

The Witnessed Rapture

In A Nutshell

*Revealing The Biblical Parallels,
Patterns, Pictures, and Types*

By Jeff Van Hatten

Foreword by Mondo Gonzales



All Glory and Honor to Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha’Kodesh

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Revealing the Biblical Parallels, Patterns, Pictures, and Types

Compiled By Jeff Van Hatten, BA: Biblical Studies

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*Yahweh blesses you and keeps you;
Yahweh makes his face to shine upon you, and is gracious to you;
Yahweh lifts up his countenance upon you, and makes you whole.*

Jeff is a student of End Times Prophecies and The Rapture

This book in pdf format is provided free of charge. Please send it along to all your family, friends, pastors, elders, scholars, and other Bible End Times Prophecy and Rapture students with whom you communicate.

Permission to quote, share, copy, or appropriate bits, pieces, or large junks of this book freely granted. I firmly assert that all who write about The Rapture should be saying the same things, albeit perhaps using just a few different words here and there. You are welcome to be just as synoptic with me as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and I have been with others.

Foreword

The Lord has blessed me to have the opportunity to pastor various churches in Illinois, Washington state, and Nevada. All three churches loved the Word and loved studying prophecy. One of the stumbling blocks that we learned together was that all of us pick up beliefs along the way that many times are not rooted specifically in the Bible, but from movies, church doctrinal statements, Sunday school, Christian fiction or from parents or family traditions.

When it comes to the rapture, there certainly are many people who attack the blessed hope, but at the same time there are those who are eagerly anticipating the Lord's appearance who have allowed some traditions to influence their thinking. This book will challenge some traditional viewpoints, but we must be able to always challenge our own presuppositions and continue to examine whether our beliefs are rooted in scripture alone. You don't need to agree with everything that Jeff has written in this book to see that he loves the Word and is committed to unapologetically steering people into basing their worldviews and theological understanding on the text of Scripture.

We often think of the rapture as the great disappearance act at the end of the age. We base this mostly in movies we have seen or fictional books we have read. Jeff guides us back to the Scriptures to see that there is more than meets the eye. Truth to be told, these truths have been available to the eye the entire time. We just passed over them or were instructed that there was nothing to see.

These are exciting times and the soon coming rapture and the details that the Bible reveals are the next best event on God's time clock. Be watching just as Jesus commanded! (Mark 13:37).

Mondo Gonzales
Co-Host, Prophecy Watchers

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*The Rapture
Defined*

The Words Translated “Rapture”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – *“Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with the resurrected dead in Yeshua in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air, and so we will always be with him.”*

One can continue to be obstinate and declare that the word or term, rapture, is not found in (English) translations, but this does not negate the concept that a catching away, a harpazo, a rapiemur, or a rapture is definitely propounded by the holy scriptures. A simple study of the origins of this word proves otherwise.

As the language in the church changed from Greek to Latin, Saint Jerome was given the task of translating the scriptures from Greek to Latin, and used the word “rapiemur” to translate the Greek word harpazo. Other Latin translations use rapturo or raptus, both forms of the verb rapiemur. Rapiemur and rapturo are two forms of the same verb, as are rapio, rapere, rapui, raptus.

All forms of the verb mean to eagerly catch, snatch, or seize to one’s self. Rapiemur is the first person, plural, future, indicative, passive form (as in: We will be snatched away). Rapturo is the dative/ablative singular form (as in: I will be snatched away).

One example of a Latin translation which uses the verb rapiemur is the Latin Vulgate: *“Dominus in iussu et in voce archangeli et in tuba Dei descendet de caelo et mortui qui in Christo sunt resurgent primi deinde*

nos qui vivimus qui relinquimur simul rapiemur cum illis in nubibus obviam Domino in aera et sic semper cum Domino erimus.”

The English word rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 simply comes from the Latin translation rapiemur, of the Koiné Greek word harpazo. Almost all modern Bibles translate this word as “caught up”. This same word is used in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 by Paul to describe a man he once knew that had been caught up to the third heaven, into paradise.

Harpazo – Taken By Force

You may have heard it said that when the Rapture happens Yeshua will yank us out of here by the hairs of our head. This teaching, quite frankly, makes Yeshua seem to be an abusive, bullying individual who brutally forces one to be raptured whether one wants to be or not. That seems to be very out-of-character, don't ya think? I mean, what loving husband goes to his bride's house, grabs her by the hair, and drags her to the altar. Only an abusive bully would do that.

This teaching is based on a definition of the Greek word harpazo [G726] defined by several dictionaries as: *to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away*, and as translated rapture, or caught up. Taken by force, snatched, and carried off are the words used most often by scripture in numerous places. These definitions of harpazo are descriptions of the amount of energy or force expended to accomplish an action, not descriptions of how much time it takes. I call these definitions **Harpazo Brutal**.

Harpazo – Eagerly Claim For One’s Self

2 Thessalonians 2:1 – *“Now we request you, brothers and sisters, with regard to the coming of our Lord Yeshua Ha’Mashiach and our gathering together to him.”*

Is there another definition of harpazo that may better fit the compassionate Yeshua who asks the willing to gather? Indeed there is and that definition is:

- *to eagerly claim someone or something for one's self.*

In other words, to eagerly gather together those who are loved. And it is this definition that best fits the Rapture pattern. Yeshua comes to gather us together in love, not to brutally force us to head up to the clouds. This better describes the action of Yeshua when taking his Bride home to his father’s house, as Yeshua does not force someone to take actions against their own free will. And how much more awesome it will be if one is found waiting and willing to be caught up when he calls! I call this definition [Harpazo Compassionate](#).

The harpazo, the snatching away, the catching up, the seizing, or whichever verb one uses, will not be something that human beings accomplish. When Yeshua shouts, according to the above definitions, he will be expecting us to comply or be forcibly taken, not asking if we would mind coming up once we’ve gotten showered and dressed in our finest linens!

Harpazo – Not Necessarily in a Split second or Nanosecond

Regardless of which definition one uses, the imposition of a split second or nanosecond event upon the rapture is puzzling and simply does not conform to the many instances of the word harpazo describing an ongoing process that is anything but instantaneous, no matter how forceful.

Harpazo is not the only word used to indicate a rapture.

The words used in the Newer Covenant describing a seizing, snatching, carrying away, departure, or ascension are:

G726 harpazo – to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away, to claim for one’s self eagerly

G305 anabaino – to ascend, to go up, to rise, mount, be borne up, spring up

G359 analusis – a dissolving (into separate parts), a departure (as a ship from its moorings)

G867 aphixis – (properly) arrival, (by implication) departure

G1841 exodos – to exit, depart (from life), one’s final fate, to become deceased

G4872 sunanabaino – to ascend at the same time, come up together with to a higher place

The words used in the Newer Covenant describing a disappearing, becoming invisible, or vanishing:

G853 aphanizo – to snatch out of sight, to put out of view, to make unseen, to cause to vanish away

G854 aphanismos – to disappear, to vanish

G855 aphantos – taken out of sight, to become invisible, vanished

Again, though harpazo can be defined as: to be seized or plucked up by force, to catch (away, or up), pluck, pull, or to take by force, I prefer the third definition: to eagerly claim someone or something for one's self.

This better describes the action of Yeshua when taking his Bride home to his father's house, as Yeshua does not force someone to take actions against their own free will.

And how much more awesome it will be if one is found waiting and willing to be caught up when he calls!

Not An Unorthodox Teaching

Many who use the word rapture are labeled unorthodox, blasphemers, illiterate, or heretical because the word “rapture” isn’t found in scripture. True, one will never find this word in an English translation of scripture. But does this mean that it doesn’t exist at all? The term, caught up is, however, found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – “*Then we who are alive and remain will be caught-up*” [G726]. This term, caught-up, is the Greek word harpazo, from which we get rapture in English.

The terms “*millennial reign*” and “*millennium*” aren’t found in scripture either, but the phrase “*reign for a thousand years*” is found in Revelation 20:4-7! In Greek it reads: *basileuo chilioi etos*; and in Latin: *regnabunt cum illo mille annis* – from which we get the English term: “millennial reign”. Millennium comes from mille annis – 1000 years.

Likewise, the word “*trinity*” isn’t found in the Bible, but we talk freely about God in three persons, the blessed trinity, based especially on Matthew 28:19 – “*Go therefore, and teach all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*”, and also on numerous translations of the Hebrew word Elohim [H430] into the English word ‘God’ (Elohim is a plural word in Hebrew).

Neither of these words or phrases (millennial reign or trinity) gets anyone labeled unorthodox, a blasphemer, an illiterate, or a heretic, except the word rapture!

The Blessed Hope

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 – *“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – *“But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”*

1 John 3:2-3 – *“Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”*

1 Peter 1:3 – *“Blessed be Yahweh, the Father of our Lord Yeshua the Mashiach, who according to his great mercy became our father again to a living hope through the resurrection of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach from the dead.”*

Shedding this mortal, earthly, fleshy body for a body that will be like Yeshua's – glorious, radiant, honorable, powerful, undying, and spiritual is a blessed hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – *“Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air, and so we will always be with Him.”*

Titus 2:13 – *“We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great Lord and Savior, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, will be revealed.”*

1 Peter 1:6-7 – *“In this you greatly rejoice, despite immediate trials, for there is wonderful joy ahead . . . even honor and glory at Yeshua’s appearing.”*

Leaving this earthly realm to always be with Yeshua when he appears and is revealed is a blessed hope.

How many times have you heard that the Church/Bride of Christ will have to endure either part of or the entire tribulation period? Apparently these people are not looking for “the blessed hope”, as scripture calls it. But is the rapture really the same thing as the blessed hope? Indeed, it is!

Throughout the Newer Covenant, we see an image of the meeting with Yeshua Ha’Mashiach (Jesus, The Messiah) upon resurrection as a blessed, joyful, wonderful event. At the resurrection, we receive our immortal, incorruptible bodies in which we will spend eternity.

The Importance of A Witnessed Rapture

The Witnessed Rapture Gives The Glory To Yahweh/Yeshua

Deuteronomy 4:24 – *“Yahweh your Elohim is a consuming fire, a jealous Elohim.”*

Isaiah 42:8 – *“I am Yahweh; that is my name; my glory I give to no other.”*

Isaiah 48:11 – *“For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it . . . My glory I will not give to another.”*

Yahweh does not give nor share his glory with anyone, especially not with Satan. That is why the Rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be witnessed by all. The fully witnessed rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be hard, if not downright impossible to deny – all will know it was done by Yeshua and will bring great glory to Yahweh.

The witnessed rapture proves Yahweh’s power to do what no other god or magician can do. This pattern is consistent throughout scripture.

Here are two examples:

- **Moses and the Magicians.** The magicians were able to perform the first several miracles: staffs into snakes, water into blood, and swarms of frogs (Exodus 7:11-8:7). But from then on, only Moses was able to perform additional miracles (Exodus 8:18), bringing glory only to Yahweh.
- **Yeshua and the Rephaim.** Baal, it is said, promised his fallen minions in Tartarus that he would resurrect them for all to see, and it would only take three days to do so. Scripture, however, says

“they live not, Rephaim, [ghosts, shades, the dead] they rise not” (Isaiah 26:14). But it is Yeshua who rises after three days and Yahweh allows Yeshua to be seen (Acts 10:40). Yeshua even preaches to those in Tartarus (1 Peter 3:19, 4:6), saying in effect “Guess what, guys, I’m outta here in three days, but you are still dead!” His resurrection after three days brings glory only to Yahweh.

The Instant Disappearance Rapture Gives Glory Others

An instant disappearing act allows the glory that only belongs to Yahweh / Yeshua to be stolen or denied – not gonna happen! Satan can falsely claim the rapture was done by aliens or some other means. This false paradigm is parroted by many in the New Age and Occult movements.

Here are four examples:

- **The instant disappearance rapture** depicts people who leave their clothes behind; autos, planes, and boats that are left unmanned and crash; and folks left behind that are in a dilemma as to what happened.
- **The instant disappearance rapture** is accomplished by aliens who come from Vulcan, Klingon, Cardassia, Romulus, or some other planet in the Universe. Their spaceships will be able to beam them up via Star Trek Enterprise transporter technology.

- **The instant disappearance rapture** according to New Age channelers says: “The people who leave the planet during the time of Earth changes do not fit in here any longer, and they are stopping the harmony of Earth.” Therefore, they have been taken by angels, Ascended Masters, or aliens!
- **The instant disappearance rapture** takes place because both earth and humanity are evolving into a higher spiritual consciousness. Those who are hindering this evolutionary process will appear to vanish and will be taken elsewhere to evolve at their own rate while the people remaining will advance into that higher spiritual consciousness.

Impact – Seeing But Not Believing

Seeing is believing, we are told, but there are still those who refuse to admit that the rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be a witnessed event, just as were the scriptural patterns.

The witnessed rapture brings glory only to Yahweh – all will know it was done by Yeshua and no other. Yahweh will not allow the rapture of the Bride of Yeshua to be attributed to anyone other than himself – he does not share his glory with anyone.

The instant disappearance rapture, however, allows Satan to steal glory that belongs only to Yahweh / Yeshua – and that is not gonna happen! Yahweh will not allow it!

Conclusion

The entire instant disappearance rapture paradigm is severely flawed – this scenario is NOT scriptural, but more than likely because we no live in the time when “*people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear. Yes, they will stop listening to the truth, but will turn aside to follow myths*” (2 Timothy 4:4), of which Satan takes full advantage.

Instead of listening to the truth, they will “*pay attention to deceiving spirits and things taught by demons*” (2 Timothy 4:1).

Or, perhaps this severely flawed instant disappearance paradigm has simply been taken from fictional stories which have become Man-made Doctrines (Matthew 15:9).

Either way, it has got to break Yahweh's heart. We have to stop teaching and listening to things that satisfy our itching ears [*or our expectations of instant gratification*].

Section Commentary

The word Rapture, is indeed used in scripture. But one has to do one's homework and trace its origins. Greek to Latin to English! The English word, rapture, simply comes from the Latin translation, rapiemur, of the Koiné Greek word, harpazo. Using this word does not make one an illiterate individual. Just the opposite, for a literate person knows its origins. Neither does using the word make a person out to be a heretic or a blasphemer.

The most common usage of the word harpazo simply shows a removal by force over a period of time – short or more prolonged. None of the definitions is a time-sensitive definition, but a definition of the amount of energy or force applied to engender a specific action, not descriptions of how much time it takes. Imposing an instant, split second, or nanosecond interpretation on the word harpazo, which means: to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away, is unnecessary and Biblically unsupported.

When The Rapture (rapiemur, rapturo, raptus, or harpazo) occurs, it may be that some of you will be simply caught up and some will have to be snatched out of here! So, is there another definition of harpazo that may better fit the compassionate Yeshua who asks the willing to gather? Indeed there is and that definition is: to eagerly gather together those who are loved. And it is this definition that best fits the Rapture pattern.

Yeshua comes to gather us together in love, not to brutally force us to head up to the clouds. The snatching away, the catching up, the seizing, or the harpazo, whichever term one uses, will not be something that human beings accomplish. When Yeshua shouts, he will be commanding our immediate presence, not asking if we would mind coming up once we've gotten showered and dressed in our finest linens!

And how much more awesome it will be if one is found waiting and willing to be caught up, or raptured, when he calls. Which person will you be? It is my prayer that you will accept Yeshua as your Lord and savior, and be one who goes willingly when He calls out: “*Come up here.*”

The witnessed rapture is important because it gives all the glory to Yahweh/Yeshua, and none to Ha'Satan.

The Rapture, the gathering together in the clouds, is accompanied by Yeshua shouting, an archangel speaking in a loud voice, and the trumpet (voice) of Yahweh.

The Church/Bride of Yeshua will be given its Sabbath rest as a result of Yeshua's shed blood, and sings new songs to confirm this fact while enjoying being in Heaven (Revelation 15:3). And I highly doubt that these songs will be sung quietly and slowly like some funeral dirge.

Does this sound like a quiet celebration to you? Not likely – I don't think so! Undoubtedly the rapture will be a very noisy, joyous, glorious, happy, cheerful, heartwarming, festive, and singing our hearts out stupendous occasion!

Are you looking forward to The Resurrection / Rapture with joy, with a living hope, and overwhelming gladness? Or are you simply expecting to be taken up with nary a whimper, leaving your clothes behind in a crumpled heap? Not much fun in that, is there!

Let's continue our journey and find out if The Rapture is a quiet, barely noticed affair, or if, as I contend, The Rapture is a glorious, noisy, joyful, heartwarming, witnessed event that culminates in a stupendous party celebration like no other.

*Figures
Of
Speech*

Figures Of Speech, Cultural Sayings, Hebraic Expressions

When we look at scripture, we readily affirm that figures of speech, cultural sayings, and Hebraic expressions are frequently used and can even have prophetic significance. Another word for these is idioms. For instance, the saying “when the fig tree puts forth its leaves” is a prophetic Hebraic expression regarding Israel and the Jews returning to the land (Matthew 24:32; Mark 13:28). “In that day” is similar, looking forward to the day Messiah comes.

The prophetic nature of idioms, etc. becomes very important when determining what scripture has to say to us about the Imminent Return of Yeshua.

Deuteronomy 19:15, 2 Corinthians 13:1 – *“A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”*

No doubt you have heard it said by many Pastors, Teachers, and Biblical Scholars that, *“Yeshua can come at any time”* often in conjunction with *“even while we are speaking, listening, etc.”*, and that *“Imminent means immediately and instantly”*.

This paradigm is not at all accurate. I am going to upset a lot of people by declaring **“Yeshua can not come at any ol’ time”**, and **“Imminent does not mean at any time, immediately, or instantly.”** To establish this declaration as a fact we will be looking at both scripture and the usage of figures of speech, cultural sayings, and Hebraic expressions.

What Is Meant By Imminent

Romans 8:23 – “*We groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*”

Acts 1:7 – “*Yeshua said ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority’.*”

Imminency, as it relates to Bible prophecy, simply means that the return of Yeshua Ha’Mashiach for his bride is anticipated and approaching. Imminent does not mean it will happen at any time, immediately, or instantly. The word imminent isn’t even used in the entire Bible, except as a synonym for near or coming soon.

Imminent has everything to do with the Moedim of Yahweh, Yahweh’s set dates and times and nothing to do with instant gratification. The Greek word translated seasons, is kairos [G2540] which means a set or proper time, occasion, or appointment.

In Hebrew, that word would be zman [H2166] which also means an appointed occasion. And scripture succinctly tells us that the set, appointed times are the Moedim [H4150]!!! The Moedim are dress rehearsals for the real event – prophecies in the making, just waiting for the curtain to rise and the play to begin. When the time is fully come for the rehearsal to become the play, then the curtain rises on the show and the events that the moedim prophecy take place.

Those times are:

Pesach (Passover)

14th Day of 1st Month (Nissan – March / April)

Chag Ha'Matzah (Unleavened Bread)

15th Day of 1st Month (Nissan – March / April)

Reishit Katzir (Firstfruits)

Sabbath after Passover, third day after crucifixion.

Shavuot (Pentecost)

50th Day after Chag Ha'Matzah (Unleavened Bread)

Yom Teruah (Trumpets)

1st Day of 7th Month (Tishri – September / October)

Yom Kippurim (Day of Atonements)

10th Day of 7th Month (Tishri – September / October)

Sukkot (Tabernacles)

15th Day of 7th Month (Tishri, September/October)

The Days of Yeshua and The Apostles

Two thousand years ago the people living in the days of Yeshua and the Apostles had just witnessed Yahweh complete, or as some would say, fulfill, the first four Moedim. The prophecies were the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua, and the giving of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit).

Finally, they reasoned, Yahweh is on a roll. The first four moedim have been fulfilled, and the fulfillment of the last three moedim must be imminent. We've waited thousands of years to see this happen, and now it is beginning. Can't wait to see it all take place. Finally the promises to Abraham will be fulfilled in their entirety. Finally, we will see the resurrection of the dead and rapture of the bride, the tribulation

period, and the one thousand year reign of our Mashiach, Yeshua.

The people living in the days of Yeshua and the Apostles had great expectations of instant gratification tied to the fulfillment of the final three moedim. They did not expect Yeshua to come at any time, even while they were talking or reading, unless that time was on the day and hour of the next Yom Teruah moed. Unfortunately, their instant gratification expectations were not fulfilled and they are still waiting! *“Yeshua can come at any time, even while you are reading this book” is not at all accurate.*

Yeshua on the Timing

Matthew 24:32-33 – *“Learn a lesson from the fig tree: When its branches become green and soft and new leaves appear, you know summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time is near, ready to come.”*

Luke 21:28 – *“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near!”*

Romans 8:23 – *“We groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”*

When asked about the signs pointing to his return, Yeshua spoke of many things to watch for: the destruction of the temple, Israel back in the land, many coming in his name, famines, pestilences, wars and rumors of wars, signs in the heavens, and great earthquakes in various places. But these warnings came with a caveat: *“but the end will not follow immediately,”* and *“don’t be deceived.”*

Yeshua spoke of the time of redemption, and Paul spoke specifically of the redemption of our bodies. *Hello!* That is the resurrection and change from mortal to immortal which happens at the last trump – in other words at Yom Teruah.

Expecting Yeshua to come at any time, was not expected by the people of that day, unless he returned to fulfill the next moed, Yom Teruah. Too many signs had to be evident, and at that time they were not. *“Yeshua can come at any time, even while you are reading this book” is not at all accurate.*

Paul and the Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 – *“We ask you not to be easily shaken in your thinking or anxious because of a spirit or a spoken message or a letter supposedly from us claiming that the Day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come unless the departure comes first.”*

Somebody must have been in a real hurry to see the final three moedim fulfilled, as the Thessalonians had received a letter from someone claiming that the Day of the Lord had already come – in other words, Yom Teruah had already happened, you guys missed the boat, and now you are in the time of Yom Kippurim, the Tribulation Period. Paul was having nothing to do with that nonsense, saying: *“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until after the departure”* – in other words, not until Yom Teruah had been fulfilled.

Yeshua's wedding day, his coronation as King, the day of the resurrection of the dead and the rapture of his Bride had not yet happened. Unfortunately, their instant gratification expectations were not fulfilled and they were still waiting! *"Yeshua could have come at any time, even while you were reading or hearing that fake news"* was not at all accurate, according to Paul.

Waiting for Yeshua to Imminently Appear

Zechariah 12:3 – *"I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth are gathered together against it."*

Acts 1:7 – *"Yeshua said 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority'."*

Today we are one day closer to the return of Yeshua than we were yesterday. Tomorrow we will be even one more day closer. The fig tree, Israel, has bloomed.

The earthquakes have been increasing exponentially since 1948. Wars and rumors of wars are a daily item in the news. Famines and pestilences have been endemic during the last decade. Jerusalem is certainly a burdensome stone for all living today who do not love Yahweh / Yeshua. The signs are all converging.

Conclusion

I say the modern imminent paradigm is nothing more than a concept forced upon scripture by those whose instant gratification expectations have run amok!

Ignoring the Moedim – those pesky dates and times that Yahweh has set by his own authority – is not a scripturally accurate way to define imminent.

Imminent has everything to do with the Moedim of Yahweh, Yahweh's set dates and times and nothing to do with instant gratification.

Can we expect Yeshua to “*come at any time because of a spirit, or a spoken message, or a letter, or even while you are reading this article*”? I think not. Yeshua himself proclaims that he can only come at the set time or season – in other words, at Yom Teruah to resurrect the dead and then rapture his Bride. “*Yeshua can come at any time, even while you are reading this book*” is not at all accurate.

What Is Meant By Instant

We use many words to define the word instant, including: abrupt, fast, immediate, instantaneous, prompt, quick, rapid, sudden, and unexpected. Scripture, likewise, uses many different words translated as instant or instantly.

Instant Defined in the Older Covenant

In the Older Covenant raga [H7280] and rega [H7281 from H7280] which both mean: a very short space of time – as in a wink of the eyes, are two words that Jeremiah uses frequently (see Jeremiah 4:20; 18:7; 18:9; 49:19; 50:44; Isaiah 47:9; Lamentations 4:6). Isaiah also uses the word pith'owm [H6597 from petha H6621] which both mean: in a wink, i.e. moment (Isaiah 29:5; 30:13). We need to understand that a wink is not a blink, but is just a very short space of time, as in quickly. Wink and Blink are not equal in length.

Instant Defined in the Newer Covenant

In the Newer Covenant, Matthew, Mark, and John prefer euthus [G2117] or eutheos [G2112 from G2117] which both mean: directly, i.e. at once or soon (see Matthew 20:34; Mark 1:42; 5:29; 9:24; 10:52; John 6:21; 18:27; Revelation 4:2). Luke uses two different words, but seems to prefer parachrema [G3916] which means: at the thing itself, forthwith, presently, straightway, soon (see Luke 8:44; 8:47; 18:43; 22:60; Acts 3:7; 5:10). Only once does Luke use stigmatē [G4743] which

means: a point of time, i.e. a moment (Luke 4:5). Again, we see the image of something that takes place soon, in a very short time, as in quickly, but this does not equate to an indivisible moment of time.

Paul introduces us to the words atomos [G823] and rhipe [G4493] which together mean: in the instantaneous, indivisible blink of an eye, which today we define as a nanosecond of time when he is teaching about the resurrection, not the rapture. (1 Corinthians 15:52). Only in this singular verse do we find the concept of an event that takes place in an indivisible moment of time.

Instant Defined Today

Today we have all kinds of instant food items: instant coffee, instant noodles, instant potatoes, instant rice, and instant milk. These items are considered instant if they can be prepared in less than one minute. However, even using a microwave oven it often takes at least one minute to boil the water for the coffee, noodles, potatoes, or rice, and much longer to cool the water for the milk! [I don't see any nanosecond of instant occurrence here – do you?](#)

We have instant communications, but again, it takes time to dial the number, time for the dialed number to ring, and more time for the person to answer the phone that is ringing. [I don't see any nanosecond of instant occurrence here – do you?](#)

The same can be said for lightning. We say lightning flashes instantly but a single flash is formed by a series of about four lightning strokes. Each stroke lasts for about 30 microseconds so a flash of lightning can take up to 120 microseconds, substantially longer than a nanosecond. I don't see any nanosecond of instant occurrence here, either – do you?

And yet we generally apply the rhipe definition of an indivisible, instant blink of the eye; in other words, in a nanosecond of time, to most items we consider instant. Me thinks our definition of instant needs a little fixin' – what do you say?

Conclusion

Imposing an instant, nanosecond interpretation on the word harpazo, which means: to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away, is unnecessary. The most common usage of the word harpazo simply shows a removal by force over a period of time – short or more prolonged.

Furthermore, Scripture does not reveal one single resurrection that culminates in a rapture of any kind, much less an instant, nanosecond disappearance.

We need to understand the word instant is more accurately defined as quickly, not as an instantaneous, indivisible nanosecond of time – that a wink is not a blink, but is just a very short space of time. Wink and Blink are not equal in length.

What Is Meant By The Day And Hour

Let's examine the scriptures and see what they say about Yeshua's Imminent Return— can it indeed happen at any time, or is it an event that occurs at a **set** Day and Hour.

When the disciples asked Yeshua “*What will be the sign that you are coming, and the end of the age?*”, he replied “*Neither I nor the angels will make known or declare that day, only my father in Heaven will reveal or declare it . . . therefore stay alert, because you do not know the day or the hour*” (Matthew 24:36, 24:42, 25:13; Mark 13:33; Luke 12:40).

Day and Hour was a well known phrase, or figure of speech, in that time. Several possibilities would have immediately come to mind:

- Is Yeshua talking about a specific Day and Hour, such as a specific Rosh Chodesh – a specific new moon, known as the Day and Hour that no one knows??
 - *And the answer is yes!*

In essence, what Yeshua said to his disciples was: “*Y'all will not know which day I will return, but here's a hint – I will return on a Rosh Chodesh!*” Yeshua alludes to a coming at Rosh Chodesh, a new moon whose date he will not reveal, as only the Father has the authority to do so, and Paul tells us which new moon is being referenced – the new

moon known as the Last Trump, again without revealing exactly which Yom Teruah it will be! (1 Corinthians 15:52).

No One Knows The Day or Hour

Matthew 24:36 – *“Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”*

This saying of Yeshua has been debated for ages, and many different explanations have been given. Is it a Hebrew idiom, a catch phrase, or a simple saying?, and if so, where did it come from and just what does it mean? Let's take a look at this saying and see what is known about it:

The Tense of the Word Eido

The word translated knows in Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32 is the Greek word eido [G1492], and is in the perfect tense. The perfect tense describes something that was true or completed in the past, was still presently true at the time it is spoken, but which would not necessarily be true in the future. Therefore, it can't be taken dogmatically that no one will ever know, which would be in violation of numerous scriptures that clearly state that the Bride of Yeshua will know and will not be taken by surprise (Amos 3:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5, Hebrews 10:25, Revelation 3:3, etc.).

There are stark and complete reversals throughout scripture: prophecy sealed (Daniel 12:4) and then prophecy unsealed (Revelation 22:10). No one can know (Matthew 24:36, Mark 13:32) and now you do know (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5, Revelation 3:3).

Furthermore, the word eido can be translated as: to make known. Paul uses it this way in 1 Corinthians 2:2, saying in essence: “*I have determined not to make known to you, or to openly declare, anything expect the crucified Yeshua Ha’Mashiach.*” If this is the manner in which Yeshua used the word eido in Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32 then the verse would read more properly: “*Neither I nor the angels will make known or declare that day, only my father in Heaven will reveal or declare it.*”

The 1930 Concordant Version of the Sacred Scriptures does just that, translating Matthew 24:36: “*That day and hour not yet anyone has perceived, not yet the messengers [angels] of the heavens, not yet the Son, [but] the Father only.*”

This takes all emphasis off of no one can know the timing and fully agrees with the rest of scripture which says we will know the day and hour! There are many scriptures which clearly show that Yeshua knew the future. He states unequivocally in Matthew 24:25: “*Behold, I have told you in advance*”, repeated in Mark 13:23, just a few verses before the contested “no one knows” verses! Needless to say, Yeshua was neither confused nor unaware of future events and their exact dates of fulfillment!

1. We do not know the day or the hour: A Reference to Yom Teruah?

Yom Teruah, or The Feast of Trumpets, is also called Rosh Hashanah. It is the festival of the Jewish New Year, and the only moed that

celebrates a New Moon. It starts on the first day of the first month. Its three main themes are Resurrection of the Righteous, Kingship of the Lord, and Marriage of the Lamb. Only when two witnesses see the edge of the moon, can the festival start. This requirement introduces slight variable time to its inception. The Jews celebrate what is supposed to be the first day of the seventh month, Tishri, (Leviticus 23:23-25) over a two-day period because it is “*the day of which no one knows the day or hour.*” For this very reason, Yom Teruah was, and still is, referred to as “*the moed that no one knows the day or hour of!*” They had a two day period in which they knew it would happen, but not the exact time. Hence, “*You do not know the day or the hour.*”

This same process (two witnesses viewing the first sliver of the moon and reporting it to the Sanhedrin) was used to determine the beginning day of every month, in Hebrew: Rosh Chodesh. Today, the Rabbis boot up their computers and follow the dates and times listed by the software and simply announce the first day of the month one week before the indicated computed date!

• **Yom Ha’Keseh:** The Hidden Day, The Day of Hiding, The Day of Concealment.

Psalm 84:3 – “*Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the concealed time, on our feast day.*”

Another name for Yom Teruah is Yom Ha’Keseh – the day of hiding. Yom Ha’Keseh can be interpreted several different ways. Firstly, it references the day when the moon is just coming out of hiding, in other

words, a day of a concealed moon. Secondly, Satan is not be given notice about the arrival of Yom Teruah, the Day of Judgment. A hidden day because it was hidden from Satan, the adversary, in the same manner that the resurrection of Yeshua on the third day was hidden from his knowledge. By using this expression, “*You do not know the day or the hour*”, Yeshua may have been referencing both Yom Teruah and the Yom Ha’Keseh at the Sod level of understanding. When there is a full moon, it is not concealed or hidden. But when there is a new moon, it is hidden or concealed.

• **The Yom Teruah Time Zones**

When the official beginning of the Yom Teruah Moed is proclaimed in Jerusalem by the Sanhedrin, in other time zones the moed begins at a different time! In some areas it may be daylight, and on the opposite side of the globe, nighttime. In Jerusalem, it may be on the first day, but in the United States it is still the seventh day. Even in the United States, it may begin at 4:00 pm in the Eastern states but at 1:00 pm in the Western states. Hence, “*You do not know the day or the hour.*”

2. We do not know the day or the hour: But we can know the season.

Yeshua cautioned his followers not to speculate on the exact time of The Rapture, but in the light of eternity past and future, “day and hour” is a very narrow slice of time. Yeshua gave us at least fifteen specific signs that would be happening in the last days, clearly wanting us to know when the time of his return was rapidly approaching.

Many of the signs are being fulfilled today which strongly indicates we are living in the last days. We are, after all, living through revolutions, wars and rumors of wars, and horrifying persecution, for starters. Without doubt, that “day and hour” is imminent!

Matthew 24:33 – *“When you see all these things happening, you will **know** that the time of Yeshua’s appearing is **near**, right at the door.”*

The word **know**, ginosko [G1097], is the prolonged form of a primary verb; to “know”. It means to know absolutely, to be aware of, to perceive, to be resolved, be sure, to understand.

The word translated **near**, eggus [G1451], means literally or figuratively, a place or time which is at hand, near, nigh unto, ready. Hence, the season will be known.

When we see the beginnings of **pains** (often translated sorrows), we know that the time is near – Matthew 24:1-14. As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, She writhes and cries out in her labor pains . . . Isaiah 26:17-18.

The Greek word for **pains** is odin [G5604] meaning a pang or throe especially of childbirth, a pain, sorrow, travail. Hebrew words for birth pains are chuwl [H2342], chiyl [H2427], and chebel [H2256]. Again, when we see the whole creation, especially the Earth, groaning with birth pains, wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, etc., we know that the time (or season) is near.

Conclusion

The case for “*You do not know the day or the hour*” being an actual Jewish idiom is very sound. It may be referencing both Yom Teruah and the Yom Ha’Keseh at the Drash or Sod levels of understanding.

Yeshua, in proclaiming that “*No one knows the day or hour*” was not stating that The Rapture event would be impossible to see coming. Just the opposite – he clearly states that the season during which this will happen should be plainly obvious to everyone – a fact currently concealed and not yet revealed because it isn’t the time to do so.

If we look at the Yom Teruah model, everyone knows within two days when this celebration will begin. Hence, you do not know the day or the hour, but you should not be caught unawares of the season.

The scriptures are very clear, precise, and definitive that this will only take place on some yet future Yom Teruah, which happens on Rosh Chodesh – the new moon.

This statement in no way contradicts other scriptures as to whether or not one will know the day and hour today, as opposed to not knowing it when Yeshua spoke it.

This alone succinctly negates the paradigm that “*Yeshua can come at any time*”, but the Bible has a lot more to say about this.

What Is Meant By Set Times And Seasons

Let's further examine the scriptures and see what they say about the Imminent Return – can it indeed happen at any time, or is it an event that occurs at a **Set Time** and Season.

Leviticus 23:2 – *“These are the appointed times of Yahweh that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my divine appointments.”*

Acts 1:7 – *“Yeshua said ‘You don't need to know the times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority’.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:1 – *“You have no need to have anything written to you, brothers, about the times and seasons when this will happen.”*

The word seasons, used by both Yeshua and Paul, is the Greek word kairos [G2540 καιρός] which means a set time or occasion. In Hebrew, seasons would be zman [H2166] which also means an appointed occasion. Some translations use the word “dates” in place of the word times, which gives a more accurate sense of the terms being used.

Set times and seasons in scripture, like day and hour, is a figure of speech! And scripture succinctly tells us that the set, appointed times are the Moedim [H4150]!!!

The Imminent Return has everything to do with the Moedim, the set Times and Seasons, and nothing to do with events that happen at any time or instantly.

The set Times and Seasons, the Moedim, are dress rehearsals for the real event – prophecies in the making, just waiting for the curtain to rise and the play to begin. When the time is fully come for the rehearsal to become the play, then the curtain rises on the show and the events that the moedim prophecy take place.

- The moed of Pesach always takes place on the 14th of Nissan.
- Chag Ha'Matzoh always takes place the next day.
- Reishit Katzir always takes place on the following Sabbath.
- Shavuot follows exactly 50 days after Chag Ha'Matzoh.
- Yom Teruah always takes place on the 1st Day of 7th Month, on Rosh Chodesh.
- Yom Kippur always takes place on the 10th Day of 7th Month.
- Sukkot always starts on the 15th Day of 7t Month.

The seven Moedim have embedded prophecies of coming events. The pattern to the prophecies represented by the Moedim is: the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua, the giving of the spirit, the resurrection of the dead in Yeshua and the rapture, the judgment, and the millennial reign. The first four prophecies embedded in the Moedim have already been completed, or as some say, fulfilled.

The next Moed, Yom Teruah, prophesies the day of the resurrection of the righteous dead, the taking up of the living righteous, and the day of hiding and concealment – before the time of tribulation.

Some may imply that Yom Teruah is random, since it can only be declared when two witnesses see the edge of the moon, hence, the expression Yeshua used: “*You do not know the day or the hour*” (Matthew 24:36). But this two day period does not indicate a random any ol’ time event – not in the least.

Conclusion

Yeshua himself proclaims that he can only come at the set Time and Season that the Father “*has set by his own authority*” – in other words, at Yom Teruah. “*Yeshua can come at any time*” is not accurate.

Yeshua’s return will only happen at a Set Time and Season – at the time of the Yom Teruah Moed. “Imminent means coming at any time” is also not accurate.

Ignoring the Moedim is not a scripturally accurate way to define Yeshua’s Imminent Return. The Imminent Return has everything to do with the Moedim, the set dates and seasons. The Imminent Return we should be looking for is the Resurrection of the Dead in Yeshua and the fulfillment of Yom Teruah.

What is Meant by Redemption

Let's examine the scriptures and see what they say about the Imminent Return and Redemption.

Matthew 24:32-33 – *“Learn a lesson from the fig tree: When its branches become green and soft and new leaves appear, you know summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time is near, ready to come.”*

Luke 21:28 – *“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near!”*

Romans 8:23 – *“We groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”*

When asked about the signs pointing to his return, Yeshua spoke of many things to watch for: the destruction of the temple, Israel back in the land, many coming in his name, famines, pestilences, wars and rumors of wars, signs in the heavens, and great earthquakes in various places.

But these warnings came with a caveat: *“but the end will not follow immediately,”* and *“don't be deceived.”*

Yeshua spoke of the time of redemption, which would happen when all those signs began to appear (Luke 21:28).

Paul specifically states that this time of redemption is the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23).

Hello!

That is the resurrection and change from mortal to immortal which happens at the last trump – in other words at Yom Teruah.

Expecting Yeshua to come at any time, was not anticipated by the people of that day. What they did expect was that he would return in their lifetime to fulfill the next moed, Yom Teruah.

This, of course, did not happen, as too many signs had to be evident, and at that time they were not. But today, those many signs are not only evident, but are converging.

Neither then, nor now “*Yeshua can come at any time*” is not at all accurate.

Conclusion

Yeshua spoke of the time of redemption, which would happen when all those signs began to appear.

Paul specifically states that this time of redemption is the redemption of our bodies.

Hello! That is the resurrection and change from mortal to immortal which happens at the last trump – in other words at Yom Teruah.

What is Meant by Day of the Lord

Let's examine the scriptures further and see just what they do say about the Imminent Return and the Day of the Lord – in other words, the Tribulation Period.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – *“Now, brothers, we want you to know the truth about those who have died.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise; then together we who are still alive will be caught up with them.”*

A question arose about those who had died, as well as those who were still living. People were asking Paul if they had already missed the Resurrection and the Rapture and were now in the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation Period.

The Apostle Paul assured them that the Tribulation Period had not yet begun; the dead must rise first before the living are raptured and the Tribulation Period begins. For more on this, see the article: “You Have Heard it Said”

1 Thessalonians 5:1 – *“You have no need to have anything written to you . . .when this will happen.”*

The Apostle Paul continued and reminded them that he had already taught them about the prophecies embedded in the Moedim. He taught that the first four had been completed, and assured them that the coming moed of Yom Teruah represents the day of the resurrection of the righteous dead, the taking up of the living righteous, and the day of hiding and concealment before the time of tribulation.

He taught that the next moed to be fulfilled, Yom Teruah, was still a future, imminent event. *Did you catch that?* A future, imminent event! An event that they were to watch for and anticipate experiencing.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 – *“We ask you not to be easily shaken in your thinking or anxious because of a spirit or a spoken message or a letter supposedly from us claiming that the Day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come unless the departure comes first.”*

Somebody must have been in a real hurry to see the final three moedim fulfilled, as the Thessalonians had received a letter from someone claiming that the Day of the Lord had already come – in other words, Yom Teruah had already happened, you guys missed the boat, and now you are in the time of Yom Kippur, the Tribulation Period.

Paul was having nothing to do with that nonsense, saying: *“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until after the departure”* – in other words, not until Yom Teruah had been fulfilled and the apostasia (apostasy / falling away) was in process.

Conclusion

The letter the Thessalonians had received was fake news!

The day of the resurrection of the dead had not yet happened, nor had the rapture.

The time of the apostasia had not yet commenced.

Their imminent expectations were not fulfilled and they were still waiting!

“Yeshua could come at any time” was not at all accurate, according to Paul.

Section Commentary

Deuteronomy 19:15 – *“A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”*

Parallels, patterns, pictures, and types have prophetic significance. Figures of Speech, Cultural Sayings, Hebraic Expressions, as well as the definitions of the words used, become very important when we try to determine what scripture has to say about the Resurrection and the Rapture.

Yeshua himself proclaims that we are to look up when we see our *“redemption is near”* – in other words, when we see signs that we are in the season of the final Yom Teruah.

Paul tells the people of his day that the Day of the Lord had not yet come, that the letter they had received was in error and not a letter he sent. The Day of the Lord speaks about the Tribulation Period, which cannot happen until the Dead in Yeshua have been raised, the Rapture has occurred, and the apostasia is in full swing.

The Imminent Return we should be looking for is the fulfillment of the Yom Teruah Moed.

The Bible only asks for two witnesses to establish a fact! We have two: Yeshua's and Paul's statements about redemption, and Paul's statements about the Day of the Lord.

Fact: **Yeshua can not come at any ol' time** is a fact according to the scriptures – He will come at the time of Redemption – at Yom Teruah – before the Day of the Lord, the time of the Tribulation.

The statement that “**Yeshua can come at any time**” and “**Imminent means at any time, immediately, or instantly**” are not accurate – but **Yeshua can not come at any ol' time** is a fact according to the scriptures – He will come at the set time and season.

Paul reminds us – “*Do not be deceived, Yahweh will not be made a fool*” (Galatians 6:7). Yahweh commands us – “*Listen to Yeshua*” (Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35), and Yeshua commands us – “*Listen to me*” (Mark 7:14) and states that “*Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me*” (John 18:37).

Listen to Yeshua, not inaccurate paradigms.

Yeshua, in proclaiming that “*No one knows the day or hour*” was not stating that The Rapture event would be impossible to see coming. Just the opposite – he clearly states that the season during which this will happen should be plainly obvious to everyone.

*Rapture Types
and
The Watchers*

Two Types of Rapture

Scripture has a lot to say about the people who have been raptured. There are two types of Rapture: 1) In The Body, and 2) In The Spirit.

People Raptured In The Body

In every case those who have been raptured In the Body have several things in common:

- The person being raptured knows he will be. Elijah and two schools of prophets knew the day of his departure (2 Kings 2:3-5). Moses and Elijah spoke to Yeshua about his departure prior to his going to Yerushalayim to be crucified (Luke 9:30-31). Enoch had a full year of advance notice (Enoch 81:5-6).
- Other people are present who see them being raptured. Elijah was in the presence of Elisha and perhaps fifty or more of the sons of the prophets when he was raptured (2 Kings 2:7). Yeshua was in the presence of the apostles, and perhaps others when he was raptured (Acts 1:10-11). Enoch was in the presence of his children and the King's men when he was raptured (Enoch 81:5-6 and Jasher 3:34).
- Horses are always present and often Chariots of Fire. Elijah was also raptured into Heaven with both horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 2:11). Yeshua rose riding upon his white horse (Acts 1:10-11 and Revelation 19:11), but there is no mention of a chariot of fire. Enoch

was raptured into Heaven with both horses and chariots of fire (Jasher 3:36).

- Whirlwinds are often present. Both Enoch and Elijah went up to Heaven in a whirlwind. Scripture, however, gives no indication if a whirlwind was present at Yeshua's rapture.

In other words, Enoch, Elijah, and Yeshua were all raptured In the Body by horses to Heaven and into Yahweh's presence, while others watched.

People Raptured In The Spirit

Older Covenant Examples

Many of the Older Covenant prophets saw visions of Yahweh and the Heavenly Throne Room. Micaiah the son of Imlah saw Yahweh "*sitting on his throne, and all the host of Heaven standing by him*" (1 Kings 22:19 and 2 Chronicles 18:18).

Isaiah saw Yahweh "*sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple*" (Isaiah 6:1).and Ezekiel saw visions of Yahweh in his throne room (Ezekiel 1:1, 1:26, and 10:1-4). Daniel also saw Yahweh upon his throne (Daniel 7:9-10).

Newer Covenant Examples

Revelation 4:2 – "*Immediately I was in the Spirit. Behold, there was a throne set in Heaven, and one sitting on the throne.*"

There are two people of the Newer Covenant who also saw visions of

Yahweh and the Heavenly Throne Room. Most know that the Apostle John was taken to Heaven, and scripture clearly tells us that he was raptured In the Spirit.

Most also know that the disciple Stephen saw Heaven open and Yeshua standing at the right hand of Yahweh (Acts 7:55-56). Again, no bodily rapture, just a rapture In the Spirit.

A Third Newer Covenant Example

2 Corinthians 12:2 – *“I know a man in Yeshua who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, Yahweh knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.”*

But what about Paul’s claim that he knows not what type of rapture he experienced? Was he raptured In the Body or In the Spirit? Scripture indicates no advance notice. Scripture indicates no presence of horses or chariots of fire. Scripture indicates no presence of witnesses. Therefore, it is safe to declare that Paul, like many, was only raptured In the Spirit, not In the Body.

In other words, many Older Covenant prophets and three Newer Covenant disciples or apostles were raptured In the Spirit to Heaven and into Yahweh’s presence. They did not experience a rapture In The Body.

Conclusion

Scripture has a lot to say about the people who have been raptured.

There are two types of Rapture:

- 1) In The Body, and
- 2) In The Spirit.

Enoch was the first to be raptured In the Body, and that event set the pattern for all future bodily raptures in scripture – all involve advance notice, horses, and witnesses. Several involve whirlwinds and chariots, but not all.

Many have been raptured In the Spirit. It is safe to declare that when there is no presence of horses or witnesses who see a bodily rapture then it is only a rapture In the Spirit.

The Watchers and The Watched

Elijah

2 Kings 2:7-12 – *“Fifty of the guild prophets went and stood watching Eliyahu and Elisha from a distance. . .”*

Elijah’s ascension was witnessed by both Elisha and by the prophets who stood at a distance. That distance was probably less than half a football field! The prophets followed Elijah and Elisha down to the Jordan River, a small river about three to fifteen feet wide most of the year. Even at flood stage, it is rarely wider than twenty feet. At that minimal distance, seeing Elijah carried aloft was easily accomplished. In any event, Elijah’s rapture was watched by at least fifty-one people - he did not just disappear.

Yeshua

Luke 24:51 – *“As he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.”*

Yeshua was carried up into heaven while the disciples were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight. This ascension was so fascinating to those watching it that two “men” had to interrupt them and basically tell them to get on with their lives until Yeshua returned! (Acts 1:9-11a). Yeshua’s rapture was witnessed by at least eleven people. Those people included the apostles, perhaps wives, children, friends, and others as well. Again, he did not just disappear.

The Two Witnesses of Revelation

Revelation 11:12 – *“The two witnesses went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.”*

The two witnesses are raptured while many enemies watch. The rapture of the Two Witnesses Of Revelation will also be witnessed.

Enoch

Enoch 81:5-6 – *“The seven holy ones will take you from the midst of your children.”*

Jasher 3:31 – *“And all the sons of men assembled and came to Enoch that day; and all the kings of the earth with their princes and counselors remained with him that day.”*

While not found in the scriptures, Enoch’s rapture was also witnessed. His ascension was witnessed by his children as he was taken from their midst. As well as many others, including some of the King’s men who had vowed that only death would separate them (Jasher 3:34). Enoch’s rapture was also witnessed by many, many people – he also did not just disappear into thin air.

Conclusion

In every case, the person being raptured is witnessed by more than one other person. The raptures of Elijah, Yeshua, and Enoch were fully witnessed events. The rapture of the Two Witnesses Of Revelation will also be witnessed. Not once does the person raptured in the body just disappear in an instantaneous rapture event.

The Rapture of The Bride

When the Bride is raptured, how does that look? Does it look like this:
We just float up to heaven and nobody even notices!



Or this? We float up to heaven while a large crowd watches!



Or is this the image that **best** fits the scriptural description
of the Rapture of the Bride of Yeshua?

We are carried to heaven by flying white horses as others watch!



*The Resurrection
And
The Departure*

In A Twinkling or In A Time

Poof! We're gone in an instant but our clothes, jewelry, and other worldly items simply fall to the ground. This "in the twinkling of an eye" image of The Rapture being instantaneous has been popularized by numerous books, including Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins' *Left Behind* series, and Joel C. Rosenberg's *Dead Heat*. But, is scripture talking about an instantaneous rapture, or about an instantaneous change that must occur before we are raptured to stand in the presence of Yeshua? I say, the instantaneous change is what scripture is saying.

Resurrected In A Twinkling

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 – *“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”*

It is said that the average person blinks somewhere between 10,000 to 20,000 times a day. In one of those blinks Yeshua could return and the people who have received him as their Lord and Savior could receive their immortal, incorruptible bodies! That is an awesome thought. And that change is instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye!

Romans 8:23 – *“We, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and the redemption of our body.”*

1 John 3:2 – *“Beloved, now we are children of Yeshua, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when he appears, we will be like him.”*

Before we can enter into Heaven itself, our mortal, corrupt bodies must be fully cleansed and renewed, taking on their immortal and incorruptible form. Those who live by faith in Yeshua are called his spiritual children and will rise to meet Yeshua in the air clothed in immortal, incorruptible bodies. And that change is instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye!

1 Corinthians 15:41-44 – *“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”*

Matthew 13:43 – *“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their father. He who has ears, let him hear.”*

No longer will those raised from the dead or those still living be housed in a body that is earthly flesh and blood, but something far superior.

Their bodies will be like Yeshua's – glorious, radiant, honorable, powerful, undying, spiritual. And that change is instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye!

Luke 9:29 – *“While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.”*

It is interesting to note that Yeshua first becomes transfigured before entering the cloud to speak to Moses and Elijah. And that change appears to be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye!

In each of these cases, it is only the change that appears to be instantaneous. None of these passages necessarily indicate that the rapture, itself, is instantaneous, or that it even occurs at the same exact moment. (See pages 92-122 for more on this timing).

Raptured In A Time

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 – *“We say this to you by the word of Yahweh, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of Yeshua, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of Yahweh, and the dead in Mashiach will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with the resurrected dead in Yeshua in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air, and so we will always be with him.”*

But what about The Rapture, itself? Is it also an instantaneous event? I think not. There are too many patterns of The Rapture in scripture that do not fit this image.

The passage above reveals a definite sequence:

- Yeshua descends in the clouds with a shout, loud voice, and a loud trumpet sounding (1 Thessalonians 4:16),
- The dead are raised and given their immortal bodies, and The living are also given their immortal bodies (according to 1 Corinthians 15)
- They gather together and are then raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:17),
- Both dead and living meet with Yeshua in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Enoch 81:6 – *“One year you will have with your son, Methuselah, until you give your last commands, teach and testify them to your children, and record these commands for them. In the second year, you will be taken from amidst their presence.”*

Enoch walked with Yahweh 300 more years after Methuselah was born, then was taken. Notice that Enoch was in the midst of his family when he was taken!

Exodus 19:10-11 – *“Yahweh said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day I will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people’.”*

Exodus 19:16 -20 – *“So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God . . . Yahweh came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and he called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.”*

Exodus Chapter 19 is one of the most accurate patterns of the coming rapture. When Moses went up into the cloud, he was carefully watched by the Hebrews below until he entered into the cloud.

Notice the sequence:

- The people gather together to cleanse themselves,
- Yahweh descends in the clouds with thunder, lightning, and a loud trumpet sounding,
- The people gather together to meet with Yahweh,
- Moses rises to meet Yahweh in the clouds.

2 Kings 2:11 – *“As they were walking and talking, a chariot and horses of fire appeared and separated Elijah from Elisha. Then Elijah went up to Heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw it and shouted, ‘My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!’ .”*

When Elijah was taken up, or raptured, Elisha, and undoubtedly one or both schools of prophets, watched him enter the chariot and ascend into

Heaven. And Elisha is found to have Elijah's spirit upon him (2 Kings 2:15), just as the Bride of Yeshua will take on the likeness of Yeshua (1 John 3:2).

Once again, notice the sequence:

- Elisha follows Elijah to the gathering of prophets in Bethel and then in Jericho (2 Kings 2:1-6),
- A group of fifty or more prophets stand at a distance watching Elisha and Elijah cross the Jordan (2 Kings 2:7-10),
- Elisha follows Elijah across the Jordan (could this be a washing or cleansing?),
- Elisha watches Elijah enter the chariot and rise into Heaven (the clouds).

The same method can be seen in Acts Chapter 1 when Yeshua ascended to the Father. In neither instance was there an instantaneous disappearance, and nobody's clothing was left behind in a heap, except Elijah's cloak, which I believe Elijah purposely allowed to fall for Elisha's benefit.

Acts 1:9-11 – *“After he had said these things, he was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked unwaveringly toward heaven as Yeshua went up two men stood by them in white apparel who said, ‘Why are you gentlemen gazing up into heaven? This Yeshua, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched him go into Heaven’.”*

This ascension was so fascinating to those watching that two “men” had to interrupt them and basically tell them to get on with their lives until Yeshua returned! Note that scripture tells us that people were watching as Yeshua was **go**-ing, not as he disappeared into thin air! The word, **go**, is the Greek word poreuo [G4198]. It means to traverse, that is, to travel, to depart, to go away, to make or to take a journey or a walk. In no way does poreuo indicate an instantaneous disappearance.

Again, notice the sequence:

- Yeshua is raised from the dead and given his glorious, radiant, honorable, powerful, immortal, spiritual body,
- A group of apostles and others gathers,
- A cloud appears,
- Yeshua is carried into the cloud while the onlookers gaze intently, watching him go into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11 and Luke 24:51).

The rapture is undoubtedly going to be a well witnessed event. Every instance of a rapture, or picture of the coming rapture, throughout scripture was well witnessed. Moses was watched as he rose up into the cloud at Mt. Sinai. Elijah was watched as he rose into Heaven at the Jordan River. Yeshua was also watched as he rose into Heaven. Even non-Biblical literature depicts a rapture that is witnessed, as in the case of Enoch!

The Instantaneous Resurrection Is Not The Rapture

You have heard it said that the rapture is an instantaneous event that happens at the same time as the resurrection of the dead. But I say scripture presents an entirely different scenario. The instantaneous event paradigm is mere tickling of the ears, a misinterpretation by those who look at scripture through the lens whose name is *Instant Gratification*.

The Meaning Of Rise, Arose, Arise, Etc.

The definitions of the words translated rise, rose, arose, arise, etc. succinctly negates both the erroneous instant disappearance teaching which says “*the resurrection is the rapture – they both happen at the same time and in a twinkling of the eye*” and the “*the rapture is a sign-less event*” teaching.

Scripture uses several Greek words for raise, rise, arise, or resurrect.

The primary words are: “egeiro”, “anistemi”, and “anastasis.”

Egeiro is frequently used in many verses in Corinthians, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Paul uses a synonym, anistemi in Thessalonians. The pattern that we find in the text indicates that the resurrected person then appears in public; they do not instantly disappear!

(All definitions used below are taken from Thayer’s Greek Definitions, and are confirmed by several other lexicons or concordances.) Let’s take a closer look:

G1453 egeiro: to arouse from the sleep of death, to recall the dead to life, to cause to appear, and bring before the public. Egeiro is translated raise, rise, risen, arise, or arose over 120 times (raised 45 times, rise 23 times, risen 22 times, arise 13 times, arose 13 times, and raise 8 times).

G450 anistemi: to raise up from the dead and cause to appear to enter into conversation or dispute with anyone. This word comes from G2476 histemi: to rise up in the presence or midst of others. Anistemi is translated arose, rise, rose, arise, raise, or raised over 90 times (arose 24 times, rise 23 times, rose 18 times arise, raise, or raised 28 times).

G386 anastasis: (literally) a resurrection from death. Again, this word indicates a resurrection and return to community, not an instant disappearance.

G4891 sunegeiro: to raise up together from mortal death to a new and blessed life dedicated to serving Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha’Kodesh.

H6965 qum: (Hebrew) to rise, to arise, come on the scene.

An equivalent Hebrew word qum, also defines a resurrection as a rising to be placed back in community, not an instant disappearance.

Clearly, the statement that a resurrection from the dead “*is an instant disappearance event*” – **is not at all accurate**. The word definitions say just the opposite – resurrection means a return to community, not an instant disappearance.

The Dead Rise First

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – *“Yeshua himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with the shofar of Yahweh; those who died united with him will be the first to rise.”*

No doubt you have also heard it said that “the rapture is an instantaneous event that happens at the same time as the resurrection of the dead – poof – we simply disappear” and that “there are no signs that precede the resurrection / rapture – the rapture is a sign-less event.” The popular teaching that the resurrection and rapture are simultaneous, identical events, I say, is also not accurate. Scripture tells us that the dead rise first. Not second, and not third, but the dead are the first in a series of events that take place. The rising of the dead first will be THE final sign that the rapture is near, even if one ignores the many signs Yeshua himself commanded us to look for as confirmation that our redemption (resurrection to living if dead / change from mortal to immortal if still living) draws near.

The Greek word translated first is: *protos* [G4413] which means: first in time or place in any succession of things or persons. If you are looking for a sign that points to the rapture, this is it! If you are looking for the Biblical timing of the Resurrection and the Rapture, this is it! Only after meeting with the still living will both then ascend together to be with Yeshua.

The Ten Resurrections/Resuscitations From The Dead

The individuals that were resurrected/resuscitated according to the scriptures that did not instantly disappear but were seen by many after their resurrection/resuscitation are:

1 Kings 17:17-23 – The son of the widow from Zarephath in Sidon

2 Kings 4:18-35 – The son of the Shunammite widow from Shunem

2 Kings 13:20-21 – The dead man placed into the tomb of Elisha

Jonah 2:1-10 – The prophet Jonah from Gath-Hepher

Mark 5:35-43 – The daughter of Jairus who is only “asleep

Luke 7:11-15 – The only son of a widow from the town of Nain

John 11:11-44 – Lazarus from Bethany, brother of Martha and Mary

Acts 9:36-42 – Tabitha from Joppa, also known as Dorcas

Acts 20:9-11 – Eutychus from Troas, fell from 3rd story to the ground

Acts 14:19-20 – And possibly the Apostle Paul, presumed to be dead

Wait: None of Them Just Disappeared or Got Glorified Bodies!

The above statements are absolutely true: Not one of these ten resurrected/resuscitated people instantly disappeared when they came back to life. Just the opposite. ALL were seen alive by many after their resurrection/resuscitation. Not one of these ten people mentioned above received a glorified, incorruptible, immortal body. Most, we assume, later died and were buried, as is the case of Paul.

I don't see any split second or nanosecond instant disappearance of these ten people – do you? All I see are witnessed events!

Three More Resurrections From The Dead

Matthew 27:50-53 – [The Holy Ones from Jerusalem](#)

Those who were already in the grave were resurrected at the moment Yeshua died and later were seen by many as they witnessed in the city of Jerusalem.

Matthew 28:7; Mark 16:9; John 20:17 – [Yeshua](#)

When Yeshua rose early on Sunday, he appeared first to Miriam of Magdala and commanded her not to cling to him as he had “*not yet ascended to his Father*”, saying he would meet them in Galilee.

Revelation 11:11-12 – [The Two Witnesses of Revelation](#)

The two witnesses are resurrected, and stand on their feet.

Wait: None of These Disappeared Either!

Neither the Holy Ones, nor Yeshua, nor the two witnesses of Revelation instantly disappeared after their resurrection. Just the opposite. As was the case of The Ten, neither the Holy Ones, nor Yeshua, nor the Two Witnesses instantly disappear after their resurrection. ALL were seen alive by many after their resurrection.

I don't see any split second or nanosecond instant disappearance of these individuals – do you? [All I see are witnessed events!](#)

A Future Resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – [The Dead and Living in Yeshua](#)

If two scriptural patterns indicate that neither Yeshua nor the Holy Ones instantly disappeared upon their resurrection but spent time witnessing for up to forty days, then the Bride may also spend some time, [perhaps forty days!] witnessing after her resurrection if dead, or glorification if still alive, before being raptured.

I don't see any reason to assume the Bride of Yeshua will experience a split second or nanosecond instant disappearance either – do you? [All I see is another witnessed event!](#)

Conclusion

There are over twelve Biblical accounts of witnessed resurrections – but not one disappearing person upon resurrection. In addition there are three Biblical accounts of witnessed bodily raptures, and a fourth non-canonical account of a witnessed bodily rapture – but again, not one disappearing person upon rapture.

Likewise, there is not one definition of the words translated as rise, arise, arose, etc. which indicates an instant disappearance – just the opposite! According to the word definitions the resurrected person is placed back in community to converse with others.

[The Witnessed Resurrection and The Witnessed Rapture](#)

are not the same event.

That Ain't No Zombie, and A Pregnant Pause

There are several examples in scripture of the dead being raised, as noted in the chapter above. We are not told, however, how long these resurrected/resuscitated people remained alive. Most, we assume, later died and were buried, as is the case of Paul. Scripture is silent on this topic.

The Holy Ones

Matthew 27:50-53 – *“The graves were opened, and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life; after Yeshua rose, they came out of the graves and went into the holy city, where many people saw them.”*

Most interesting are the holy ones who were raised to life at the instant of Yeshua's death. After Yeshua was resurrected, *“they came out of the graves and went into the holy city, where many people saw them”* (Matthew 27:53). No doubt about it, while in Yerushalayim, they witnessed to the many who saw them, most likely for the same forty days that Yeshua also witnessed before his rapture. These holy ones were living breathing human beings, not zombies!

Again, scripture does not tell us how long they remained alive. I believe that these people were carried up into the clouds at the same time Yeshua was carried up, becoming a firstfruits offering of the resurrected to Yahweh his father, for scripture tells us that , *“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives”* (Ephesians 4:8).

Yeshua

Matthew 28:7 – *“He has been raised from the dead, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you.”*

Mark 16:9 – *“When Yeshua rose early on Sunday, he appeared first to Miryam of Magdala.”*

John 20:17 – *“**Stop holding onto me,**” Yeshua said to her, **“because I have not yet ascended to the Father.”***

When Yeshua rose early on Sunday, he appeared first to Miriam of Magdala and commanded her not to cling to him as he had *“**not yet ascended to his Father**”*, saying he would meet them in Galilee. Yeshua spent forty days witnessing before his rapture.

A Pregnant Pause For The Bride

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *“Those who died united with Yeshua will be the first to rise; then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air.”*

Isaiah 61:1-2 – *“The Spirit of Yahweh Elohim is upon me, because Yahweh has anointed me . . . proclaim the year of the favor of Yahweh and the day of vengeance of our God.”*

Just as there has been a 2000 year pause between the first and second parts of Isaiah 61:1-2, and a forty day pause between Yeshua’s resurrection and rapture, and resurrection of the Holy Ones and their probable rapture along with Yeshua, perhaps there will be another “pregnant pause” between the resurrection of those in Yeshua and the rapture of both those people and the people who are still alive at that time! (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

I see the sequence of events as follows:

- Yeshua descends in a cloud with a shout, the voice of an angel, the sound of a shofar (1 Thessalonians 4),
- The dead in Yeshua are raised and both they and the still living are instantly given their immortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15),
- These people spend time witnessing to friends, family, and neighbors who are not yet saved, just as the resurrected holy ones did after Yeshua's resurrection – shall we say forty days?,
- The living people are gathered together with the previously dead and both rise to meet Yeshua in the clouds, while those left behind watch intently (1 Thessalonians 4),
- The two witnesses eventually appear to give witness to Yeshua and the Rapture (Revelation 11).

Conclusion

If two scriptural patterns (witnesses) establish a fact as required by scripture (Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1, etc.) indicate that neither Yeshua nor the Holy Ones instantly disappeared but spent time witnessing for up to forty days, then the Bride may also spend some time witnessing before being raptured – let us say forty days.

The Not So Sign-less Event

Amos 3:7 – *“Yahweh, does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”*

You have heard it said that the Rapture is a sign-less event. You have heard it said that it can happen at any moment, without notice. You have heard it said that no one knows the day or hour. I say these are blatant lies.

There Ain't No Signs They Say

Matthew 24:33 – *“When you see all these things, you are to know that the time is near, right at the door.”*

Mark 13:8 – *“Nations will fight each other; there will be earthquakes in various places, there will be famines; this is but the beginning of the ‘birth pains’.”*

Luke 21:28 – *“When these things begin to happen stand and look up because your redemption draws near.”*

Romans 8:23 – *“We groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”*

No doubt you have heard it said, *“Yeshua can come at any time, even while you are reading this book,”* or the corollary *“Yeshua can come at any time, even while people are speaking – it can happen at any moment, without notice.”* But I say this teaching is not accurate and scripture presents an entirely different scenario – those who say there are no signs are greatly mistaken.

True, it was not for Yeshua's disciples to know the date, but what about his future bride? When asked about the signs pointing to his return, Yeshua gives his bride many clues as to the time frame when her Rapture will happen: the destruction of the temple, Israel back in the land, many coming in his name, famines, pestilences, wars and rumors of wars, signs in the heavens, and great earthquakes in various places, just to name a few signs.

But these warnings came with a caveat: "*but the end will not follow immediately,*" and "*don't be deceived.*" In Luke 21:28 Yeshua tells us that all these signs point to our "redemption", or as Paul puts it in Romans 8:23 – "the redemption of our bodies" from death and corruption!

Paul is even more blunt, saying: "*But you, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise like a thief.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:4). Now, granted, the day Paul is referencing is not the day of the Rapture, but the Day of Yahweh, the seven year tribulation period described by Daniel, Revelation, and the prophets. However, that day cannot begin until after the Bride of Yeshua has been raptured and the antichrist has been revealed (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8). That day cannot happen until the dead are raised and the bride raptured.

"Yeshua told us to watch for signs as confirmation that our redemption . . . was drawing near."

The Timing Of Events Is Set In Stone (Yeshua Can NOT Come At Any Ol' Time)

Amos 3:7 – “Yahweh, does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”

Acts 1:7 – “Yeshua said ‘*It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority*’.”

The Greek word translated seasons, is kairos [G2540] which means a set or proper time, occasion, or appointment. In Hebrew, that word would be zman [H2166] also means an appointed occasion. And scripture succinctly tells us that the set, appointed times are the Moedim [H4150]!!! The Moedim (feasts) are dress rehearsals for the real event – prophecies in the making, just waiting for the curtain to rise and the play to begin.

When the time is fully come for the rehearsal to become the play, then the curtain rises on the show and the events that the moedim prophecy take place.

Yeshua clearly states that as far as dates and times or seasons are concerned, in other words, the Moedim, “the Father has fixed by his own authority.” The moedim are set appointments.

Putting It All In Context

The wedding ceremony is the best guideline to the timing. The bride is chosen, the bride-price is paid, and the bridegroom heads back to his father's house to build a new home for himself and his bride.

Building a house is a very planned out event:

- The location is measured, and the building supplies begin to arrive.
- The walls go up.
- The roof is put on.
- The windows and doors are installed.
- The furniture is built and placed inside.

The bridegroom's neighbors and bride's family are alert and watching all of these activities. The rest of the village's residents likely take little or no notice of these activities. They are the "they/them" of Paul's writings, who are asleep and not watching, They are the "they/them" who have no clue what is going on and are surprised by the thief in the night!

Finally, the father gives his approval, saying that the building is complete, and then gives his son permission to go get his bride. The son then puts the actual wedding party in high gear:

- The Chuppah is erected
- The transportation for the bride is arranged
- Most importantly, the food is prepared for the week-long celebration

The bridegroom's neighbors and bride's family are now very, very alert. Food, especially up until just recently, spoiled quickly. When the neighbors and the bride's family saw the food being prepared and ready to be served, they KNEW the wedding was now in motion. The rest of the village's residents still take little or no notice of these activities. They are the "they/them" who are totally surprised when the bridegroom's friends go to the bride's house, singing, blowing shofars, shouting, and carrying the bride back to the bridegroom's house. Are you awake, are you paying attention, or are you still asleep?

Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1 – It will be "*like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.*"

All ten virgins had advance notice of the impending wedding. But observe the difference between the ten virgins: five are ready and prepared, five are not. Only those five who were prepared were let into the wedding party. Are you awake, are you paying attention, or are you still asleep?

Today

Israel is back as a nation. The alliances of nations are virtually all in place. The Temple instruments are ready, the priests are being trained, and the Temple is ready to be built. The tenth red heifer may have been found. Are you awake, are you paying attention, or are you still asleep?

Conclusion

To say that the Rapture is a sign-less event is a lie. The signs are burgeoning and quite evident for those who are alert and watching. The wedding day is at hand, very near. It is not a sign-less event.

Yeshua has given advance notice of the many things that will precede the taking of the bride – famines, wars, etc. These are equivalent to the walls, roof, furniture, etc. of the house building. Are you awake, are you paying attention, or are you still asleep?

How much longer will it be before Yahweh gives Yeshua permission to go get his bride? Or has that permission already been given?

The Jewish Wedding Pattern clearly shows that the rapture cannot happen at any ol' time.

Is Yeshua right now putting up the Chuppah, preparing the food, and arranging the transportation (horses) to bring his bride to his home in heaven?

How many more signs does one need?

Section Commentary

In not one of the many resurrection / resuscitation narratives does scripture indicate that a person's resurrection / resuscitation resulted in an instantaneous rapture, even for those who have received an immortal, glorified body! Those weren't zombies walking around after their resurrection/resuscitation.

The “gone in an instant” image makes for great reading, for simply good fiction. This image, I believe, is *not* supported by scripture. The instant rapture paradigm is a false narrative not supported by the many patterns revealed in the scriptures that show a progression of well witnessed events over time. The belief that “the resurrection is the rapture” is mere tickling of the ears. This paradigm is a golden calf, and its name is: Instant Gratification. How sad that so many bow down to it.

To say that the Rapture is a sign-less event is a lie. The signs are burgeoning and quite evident for those who are alert and watching. The wedding day is at hand, very near. It is not a sign-less event. Yeshua has given advance notice of the many things that will precede the taking of the bride – famines, wars, etc. These are equivalent to the walls, roof, furniture, etc. of the house building. Are you awake, are you paying attention, or are you still asleep?

The Rapture patterns clearly show that it will be a visible event, that it will take a moment or two in time from beginning to end, and that it will be clearly watched as it transpires. It is only the change from mortal to immortal that scripture describes as instantaneous in nature, followed by The Rapture which could either be simultaneous or even at a later time.

Yahweh is not a god of chaos, confusion, or disorder. Yahweh is a god of peace and order. Yahweh is the God who has determined the end from the beginning. Yahweh established seven Moedim in which he embedded prophecies of coming events. The pattern to the prophecies is: the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua, the giving of the spirit, the judgment, and the millennial reign.

The next event to be completed in the sequence of Moedim on Yahweh's calendar is Yom Teruah – the resurrection of the dead in Yeshua and the rapture. Paul succinctly confirms this order of events. The resurrection of the dead is that prophetic event that MUST take place BEFORE the Rapture.

The Jewish Wedding Pattern clearly shows that the rapture cannot happen at any ol' time.

As you ponder these things, ask yourself:

“How close are we to the return of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach?”

*Waiting
For The
Rapture*

The Rapture Is Yet to Come

2 Peter 3:9 – *“Yahweh is not slow about keeping his promises as some people think, but is patient toward you because he wants everyone to turn from sin and come to repentance.”*

Hebrews 11:1 – *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*

Many of you have had great hope that Yeshua Ha’Mashiach would have called his Bride home during the year’s Shavuot (Pentecost) or Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah) celebrations, that you would have risen up into the clouds to be with him forever during one of these moedim or celebrations. The moedim or Divine Appointment images of The Rapture had fully captured your soul and you awaited that day with all of your hope and faith, wishing it had become fact, not hope. It is yet to come – do not stop hoping for that blessed event – the day and hour will transpire. Scripture guarantees it. Remember, however, that all of the moedim are rehearsals for the real thing.

One tradition teaches that Paul’s writings may simply indicate that The Rapture is a number specific event, not a date specific one. It will come, as Paul indicates, when the full number of Gentiles has come in. The phrase full number is taken from a nautical term that described the number of soldiers and sailors that had to be on board before a ship could set sail. As soon as the full number was accounted for, the ship could leave.

Another tradition teaches that the fullness of the Gentiles means that total maturity has been achieved. Today, both the Jews (Romans 11:25) and the Gentiles (1 Corinthians 13:9-12) are blinded in part. Once that partial blindness is gone, maturity is fully realized.

The Rapture is not dependent upon any specific prophecy being fulfilled except that each moed must be fulfilled to the tee. It comes on a day and hour that no one knows. It therefore comes at Yom Teruah, since Shavuot has already been fulfilled.

What Do We Do While We Wait?

So, what are we to do while we wait for our Lord and Savior, Yeshua, to appear?

Watch And Be Ready

Mark 13:33 . . . *“Be careful! Always be ready, because you don’t know when that day and hour will be.”*

Pray And Be Ready:

Luke 21:36 . . . *“Be ready all the time. Pray that you will be strong enough to escape all these things that will happen and that you will be able to stand before the Son of Man, Yeshua.”*

Purify Oneself:

1 John 3:2-3 . . . *“We know that when Yeshua comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is. Yeshua is pure, and all who have this hope in him keep themselves pure like Yeshua.”*

Abide In Yeshua:

1 John 2:28 . . . *“Live in Yeshua, trust in him, have faith in him so that when he comes back, you can be without fear and not be ashamed in his presence.”*

Look For His Coming:

Hebrews 9:28 – *“He will come a second time, not to offer himself for sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”*

Even More Importantly:

Matthew 6:9-13 – *“You, therefore, pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us the food we need today. Forgive us what we have done wrong, as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us. And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One. For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen.’”*

Have you ever considered the Lord’s Prayer to be a prayer asking Yahweh /Yeshua to keep you from the Time of Jacob’s Trouble, from the Tribulation Period? If not, then perhaps you should:

Temptation / Testing

Matthew 6:13 – *“Do not lead us into temptation.”*

Luke 11:4 – *“Do not lead us into temptation.”*

This the most common translation of Matthew’s and Luke’s scriptures, translated this way by the ASV, DNT, ESV, HCSB, HNV, KJV, NET, NKJV, and NASB Bibles, to name a few.

I like the Complete Jewish Bible which translates it this way: “into a time of hard testing”, or the New Revised Standard which translates it as: “to the time of trial”.

All of these are valid translations of the Greek word *peirasmos* [G3986], and the NET footnotes also acknowledges that it may be

translated: “into a time of testing.” Many consider this part of the prayer to be only a request to be kept from sin, but it is more accurately a request to be kept from a time of testing or trial.

The question, then to ask, is: “*When is the time of temptation, testing, or trial?*”. And scripture answers this quite well – “*For that day will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man*” – Luke 21:35-36.

When that day comes, Yahweh promises: “*I will keep you from the time of trial coming upon the whole world to put the people living on earth to the test*” – Revelation 3:10.

Evil / Evil One

Matthew 6:13 – “*Keep us safe from evil.*”

Again, this is a common translation of Matthew’s and Luke’s scriptures, translated this way by the ESV, KJV, CEV, DNT, and NASB Bibles. There are many more translations, however, that translate it more accurately this way: “Keep us safe from the Evil One. ASV, CJB, HCSB, HNV, NCV, NET, NKJV, NLT, and NRSV.

All of these are valid translations of the Greek word [G4190]. Interesting to note that the newest translation of the KJV also now translates it Evil One! The word *poneros*, most generally translated evil, can be a specific and personified reference to the devil, Satan, as it

is in this verse written as tou poneros. Tou poneros is used the same way in Matthew 5:39.

Conclusion

Luke 21:36 – *“Pray that you will have the strength to escape all the things that will happen and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.”*

2 Timothy 4:18 – *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom.”*

The Lord’s Prayer is definitely a prayer asking Yahweh / Yeshua to keep a person from a Time Of Trial that keeps that person safe from the Evil One.

While this can be applied to daily occurrences, it most definitely can and should be seen as an urgent request to be kept from the Time of Jacob’s Trouble, the Tribulation Period, which Yahweh promises to do (Revelation 3:10).

Matthew 24:42 – *“So stay alert, because you don’t know on what day your Lord will come.”*

Until that time, we are to stay alert, anxiously awaiting his appearing. This warning is repeated many times in Matthew 24:42; Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:33; Luke 12:40; and 1 Thessalonians 5:6.

The Rapture Is A Party Like No Other

Are you looking forward to the Rapture / Resurrection with joy, with a living hope, and overwhelming gladness? Are you expecting a glorious, noisy, stupendous party? Or are you simply expecting to be taken up with nary a whimper, leaving your clothes behind in a crumpled heap?

The image of an instantaneous rapture has been popularized in our minds for quite some time, but this is not the pattern that scripture leads me to expect. The Rapture is a glorious, noisy, joyful, heartwarming, witnessed event – a stupendous party celebration like no other.

The Blessed Hope Called The Rapture

Titus 2:13 – *“We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great Lord and Savior, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, will be revealed.”*

1 Peter 1:6-7 – *“In this you greatly rejoice, despite immediate trials, for there is wonderful joy ahead . . . even honor and glory at Yeshua’s appearing.”*

Throughout the Newer Covenant, we see an image of the meeting with Yeshua Ha’Mashiach upon resurrection as a blessed, joyful, wonderful event. At the resurrection, we receive our immortal, incorruptible bodies in which we will spend eternity.

Yeshua's victory over Satan was fully, openly, and loudly celebrated in Heaven. This was no quiet, private celebration between Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha'Kodesh. All of Heaven was involved, giving praise for his victory. Just imagine how great the parade and celebration will be when Yeshua raptures his entire Bride and brings them home to his Father's house in Heaven!!

Does this meeting with Yeshua sound like a private, quiet celebration to you? I don't think so.

This sounds like a noisy, joyous, glorious, happy, cheerful, festive, and singing our hearts out occasion to me!

Now do you understand why The Rapture is called “**The Blessed Hope**”?

Either way, One can only ask: “How imminent is the return of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach?” The return of Yeshua to gather his people together and keep them from the time of wrath is imminent. Be sure you are prepared. We are not yet in the Tribulation, a period of seven years, but we are very close. The sand in Yahweh's hourglass is running out! Scripture confirms this.

Yahweh does nothing without first giving advance notice (Amos 3:7).

Be sure Yeshua is your Redeemer, King, and High Priest.

Final Thoughts

Heaven celebrates every single time a sinner repents. Heaven celebrated with a triumphal parade when Yeshua won the victory over sin, hell, the devil, and death.

Just imagine how great the parade and celebration will be when Yeshua raptures his entire Bride and brings his Bride home to his Father's house in Heaven!! And it is accompanied with Yeshua shouting, an Archangel speaking in a loud voice, and the trump (voice) of Yahweh, plus a crowd of witnesses watching the bride and Yeshua ascend.

A quiet affair – not likely! Undoubtedly a very glorious, noisy, joyous, happy, cheerful, festive, heartwarming, witnessed, stupendous affair! And why not? The Rapture/Resurrection gives each person:

- Eternal presence with Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha'Kodesh,
- A new, glorious, immortal body,
- No more death, disease, pain or sorrow,
- No more liars, unbelievers, murderers, adulterers, sorcerers, idolaters, drug addicts, or thieves, just to mention a few,
- Sin and the Sin Nature are forever removed.

This is what The Rapture brings. Are you telling me you won't be jumping for joy, giving thanksgiving and praise, bursting with gladness and cheer if you are taken up, if you are gathered together with the saints, if you are part of the great escape, if you are raptured? I will be.

Amen and Amen

Maranatha

Hallelujah!

About The Author

Jeff is a retired Youth Worker, Christian Camp employee / volunteer / and board member, with a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies. Jeff uses the gift of analysis, relying heavily on the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit), to allow him to write and teach.

He has been teaching, writing, and blogging about the Pre-Tribulation Witnessed Rapture and many other subjects since 2008. He has written over 570 articles for his own and other websites, and has had articles in two worldwide magazines – *Prophecy Watchers*, and *Politics, Prophecy, & the Supernatural*.

He spent several months studying scripture in 2008, then handed a ten page Rapture essay to his pastor. From there, it progressed into emails and letters to friends and family, and to a 2010 series of classes entitled *Understanding the Times: An Overview of End Times Teachings for Study and Discussion*. After much more study, his first book called *The Rapture: A Party Like No Other* was published in 2013. In 2018 he taught classes on *The Rapture Concealed*, *The Rapture Revealed*, and compiled and wrote the first Rapture book update, called: *A Party Called The Rapture: One of Yahweh's Divine Appointments*. The sixth edition was completed in 2021. It took two more years to write this 2023 update: *The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event*.

Lately, Jeff has even started making Videos.

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event

Elijah – 2 Kings 2:7-12

– Elijah's rapture was witnessed by Elisha and the prophets who stood at a distance as he was carried up into heaven.

Yeshua – Luke 2:45, Acts 1:9-11

– Elijah's rapture was witnessed by Elisha and the prophets who stood at a distance as he was carried up into heaven.

The Two Witnesses of Revelation – Revelation 11:11-12

– The rapture of the Two Witnesses will be witnessed by their enemies as they ascend up into heaven.

Enoch – Enoch 81:5-6, Jasher 3:31

– Enoch's rapture was witnessed by his children and the King's men as he was taken from their midst.

