. 15:5-8? Verse 8 says "no one" is able to enter the Temple during the time of the Bowls. Yet, in Rev. 7:9-17 (especially vs. 15), the great tribulation martyrs of Rev. 6:11 - that is, the "fellow servants and their brethren" - come into God's presence as they are martyred in light of being in the Lord's presence after they die (absent from the body is to be present with the Lord - Phil. 1:23; II Cor. 5:8). These martyred Saints do enter into His glorious presence upon their deaths and this takes place during the Rev. 6 - 19 (superimposed) period ... during the vials (if you retain your graphic on your DVD which indicates the vials begin the same time the seals and trumpets begin (representing the full superimposed view).

Either way, the full superimposed view or the partial superimposed view has MAJOR difficulties in light of the actual content of Scripture.

I would suggest you reconsider the other view (teaching the Seals unfold, *then* the Trumpets unfold, *then* the Bowls of Wrath unfold). This is a view the Church, through the ages, has held (which does NOT make it true BUT it does show there are grounds/evidences for this view). It also does not have the problems your view has due to the sequential unfolding of the seals, trumpets and vials.

Please respond to our concerns listed above. Thank you.

(our letter to Irvin Baxter continues on the next page)

Co-laboring with you unto our great God's glory and praise,

Dr. Jon Swanson

Field Director of Endurance Ministries

Bio at: <http://www.missionsdoor.org/missionary/swanson-jon>

* DVD: *When Will The Rapture Happen?*

Our closing comment to our site readers:

Baxter offers great insight when he says some dangerous teachings (like dogmatic Pre-Tribulationism) may produce dangerous consequences. What are some potential consequences IF one dogmatically holds Endtime Ministries' superimposed view and it happens to be incorrect?