

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event

*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

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event *Revealing the Biblical Parallels, Patterns, Pictures, and Types*

Compiled By Jeff Van Hatten, BA: Biblical Studies

© Copyright 2023 by Jeff Van Hatten
1st Edition 2023

*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

Table of Contents

Foreword – By Mondo Gonzales	03
Preface	08
The Rapture Defined	12
<i>The Words Translated Rapture</i>	13
<i>Not An Unorthodox Teaching</i>	21
<i>The Blessed Hope</i>	23
<i>The Importance of A Witnessed Rapture</i>	25
Section Commentary.....	29
Figures of Speech	32
<i>Figures of Speech, Cultural Sayings, Hebraic Expressions</i>	33
<i>What Is Meant By Imminent</i>	35
<i>What Is Meant By Instant</i>	41
<i>What Is Meant By The Day And Hour</i>	45
<i>What Is Meant By Set Times And Seasons</i>	55
<i>What Is Meant By Redemption</i>	58
<i>What Is Meant By Day Of The Lord</i>	60
Section Commentary.....	63
Older and Newer Covenant Parallels	65
<i>Paul’s Midrash on the Exodus</i>	66
<i>The Gathering Together In The Great Assembly</i>	72
<i>The Great Escape</i>	76
<i>The Closed Doors, Hidings, Or Concealments</i>	81
<i>The Righteous Are Spared</i>	87
Section Commentary.....	91
<i>The First Interlude</i>	93
Pictures Of The Rapture	94
<i>The Rapture Patterns – Yahweh’s H’s, R’s, and D’s</i>	95
<i>The Two Types of Rapture</i>	105
<i>Raptured, Protected, or Left Behind Representatives</i>	109
<i>The Rapture Horses</i>	113
<i>The Rapture Bride</i>	118

Pictures Of The Rapture, continued

<i>The Rapture Crown</i>	125
<i>The Rapture Overcomer</i>	129
<i>Other Rapture/Resurrection Images</i>	134
<i>Section Commentary</i>	136

Advance Notices..... 138

<i>Personal Advance Notices</i>	139
<i>Event Oriented Advance Notices</i>	142
<i>Section Commentary</i>	145

Who Watched 147

<i>The Watchers and The Watched</i>	148
---	-----

Travel Techniques 150

<i>The Transportation Modus</i>	151
<i>The Second Interlude</i>	153

The Resurrection and Departure 155

<i>In A Twinkling or In A Time?</i>	156
<i>The Instantaneous Resurrection Is Not The Rapture</i>	163
<i>That Ain't No Zombie, and A Pregnant Pause</i>	179
<i>The Not So Sign-less Event</i>	183
<i>The Apostasia</i>	189
<i>The Imminent Return of Yeshua</i>	196
<i>Section Commentary</i>	202

Appointed Times and Signs..... 205

<i>The Moedim – One Time Events</i>	205
<i>The Rapture Order of the Moedim</i>	208
<i>The Yom Teruah Pattern</i>	213
<i>The Signs</i>	219
<i>The Timing</i>	227
<i>Section Commentary</i>	230

Wedding Patterns	231
<i>At Mount Sinai With Moses</i>	232
<i>The Jewish Wedding Pattern</i>	243
<i>The Wedding Pattern Midrash</i>	249
<i>Section Commentary</i>	255
<i>The Third Interlude</i>	257
More Scriptural Evidence	258
<i>Twenty Reasons For A Pre-Tribulation Rapture</i>	259
<i>Absolute Proof Of A Pre-Tribulation Rapture</i>	263
A Party Like No Other	266
<i>Stark Naked On Parade</i>	267
<i>Angels Making Whoopee</i>	270
<i>Noisy Affairs And Parties Like No Other</i>	272
<i>Section Commentary</i>	273
<i>The Fourth Interlude</i>	274
Waiting For The Rapture	275
<i>The Rapture Is Yet To Come</i>	276
<i>Avoiding The Tribulation and Eternal Damnation</i>	278
<i>What Do We Do While We Wait?</i>	280
<i>The Rapture Is A Party Like No Other</i>	284
<i>Section Commentary</i>	289
<i>Final Commentary</i>	291
Appendixes	293
Appendix A: Acknowledgments	294
Appendix B: Other Rapture Sources	296
Appendix C: Methods of Interpretation.....	297
Appendix D: The Names Of The Patriarchs	299
Appendix E: Glossary.....	301
Appendix F: About The Author	305
Appendix G: Notes	306

Preface

Just as many have taken in hand to write down and declare those things which are most surely believed about the Resurrection and the Rapture, it seemed good to me also to write about these topics to you, dear reader.

Perhaps this introduction sounds familiar. And well it should, for this is a blatant restatement of Luke 1:1-4 in my own words! I do this to warn you that some of what you will read may sound familiar.

Much more will not sound familiar at all, however, as they will be new insights.

The Goals . . .

I believe that Biblical and parallels, patterns, pictures, and types have much to teach us about the final hours of mankind's governance of this planet before Yeshua returns.

My primary goal in writing this book is to encourage you to read scripture and notice the many parallels, patterns, pictures, and types that inundate the Biblical narrative regarding the Resurrection of the Dead in Yeshua and the subsequent Rapture of the Bride of Yeshua. These narratives all clearly show that both the resurrection and rapture are witnessed events – the Instant Disappearance paradigm is NOT a Biblically supported pattern.

My secondary goal is to encourage you to discuss your findings with others, to encourage you to be a Berean student and diligently search the scriptures to and to heartily study and become knowledgeable about both the witnessed resurrection and rapture so that you can also teach others about the Biblical parallels, patterns, pictures, and types.

My ultimate goal is to bring you to a closer relationship with the one that Hebrew names Yeshua Ha'Mashiach, and to make your understanding of The Resurrection and of The Rapture a blessed, joyous, heartwarming, looked for, and expected, witnessed event.

The Structure . . .

I am an analyst and a teacher, not a novelist, so the information in this book is in are in the form of an *overview* that takes the inspiration of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh and puts them in one place. Think of it as a *study guide*, and then do your homework.

My job as a teacher is to point you in the right direction to find the answers you seek, not to just give you those answers outright!

The Source Materials . . .

Just as Luke and Matthew copied Mark, who may have copied an unknown source, "Q", I firmly assert that all who write about the

Resurrection and the Rapture should be saying the same things, albeit perhaps using just a few different words here and there. I mirror Matthew, Mark, and Luke in this regard and this book may inadvertently contain material that may sound like another author's copyrighted material, but I, too, am simply being synoptic.

I have read, heard, and/or watched multiple sources for the material in this book. I have also read and analyzed a minimum of six translations, one or more paraphrases, and then looked up the Hebrew or Greek words.

Once I have a clear image of the sense of a source, verse, or paragraph I put my analysis into modern American-English on the page. Peter uses this same method in Acts 2:16-21 when he “quotes” Joel 2:28-30.

On those rare occasions when a direct quote is used I have made every attempt to provide the name of the person I am quoting. When the material has been compiled from numerous sources, I do this in the same manner as the writer of Hebrews 4:4, who says: “*For he has said somewhere concerning the seventh day*” with no attempt to quote the source.

Likewise, there is no reference to a particular version of the Bible; just the book, chapter, and verse.

The Style of Writing . . .

My teaching and writing style began forming as I became involved in twenty (plus) years of youth work, primarily with Middle-School (Junior High) youth. Youth talks and lessons quickly progressed to teaching confirmation, and over ten years ago I “graduated” to teaching adults and found that it wasn’t much different!

Both groups have short attention spans. Both groups tend to be Biblically illiterate. Both groups listen and learn at about a sixth grade level of understanding. Both groups show as much comprehension of the material being taught as did the apostles to Yeshua’s teaching.

Both groups need lots of preparation, buckets of explaining, and as many visual and auditory aids as humanly possible (slides, photos, movies, charts, hand-outs, music, songs, speeches, taped recordings, news clips, etc).

Just as Glenn Holland used any and all material that helped get the point across, so do I (Mr. Holland’s Opus, 1995).

*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 can 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](#).

Comparing Newer Covenant With Older Covenant

If we compare the Newer Covenant word *harpazo* with the Older Covenant Hebrew word *laqach* [H3947] we find that *laqach* also means: *to take, seize, send for, fetch, carry away*.

Here are some examples of *harpazo* [G726] which are in **boldface**:

Violent men “***take*** *the kingdom of heaven* ***by force***” (Matthew 11:12). This process has been ongoing for roughly 6000 years! Not even close to a split second or nanosecond of instant occurrence!

Robbers come to **steal** and plunder the goodies they have found (Matthew 12:29). This usually takes a bit of time. When the SWAT team shows up at the door to seize the criminal and carry them off by force, rarely does the SWAT team instantly remove someone – how many times have we seen on TV the hours long standoffs. Rarely do criminal activities and the arrest of those same criminal happen in a split second or nanosecond.

The evil one “***snatches away*** *the words of Yahweh if that person fails to understand their meaning*” (Matthew 13:19). This process usually happens over a period of time – we call this a falling away or an apostasy. Rarely ever does this happen in a split second, nanosecond, or instant!

Yeshua knew that people wanted to **take him by force** so he departed to the mountains (John 6:15). Yet another example of a harpazo that did not occur in a split second or nanosecond of time.

The centurions were afraid the crowd would kill Paul so they **took him by force** and brought him to the barracks (Acts 23:10). The Roman barracks were a fair distance away from the public square. This removal from the public arena to the barracks did not happen in a split second or nanosecond.

Here are some examples of laqach [H3947] which are in **boldface**:

Elijah was **taken away** and **took** his mantle (2 Kings 2:3, 2:5, 2:9).

Enoch was **taken** by Yahweh (Genesis 5:24)

Neither disappeared in a split second or nanosecond.

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 – 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 my 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](#).

There are many scriptures which speak about people willingly gathering together. Luke 24:33, John 20:19, and Acts 2:1 are just three. Gathering together for festivals, gathering together to give thanks and praise, gathering together for reading of the good news, gathering together to be in Yeshua's presence all sound like joyous occasions to me – not something one is forced to attend by a bully.

Yahweh/Yeshua Asks

Genesis 22:2-4 –*“Yahweh said to Abraham, ‘Will you please take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac – and go to the land of Moriah and there offer him up as a burnt offering?’”*

Revelation 3:20 – *“Here, I’m standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me.”*

Yahweh and Yeshua both honor their commitment to giving each individual free choice – to obey or not. Abraham could have refused – good thing he did not. The church can and frequently does ignore Yeshua’s knocking, leaving him standing outside. Matthew 7:7 says *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you.”* Yahweh doesn’t command one to “Take whatever you want without asking, break down the door and go in at your pleasure.” Forced compliance is not a godly method of operation when taking a bride.

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.

For example, Jude 1:23 tells us to *“Rescue any who need to be saved, as you would rescue someone from a fire”* which may or not be an action that occurs in an instant. Any firefighter can tell you that a rescue of this kind can take quite a bit of time.

But, what about Philip, you ask?

Acts 8:39-40 – *“When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Ashdod, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.”*

Seriously, you really think this is a split second or nanosecond occurrence. Do you have children? Ever taken them to the store? Humph. Let me translate the above scripture for you using a more modern, family approach: *“When you were studying the nutrition label on a product, the Spirit of the Lord snatched the child away and you saw not where they went. But the child found them-self in the shoe aisle as they passed through the movie aisle and the toy aisle until they came to the candy aisle.”* Now, you may not have been as joyful as the eunuch, but the child’s disappearance did not take place in a split second or nanosecond – the child was not instantly transported to the candy aisle.

I find no grounds for imposing a split second, nanosecond or instant transportation reading on the disappearance of Philip – the Spirit did not beam him away ala Star Trek technology. The spirit simply required Philip to depart immediately without saying goodbye to the eunuch and the eunuch was so filled with rejoicing that he simply went on his way.

Neither he nor Philip saw each other again.

Harpazo is not the only word used in scripture 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

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 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* – literally 1000 years.

Neither can the phrase “*second coming*” be found anywhere in the Bible. In 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:13, and **5:23** Paul writes about the coming of the Lord Yeshua. This coming is also mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:1. We call it the second coming because he already came once before! Yeshua’s first coming is mentioned in both Acts 19:4 and 2 Peter 1:16.

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).

None of these words or phrases (millennial reign, second coming, or trinity) gets anyone labeled unorthodox, a blasphemer, an illiterate, or a heretic, except the word rapture!

True, one will never find this word, rapture, in an English translation of scripture. 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.

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!

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).

Isaiah 60:15-16 uses the figure of speech, “drink the milk of nations” which prophesies the time when Yahweh will restore the nation of Israel and bring the wealth of other nations to it. “In that day” is similar, looking forward to the day Messiah comes.

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

2 Corinthians 13:1 – *“Every 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.

Conclusion

The prophetic nature of idioms, figures of speech, cultural sayings, and Hebraic expressions become very important when we try to determine what scripture has to say to us about the Imminent Return of Yeshua.

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

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.

The entire instant disappearance rapture paradigm is as severely flawed as our definition of the word instant.

Again I say, *Me thinks our definitions and interpretations need a little fixin' – what do you say?*

The Bible only asks for two witnesses to establish a fact!

Fact:

Imminent does **not** mean at any time, immediately, or instantly is also a fact according to the scriptures.

Fact:

Yeshua can **not** come at any ol' time is a fact according to the scriptures.

What Is Meant By The Day And 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 figure of speech, a Hebraic expression, a cultural catch phrase, an idiom? And if so, where did it come from and just what does it mean?

Let’s examine the scriptures and see what they say about the Day and Hour in relation to Yeshua’s “Imminent” Return – can it indeed happen at any time, or is it is 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).

Several possibilities would have immediately come to the minds of his disciples and followers:

- Is Yeshua talking about a specific Day and Hour, such as a specific Rosh Chodesh – a specific new moon?
 - *And the answer is yes!*

- Is Yeshua talking about a specific Yom Teruah, known as the Day and Hour that no one knows?
 - *And the answer is yes!*
- Is Yeshua talking about a wedding ceremony, in which the Father determines the time when the bridegroom is given permission to go get his bride?
 - *Maybe, but **not** as a definition of imminent . . .*

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 places it distinctly into the realm of mystery – a fact currently concealed and not yet revealed because it isn’t the time to do so – or it is simply one of those concealed matters that brings glory to Yahweh, and which the kings are to investigate to their glory! 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!

1. We do not know the day or hour: A Reference to the New Moon?

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!

Avi Ben Mordechai writes: *“If He knew the future in Mattityahu 24:25, and the context concerns the Day of Trouble, why would He suddenly speak as though He did not know the future in the same context just 11 verses later in Mattityahu 24:36? Was He confused? Or was He making perfect sense in light of the customs of the Jews?”*

Needless to say, Yeshua was neither confused nor unaware of future events and their exact dates of fulfillment!

Avi Ben Mordechai devotes a chapter in *“Signs In the Heavens”* to explaining what the phrase *“no man knows the day or hour”* truly means from a rabbinical Hebraic perspective. He states: *“It is a figure of speech. Yeshua used this figure of speech to say: “I am coming for my Bride on such and such a day! Be watching! The phrase, “of that day and hour no man knows” refers to the sanctification or setting apart of the new moon. Without this sanctification, the Jews had no way of determining Yahweh’s appointed times or moedim.”*

2. 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.*”

3. We do not know the day or the hour: A Reference to The Wedding?

Only the father of the groom can determine when the new home that his son is building for himself and his bride is finished. Only the father of the groom can determine when it is time for the groom to go get his bride. Hence, “*You do not know the day or the hour.*” Again, Avi Ben Mordechai states: “*It is a figure of speech. Yeshua used this figure of speech to say: “I am coming for my Bride on such and such a day! Be watching!”*”

A Very Common Wedding Usage

The common answer given by the bridegroom during ages past to someone asking the question: “*When’s the wedding date?*” was a well know Hebrew cultural saying: “*I don’t know, the angels don’t know, ask my dad!*” Today, if depression over the length of time taking to build the new home and furnish it to his father’s expectations had set in, the bridegroom might very well reply with one of today’s favorite expressions: “*When the time is right!*” By using this expression, “*You do not know the day or the hour*”, Yeshua may have used a common wedding catch phrase to answer his disciple’s questions about the sign of his coming and of the end of the age. In short, he merely answered at the Pashat level of understanding: “*It will be revealed when it is the appropriate time to do so.*” But he also hinted at the set time.

This is in accordance with the other figures of speech such as Day and Hour, Day of Yahweh, etc., which speak of an appointed, set, appropriate time. This is also in accordance with a similar question asked by Daniel. The answer was “*keep these words secret, and seal up the book until the time of the end*” (Daniel 12:1-4).

4. 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 a common wedding expression at the Pashat level of understanding, or both Yom Teruah and the Yom Ha’Keseh at the Drash or Sod levels of understanding.

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).

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.

If we look at the Yom Teruah model, everyone knows within two days when this celebration will begin. If we look at the Wedding model, everyone in town would know when completion was getting close, but not which specific day the father would tell his son to go get his bride.

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. Hence, you do not know the day or the hour, but you should not be caught unawares of the season.

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. A more proper translation of the Greek places it into the realm of mystery – a fact currently concealed and not yet revealed because it isn't the time to do so.

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 *καίρος*] 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.

*Older and
Newer Covenant
Parallels*

Paul's Midrash on the Exodus

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *“Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven, with a loud shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the shofar call of Yahweh. The dead in Yeshua will rise first, then we who are still alive will be caught up in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air.”*

Did you know that Rabbi Paul's writing in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 is a typical rabbinical teaching style called a Midrash? Paul takes the account of the Hebrew's exodus from Egypt and applies it to the future rapture of the bride, further cementing the parallels between the Older and Newer covenants.

The Journey Begins

Exodus 3:7-8 – *“Then Yahweh said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.’”*

Exodus 14:11 – *“Was it because there weren't enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the desert?”*

Exodus 33:1 – *“Yahweh said to Moshe, ‘Leave, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt; and move on from here toward the promised land’ [of promise, i.e. Israel].”*

Ezekiel 37:12-13 – *“Therefore prophesy; say to them that Adonai Elohim says, ‘My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then*

you will know that I am Yahweh — when I have opened your graves and made you get up out of your graves, my people!”

The Hebrew slaves have been in Egypt for over four hundred years. Ezekiel refers to their redemption out of Egypt as being brought out of the grave – in other words, resurrected. Upon resurrection, they then leave Egypt as the Egyptians witness their departure. Their walk to Mount Sinai in Midian takes three months, or ninety days [three new moons] (Exodus 19:1).

The Hebrew slaves were in Egypt, if you will, in the graves of Egypt:

- They received 14 days notice about their redemption, if you will, their “*resurrection*”.
- They were witnessed as they departed.
- And, in turn, witnessed to the Egyptians that their God, Yahweh, was greater than any other God.
- It took them several months to get to Mount Sinai.
- The resurrection of the Hebrew Slaves did not result an instantaneous disappearance.

The resurrected Hebrew slaves represent the Dead in Yeshua in Paul’s Thessalonians Midrash (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Note: Their final destination was to be the land of milk and honey, the promised land: Israel. They did not immediately arrive there, either.

At Mount Sinai

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. 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.”*

After arriving at Mount Sinai, they are consecrated. Three days later Yahweh / Yeshua descends. The Exodus 19 pattern:

- 9** Yahweh said to Moshe, “See, I am coming to you in a thick cloud . . .”
- 11** For on the third day, Yahweh will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people.
- 16** On the morning of the third day, there was thunder, lightning and a thick cloud on the mountain. Then a shofar (*trumpet*) blast sounded so loudly that all the people in the camp trembled.
- 20** Yahweh came down onto Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; then he called Moshe to the top of the mountain; and Moshe went up.

Upon arriving at Mount Sinai:

- They received three days notice that Yahweh was to descend.
- Yahweh descends and Moses is called up.
- They witness Moses' ascension, if you will, his "*rapture*" into the cloud.
- His rapture was not an instantaneous disappearance, either.

Moses represents Those Who Are Still Alive in Paul's Thessalonians
Midrash (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The parallels

In Exodus:

- The "*dead*" Hebrew slaves in the graves of Egypt were resurrected.
- The "*resurrected*" Hebrew slaves are a witness of Yahweh's power over death to the Egyptians.
- They are gathered together, taken to Mount Sinai, consecrated, and become a people holy to Yahweh.
- Yahweh (Elohim / God) comes down from Heaven in a cloud and his voice is heard, sounding like thunder.
- Moses then ascends into the clouds.

In Thessalonians:

- The dead in Yeshua resurrected and are consecrated (made incorruptible) at the moment of resurrection.
- Yeshua (Elohim / God) comes down from Heaven in a cloud with a loud shout, sounding like thunder.
- The shofar (or trumpet), also known as the voice of Yahweh, sounds a long blast.

- The newly resurrected people rise up into the clouds.
- Then those who were already alive people rise up into the clouds to meet them.

Perhaps you think the loud shout is missing in the Exodus account. No so fast! The shofar is blowing at maximum volume, and Moses and Yahweh are speaking to each other. Ever heard a shofar sound? It is piercing, almost deafening. Try speaking over the shofar's volume to someone without loud shouting!

The Resurrections and Raptures

The Hebrew slaves *resurrection* from their Egyptian “*graves*” did not result in an instantaneous disappearance – it took time for them to walk away in full view of the Egyptians. It took more time to arrive at Mount Sinai.

Moses *rapture* was not an instantaneous disappearance, either – it took time for him to ascend while the people watched, several days after they had all arrived at Mount Sinai. His rapture did not take place at the same time as the dead slaves resurrection – he was still alive, having already been out of Egypt for forty years.

Matthew 27:52-53 – *“The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”*

Of the Bride, Paul tells us that the dead in Yeshua rise first. Perhaps they too have a time of witnessing and traveling before they reach their destination – the clouds to meet Yeshua. Perhaps, only then, do those who are still alive ascend.

The pattern of the Hebrew slaves resurrection and Moses subsequent rapture gives reason to believe that the pattern of the resurrection and subsequent rapture of the Bride will not result in an instantaneous disappearance, either. The scriptures in Matthew lend further support for this pattern.

Conclusion

Both Peter and Paul employ a very typical rabbinical approach to scripture in applying Older Covenant passages to current or future events. Rabbi John does the same thing throughout the Book of Revelation. This teaching style is called a Midrash. Rabbi Paul effectively takes the same approach to the Exodus account as Rabbi Peter takes to the Joel 2:28-29 prophecy:

- ✓ Peter applies Joel 2:28-29 to the giving of the Spirit at Shavuot (Acts 2:17-21).
- ✓ Paul applies the pattern of the exodus of the Hebrew slaves out of the graves of Egypt, their trip to Mount Sinai, and the subsequent ascent of Moses to meet with Yahweh on the mountain to the future rapture (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**).

The Gathering Together In The Great Assembly

1 Kings 8:65 – *“Solomon held the festival at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly”*

Psalm 22:25 – *“From Yahweh comes my praise in the great assembly.”*

Psalm 35:18 – *“Then I will thank Yahweh in front of the great assembly. I will praise you before all the people.”*

Psalm 40:10 – *“I have not kept the good news of Yahweh’s justice hidden in my heart; I have talked about your faithfulness and saving power. I have told everyone in the great assembly.”*

Older Covenant scripture speaks to us about “gathering together” [qesheth shakak H7198 - H7918] as the “great assembly” [rab qahal H7228 -H6951] in many different places.

According to Nehemiah and Ezra, every seven years, during the Sabbath rest for the land, all of the people would gather at the Temple Mount for a great assembly, at which time they would celebrate the appointed feasts, read the Torah Scroll received by the King from the High Priest and also any letters received from the King in Babylon which were given to the Governor by the High Priest, the Kohen Ha’Gadol [H3548 - H1419].

This is mirrored in the Newer Covenant in Revelation 5:5-7 which tells us that the Lamb enters the platform at the Temple and reads from the seven sealed scroll.

- Zephaniah 2:1-2 warns us to gather ourselves together, yes, gather, before the decree (time of wrath) takes effect.
- Deuteronomy 32:21 tells us that an undesirable nation (the Church) will be raised up to provoke Israel to jealousy.
- Daniel 9:27 tells us that this undesirable nation is to be gathered together before the Day of Yahweh’s wrath.

Newer Covenant Parallels

Hebrews 12:22-24 – *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of Elohim, the Heavenly Yerushalayim, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to Yahweh, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Yeshua, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.”*

- We are to attend the “general assembly”; to assemble all together.

Ephesians 1:10 – *“His goal was to carry out his plan, when the right time came, that all things in Heaven and on Earth would be gathered together in Yeshua as the head.”*

- We are “gathered together in Yeshua”; all together with Yeshua as our head, our King, our Lord.

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.”*

— We are “gathering together to him.”; a complete collecting of all who call Yeshua Lord.

Hebrews 10:25 – *“You should not stay away from the gathering meetings, as some are doing, but you should gather together and encourage each other, even more so as you see the day of Yahweh’s wrath approaching.”*

— We “gather together”; for encouragement as the Day of Wrath approaches.

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.”*

— We are “caught up”; seized or plucked up by Yeshua to be with him forever.

In Revelation 4 & 5, the saints gather together with the angels in a great assembly at the crystal sea of glass, or the platform where Yahweh’s throne is. **In Revelation 5:5-7** Yeshua enters the platform at the Temple and opens the Seven Sealed Scroll, a parallel image to the letters received from the King by the Kohen Ha’Gadol (High Priest) in the Nehemiah and Ezra passages.

Two more Newer Covenant gathering images:

- The undesirable nation is gathered before the day of wrath, mirror images to the scripture in Daniel Chapter 9:27 and Deuteronomy 32:21 (Matthew 21:43, 1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 12:14).
- These three scriptures speak about his return to gather us together (John 14:1-3, John 5:28-29, John 6:39-40).

Either way, it is just as simple to say we are “going to be raptured!” as to declare we are gathered together.

Conclusion

Older Covenant scriptures speak about “gathering together” as the “great assembly” in many different places.

According to Nehemiah and Ezra, every seven years, during the Sabbath rest for the land, all of the people would gather at the Temple Mount for a great assembly.

Revelation states the saints gather together with the angels in a great assembly at the crystal sea of glass, or the platform where Yahweh’s throne is.

Gathering together is what Paul tells us that the once dead, now living, and the still living will do just before they are both raptured.

The Great Escape

Zephaniah 2:1-2 - *“Gather together before the Day of Yahweh’s wrath comes upon you.”*

Those who hope in The Rapture are often attacked for looking for the great escape, for the hiding away from calamity. This, some say, is pure fantasy. But the scriptures say that this hope is no fantasy at all, but reality - those who are called up in the Rapture will be hidden away, concealed in the secret places during the time of Yahweh’s wrath.

The Hebrew words often translated saved or delivered are *malat* [H4422] and especially *natsal* [H5337] which means to escape, to slip away; causatively to release or rescue; specifically to deliver, escape, lay, leap out, let alone, let go, preserve, save. In the Greek, it is often the word *ekpheugo* [G1628], or the word *soteria* [G4991].

Numerous examples are noted in scripture of righteous people being delivered from calamity or destruction while the unrighteous or evil are punished:

- Noah is delivered from/through the flood (Genesis 6)
- Lot is rescued from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:25-19:29)
- Rahab is rescued by the Hebrews when Jericho is overthrown (Joshua 6:22-23, Hebrews 11:31); whereas the unrighteous are kept under punishment for the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:9).

We know that the time of Yahweh's wrath is also known as the Great Tribulation (Revelation 2:22, 7:14). It is also called the time of Jacob's trouble in Jeremiah 30:7, and a time of great earthly and heavenly changes in Isaiah 13:13. Yeshua warns about these things in Matthew 24. Daniel 9:27 identifies this time as one week, or one shabua [H7620], in other words, a period of seven years. Revelation 11:2 and 13:5 each talk about a period of 42 months, for a total of seven years. The shabua comprises both the time of the "Wrath of the Lamb" and the "Wrath of Yahweh".

Isaiah 26:20-21 – *“My people, go into your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide in your rooms for a short time until Yahweh's anger is finished. Look! Yahweh is coming out of his heavenly home to punish those on Earth for their sin.”*

What scripture teaches absolutely in Isaiah Chapter 26 is that when the dead are raised, the righteous people will be hidden in a chamber (behind closed doors) during the time of wrath (time of indignation) until it has passed.

John 14:3 – *“After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that you may be there where I am.”*

Since Yeshua is in Heaven during the time of wrath, so also will the righteous be in Heaven with him. The righteous have been raptured prior to the time of wrath, prior to the Tribulation period.

We find these images in the Older Covenant:

- Noah escaped the flood (Genesis 6).
- Lot escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:25-19:29)
- The Hebrews escaped from death (Exodus 12:23)
- Rahab escaped death when Jericho was overthrown (Joshua 6:22-23)
- There are those who will escape the abomination of desolation (tribulation) period by heading to or living in what today we call the nation of Jordan. The people of Edom, Moab, and Ammon are spared (Daniel 11:30-41)
- The righteous will escape the famines and death that will be brought against a land that sins against Yahweh (Ezekiel 14:13-14)

Joshua 6:22-23 is confirmed in the Newer Covenant:

- Rahab did not perish along with those who were disobedient when Jericho was destroyed (Hebrews 11:31)

Daniel 11:30-41 is mirrored in the Newer Covenant as well:

- All are to flee to the mountains when the abomination that causes desolation is seen in Yerushalayim (Matthew 24:15-16). This scripture is also mirrored in Mark 13:14 and Luke 20:20-21.

More Great Escapes

Great Escape 1 – The Sea of Suf

Exodus 14:19 – *“The Angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the Pillar Of Cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.”*

As the Jews made their escape from Egypt after four hundred years of slavery, Yahweh lead the way until Pharaoh’s army caught up, at which time Yahweh placed himself between his people and their enemies. The Jews were hemmed in by mountains to the north and south, the Sea of Suf to the East, and Pharaoh’s army to the west. All seemed lost, but Yahweh had other plans for his people – the Sea of Suf parted to the north and to the south, walls of water forming a corridor through which the Jews were able to escape, while Yahweh destroyed their enemies.

Great Escape 2 – The Mount of Olives

Zechariah 14:4 – *“In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel . . .”*

Once again, we see Yahweh’s people hemmed in – this time with Jerusalem and Mount Moriah to the west, the Mount of Olives to the east, and the armies of Satan to the north and south in a pincer movement determined to destroy Yahweh’s people, just as Pharaoh had

determined to do at the Sea of Suf. And once again, Yahweh, in the person of Yeshua, forms a corridor through which the Jews are able to escape. The Mount of Olives parts to the north and to the south, walls of stone and dirt forming a corridor through which the Jews are able to escape, while Yeshua stands in the gap between them and their enemies, whom he destroys (Revelation 14-20). It's a repeat of the Sea of Suf!

Conclusion

Great escapes are frequently pioneered by Yahweh.

Yahweh or Yeshua always stands between his people and their adversaries. The Sea of Suf and Mount of Olives vividly portray this reality. Yahweh or Yeshua always goes before his people to lead them into the promised land.

The entry into the promised land through the Jordan River vividly portrays this reality. Yeshua has also gone before us and has crossed the river of death into life. The entry into life through the resurrection vividly portrays this reality.

Will you let Yahweh and / or Yeshua be your guide and protector, will you let him resurrect you to eternal life?

The Closed Doors, Hidings, Or Concealments

Those who hope in The Rapture are often attacked for looking for the hiding away from calamity. This, some say, is pure fantasy. But the scriptures say that this hope is no fantasy at all, but reality – those who are called up in the Rapture will be hidden away, concealed in the secret places during the time of Yahweh’s wrath.

Saved From / Kept From Wrath

1 Thessalonians 5:9 – *“Yahweh did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Yeshua Ha’Mashiach.”*

Revelation 3:10 – *“Yahweh will keep the Bride of Yeshua from the hour of testing that will come upon all the Earth.”*

The Hebrew word often translated saved or delivered is *malat* [H4422] which means: to escape, to slip away; specifically to deliver, release or rescue. In the Greek, it is often the word *ekpheugō* [G1628], or *sōtēria* [G4991].

Numerous examples are noted in scripture of righteous people being delivered from calamity or destruction while the unrighteous or evil are punished: Noah is delivered from/through the flood (Genesis 6); Lot is rescued from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:25-19:29); and Rahab is rescued by the Jews when Jericho is overthrown (Joshua 6:22-23, Hebrews 11:31); whereas the unrighteous are kept under punishment for the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:9).

This separation of righteous and unrighteous is clearly stated in the book of Matthew: the good fish are separated from the bad fish in the net; the wheat is separated from the tares at the harvest; the five wise and five foolish bridesmaids are separated at the door; the sheep are separated from the goats; the profitable servants are separated from the unprofitable servants; and those with wedding garments are separated from those who have none.

Gathered Together (Caught Up) and Hidden

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *“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.”*

Likewise, the image of being hidden behind closed doors for the righteous during Yahweh’s wrath is a reality clearly stated in scripture:

- The humble of the Earth will be hidden in the day of Yahweh’s (the LORD’s) anger (Zephaniah 2:1-2).
- Job begs that Yahweh would hide him (in Sheol), that Yahweh would conceal Him until his wrath returns to himself, that Yahweh would set a limit for him and remember him (Job 14:13).
- In the day of trouble we will be concealed in Yahweh’s tabernacle, in the secret place of his tent, lifted up on a rock (Psalm 27:5).
- Yahweh has vanquished his foes. His beloved is arraigned in festal clothing and has entered her chamber (Psalm 45).
- When the godly succeed, everyone is glad. When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding (Proverbs 28:12).
- Yahweh tells his people to go into their rooms and shut the doors.

His people are to hide in their rooms for a short time until Yahweh's anger is finished (Isaiah 26:20).

- Everyone who calls on the name of Yeshua will be saved. In both Mount Zion and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape. Among the survivors will be those whom Yahweh calls (Joel 2:32).

Yahweh's beloved is arraigned in festal clothing and has entered her chamber (Psalm 45:12-14); Yahweh's people hide in their rooms for a short time until his anger is finished (Isaiah 26:20); Yahweh's people are concealed in his tabernacle, in the secret place (Psalm 27:5); those who are ready go with him into the wedding feast; and the door is shut (Matthew 25:1-13).

Gone And Not To Be Found

My favorite is in the Song of Songs:

Song of Songs 2:10-14 – *“My beloved speaks and says to me: ‘Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the Earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away. Hide in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff!’ .”*

Song of Songs 2:14 – *“Come away and hide in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff . . .”*

Once the Bride is arises note that her beloved has taken her away and she is hidden in the secret places. The words “secret places” comes from the Hebrew word sathar [H5641] which means to be concealed, hidden, absent in a secret place. Note that this matches Isaiah 26:20 in which Yahweh tells his people to go into their rooms and shut the doors, to hide in their rooms for a short time until his anger is finished.

Song of Songs 6:12 – *“Before I was even aware, I was suddenly riding in the royal chariot with my beloved prince . . .”*

Read verse 6:12, and then compare it to Paul’s statements that we will be changed in an instant (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). Now note the parallel of suddenly riding in her beloved’s chariot with the gathering up in the clouds to meet Yeshua, our beloved prince and bridegroom (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Song of Songs 6:13 – *“Return, return, O maid of Shulam! Return, return, that we may look upon you . . .”*

Read verse 6:13, and then note that once the maid of Shulam is gone, others want her back! The Older Covenant maid represents the Newer Covenant Bride of Yeshua! The maid is taken by her bridegroom, a representation of Yeshua, into his chariot - a direct Older Covenant parallel with the Newer Covenant rapture.

Song of Songs 7:1 – *“Come back, come back, girl from Shulam! Come back to where we can see you!”*

Read verse 7:1, and then note that many look for her, wanting her back, but she cannot be found – her beloved has taken her away and hidden her in the secret places, just as the Bride of Yeshua will be hidden in Heaven during the Tribulation Period (Matthew 25:1-13, Revelation 3:10).

Newer Covenant Parallels

- Those who have died will be raised to live forever, and we will all be changed in an instant (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
- We are gathered up in the clouds to meet Yeshua and will be with him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- Those who are ready go in with him to the wedding feast; and the door is shut (Matthew 25:1-13)
- Yahweh and Yeshua will keep the Church from the hour of testing that will come upon all the Earth (Revelation 3:10)

Conclusion

Psalm 27:5 - *“In the time of trouble he will hide me in his tabernacle: in the secret place of his tent.”*

Scripture is very clear that the Bride of Yeshua will be taken away before the wrath of Yahweh is poured out and will be hidden in the secret places - the door will be shut and no one else can enter.

This taking away may happen in an instant - so fast that it may happen before she will be even be aware, but more likely will take a bit of time and will be very well witnessed by many.

After the rapture, she will be looked for, but cannot be found. When Yeshua calls his Bride to *“Come up here”* there will be no further delay.

These images are a perfect representation of the Rapture Concealment, which will take place before the Tribulation period, exactly as portrayed by the above scriptures.

The Righteous Are Spared

1 Thessalonians 5:9 – *“Yahweh did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Yeshua Ha’Mashiach.”*

Luke 21:36 – *“But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

Yeshua does not desire for the Church/Bride of Christ to endure the tribulation, but does expect His bride to be in prayer and to petition him that they will be raptured prior to the tribulation. We are to pray to escape all these things.

John 5:24 – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes him who sent me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*

Those who have placed their trust in Yeshua do not come into judgment, but are spared and given eternal life.

Romans 5:9 – *“Much more then, having now been justified by Yeshua’s blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of Yahweh through Him.”*

Yeshua will save us from Yahweh’s wrath by his blood.

Revelation 3:10 – *“Because you kept my command to endure, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, which is to come on the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”*

Yeshua and Yahweh clearly protect the Church/Bride of Christ from enduring the tribulation. Therefore, one must conclude that Yeshua's bride will be raptured prior to the tribulation.

Scripture tells us that the righteous are not condemned to wrath, but are spared, whereas the unrighteous are punished. It tells us that as it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so it will be in the day when Yeshua returns.

So, how was it in the days of Noah and Lot?

- Noah escaped the flood: *“It was by faith that Noah heard God’s warnings about things he could not yet see. He obeyed God and built a large boat to save his family. By his faith, Noah showed that the world was wrong, and he became one of those who are made right with God through faith.”* (Hebrews 11:7)
- Lot escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and brimstone: *“So God saved Lot’s life, but he destroyed the city where Lot had lived.”* (Genesis 18:25-19:29)

And in other days?

- Yahweh loved Enoch so much he spared him the experience of an early death (Genesis 5:22-24)
- The Hebrews escaped from death (Exodus 12:23)
- Yahweh loved Elijah so much he spared him the experience of an early death (2 Kings 2:11-14)
- Rahab escaped death when Jericho was overthrown (Hebrews 11:31)

- The Godly are saved (2 Peter 2:9)
- There are those who will escape during the period of tribulation by heading to or living in Jordan (Luke 21:21 and Daniel 11:41)
- The righteous will escape the famines and death that will be brought against a land that sins against Yahweh (Ezekiel 14:13-14)
- The peculiar person who becomes Yahweh's own possession is a person who is spared from Yahweh's wrath (Malachi 3:17)
- There are 144,000 that escape the Antichrist (Revelation 7:3)

The Book of Matthew is a study in Separation of the Righteous and the Unrighteous:

- The good fish and bad fish are separated from the net
- The wheat is separated from the tares at the harvest
- The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids are separated at the door
- Those with wedding garments are separated from those who have none
- The sheep are separated from the goats
- The profitable servants are separated from the unprofitable servants
- One worker is taken, the other left

The Book of Luke

- Even Luke states that one sleeper in bed is taken, the other left

And the ungodly or unrighteous?

- The unrighteous are kept under punishment for the day of Yahweh's judgment (2 Peter 2:9)

Raptured Folks Are Not On Earth During The Tribulation

- The tribulation is a time to bring forth a remnant from within Israel not from within the Church or the Bride of Yeshua (Isaiah 1:9)
- The tribulation is a time to destroy sinners from the Earth (Isaiah 13:9)
- The tribulation is a time of Jacob’s trouble, not a time of judging the Church (Jeremiah 30:7)
- Yahweh reserves his wrath for his enemies (Nahum 1 & 2)
- We are gathered together before the decree takes effect and the Day of Wrath is unleashed (Zephaniah 1:14-2:2)

Conclusion

Scripture is replete with references to the coming period of tribulation and the protection of the righteous during that time.

One can say that the righteous are gathered together.

One can say that the righteous escape the wrath to come.

One can say that the righteous are in their rooms and the door is shut.

One can say that the righteous are hidden away in secret places.

One can say that the righteous are kept separate from the unrighteous.

One can say that the righteous are caught up.

No matter how you say it, it is just as simple to say:

The righteous “are going to be raptured!”

Need I say more ?

Section Commentary

The event at Mount Sinai was clearly a wedding ceremony. That the Hebrews were called to be Yahweh's bride is attested to in many scriptures. The noisy, joyous gathering at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19) is a picture, pattern, or type of the taking of the bride and the coming rapture celebration.

Rabbi Paul's writing in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 is a typical rabbinical teaching style called a Midrash. Paul takes the account of the Hebrew's exodus from Egypt and applies it to the future rapture of the bride, further cementing the parallels between the Older and Newer covenants.

The Older Covenant has many scriptures that point to The Rapture as a time of escape from Yahweh's wrath and a time of being hidden away.

Older Covenant scripture speaks to us about "gathering together" as the "great assembly" in many different places, and this is mirrored in the Newer Covenant.

Yahweh / Yeshua always stands between his people and their adversaries. The Sea of Suf and Mount of Olives vividly portray this reality. Yahweh / Yeshua always goes before his people to lead them into the promised land.

Those who are called up in the Rapture will be hidden away, concealed in the secret places during the time of Yahweh's wrath.

Those who have placed their trust in Yeshua do not come into judgment, but are spared and given eternal life.

Scripture is very clear that the Bride of Yeshua will be taken away before the wrath of Yahweh is poured out and will be hidden in the secret places - the door will be shut and no one else can enter.

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.

The First Interlude

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event

The prophetic nature of idioms, figures of speech, cultural sayings, and Hebraic expressions become very important when we try to determine what scripture has to say to us about the Resurrection, Rapture, and Imminent Return of Yeshua.

Days and hours, set appointments, redemption, festivals, gatherings to give thanks and praise, reading of the good news, being in Yeshua's presence. All these gathering together occasions sound like joyous occasions to me.

We escape floods, famine, walls falling down, the tribulation. All these 'great escape' occasions sound like joyous occasions to me. We are kept from the wrath about to engulf the Earth. We are invited to a wedding and hidden away when the door is shut. We are given festal clothing. All these escapes, hiding, and concealment occasions sound like joyous occasions to me.

Not having to experience Yahweh and Yeshua's wrath and to be gathered together with Yahweh, Yeshua, the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, and all who have placed their trust in Yeshua as their Lord and Savior prior to the tribulation sounds like a joyous, heartwarming, glorious occasion to me.

What does it sound like to you?

Pictures Of The Rapture



The Rapture Patterns – Yahweh’s H’s, R’s, and D’s

Psalm 104:19 – *“He made the moon for the seasons; The sun knows the place of its setting.”*

Isaiah 45:18 – *“Yahweh formed the Earth and made it; he established it; he created it not a chaos . . .”*

1 Corinthians 14:33-40 – *“Yahweh is not the author of disorder or chaos . . . therefore all things should be done decently and in order.”*

All that Yahweh has made and ordained has a pattern. The sun, moon, and stars follow the courses he has established. The Earth orbits the sun. The seed is planted, grows, and produces more seed. Order, arrangement, and patterns are all part of Yahweh’s way of doing things – he is not the god of chaos.

One of those patterns I’ve discovered is the pattern of Harpazo, Heralding, and Havoc; Rapture, Revelation, and Ruination; or if you prefer, Departure, Dialog, and Destruction, all of which describe the Rapture before the Tribulation Period.

Pattern One: Enoch

Genesis 5:24 – *“Enoch walked with Yahweh; and he was not, for Yahweh took him.”*

Enoch represents the Bride of Yeshua who is raptured to Heaven to be with Yahweh before disaster strikes. Methuselah and Lamech represent those who continue to minister to the people before the time of disaster,

the time of the flood. The people who perish in the flood represent those who refuse to listen to Yahweh's warnings. Noah represents the remnant Jews who are protected during the time of the disaster, during the time of the Tribulation.

The Pattern:

- **Harpazo/Rapture/Departure:** Enoch after witnessing for over 300 years is raptured out – he is taken from Earth - removed from coming disaster.
- **Heralding/Revelation/Dialogue:** Other individuals continue to minister to the people and warn of coming disaster.
- **Havoc/Ruination/Destruction:** The flood begins, but Noah is protected during the disaster period.

Pattern Two: Elijah

2 Kings 2:11 – *“Elijah went up by a whirlwind to Heaven.”*

Elijah represents the Bride of Yeshua who is raptured to Heaven to be with Yahweh before disaster strikes. Elisha represents those who continue to minister to the people before the time of disaster - the time of judgment against Israel. The people of both Northern Israel and Southern Judah who are forcibly removed represent those who refuse to listen to Yahweh's warnings and who suffer or perish during the time of judgment. The Jews who willingly traveled to Babylon represent the remnant who are protected during the time of the Tribulation.

The Pattern:

- **Harpazo/Rapture/Departure:** Elijah witnesses for years then is raptured out - taken from Earth - removed from the coming disaster.

- **Heralding/Revelation/Dialogue:** Elisha and others continue to minister to the people and warn of coming disaster.
- **Havoc/Ruination/Destruction:** The destruction of both Northern Israel and Southern Judah begins, but many Jews are protected during the disaster period by traveling to Babylon.

Pattern Three: Yeshua

Mark 16:19 – *“So then, after he had spoken to them, the Lord Yeshua was taken up into heaven and sat at the right hand of Yahweh.”*

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

Acts 1:9 – *“And when Yeshua had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”*

Yeshua is raptured, the disciples continue to minister to the people for around 40 years and warn of coming disaster, then the Temple is destroyed, but many believers are protected during the disaster period by traveling to other lands and nations.

The Pattern:

- **Harpazo/ Rapture/Departure:** Yeshua and the Holy Ones who came out of the graves witness for forty days after his resurrection then Yeshua is raptured out - taken from the Earth - removed from the coming disaster.
- **Heralding/Revelation/Dialogue:** Peter, the Apostles and others continue to minister to the people and warn of coming disaster.
- **Havoc/Ruination/Destruction:** The destruction of the temple takes place in 70AD and the Jews are scattered to all nations of the earth,

but many believers are protected during the disaster period by traveling to other lands and nations before the Temple falls.

Pattern Four: The Bride of Yeshua

2 Thessalonians 2:3 –*“Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the departure comes first.”*

The rapture the Bride of Yeshua takes place first, then the lawless one, or man of lawlessness, is revealed. The 144,000 witnesses, Angels in the sky, and the Two witnesses continue to minister and finally The Wrath of Yahweh is fully poured out upon the unbelieving during the time of Great Tribulation.

The Pattern:

- **Harpazo/ Rapture/Departure:** The Bride of Yeshua is raptured.
- **Heralding/Revelation/Dialogue:** The Bride herself may be given forty days to witness just as Yeshua and the Holy Ones did before the lawless one, or man of lawlessness, is revealed. The Two Witnesses of Revelation, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the angels in mid-heaven all continue to minister to the people and warn of coming disaster.
- **Havoc/Ruination/Destruction:** • The Great and Terrible day begins, but the remnant Jews who escape to the mountains are protected during the remainder of the disaster period.

Pattern Five: The Moedim

Numbers 10:1-ff –*“Blow the trumpets, gather together, and be saved from your enemies.”* (Synopsis)

The moed of Yom Teruah represents the day of the resurrection of the righteous dead and the taking up of the living righteous, the day of hiding and concealment before the time of tribulation (The Rapture). Many will perish or suffer in the tribulation period and represent those who refused to listen to Yahweh's warnings before the rapture took place. Yom Kippurim represents the Tribulation period and time of protection for those who are willing to accept it. The people who escape to the mountains when the abomination of desolation is revealed represent the remnant who are protected during the remaining time of the Tribulation.

The Pattern:

- **Harpazo/Rapture/Departure:** Yom Teruah (the Feast of Trumpets) is the first moedim that is yet to be fulfilled. The dead are raised and the Bride of Yeshua is raptured (1 Corinthians 15:52, 1 & 2 Thessalonians) - removed from the coming disaster - the Day of Yahweh, Daniel's Seventieth Week, the Time Of Jacob's Trouble, the seven years of tribulation.
- **Heralding/Revelation/Dialogue:** The Two Witnesses (Revelation 2), the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7), and the angel in mid-heaven (Revelation 8) all continue to minister to the people and warn of coming disaster.
- **Havoc/Ruination/Destruction:** Yom Kippurim is the second moedim that is yet to be fulfilled. The Great and Terrible day begins, but a remnant are protected during the remainder of the disaster period.

Pattern Six: Paul's Writings

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – *“The Day of Yahweh will not come unless the departure comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed.”*

The actual Greek is thus: apostasia erchomai proton [G646 G2064 G4413]. Proton means: the first in time or place in a succession of things or persons. The literal English translation reads: departure comes first.

The Pattern:

- **Harpazo/Rapture/Departure:** The departure is first in the series of events.
- **Heralding/Revelation/Dialogue:** The lawless one revealed is the second in the series of events.
- **Havoc/Ruination/Destruction:** Lastly, the Day of Yahweh begins.

Pattern Seven: The Pattern of Forty

Forty is a key number in scripture. The Hebrew slaves took forty years between their “resurrection” from the graves of Egypt to get “raptured” to the promised land. This first mention of forty after “resurrection” sets the pattern. Yeshua (and the Holy Ones) spent forty days witnessing after his resurrection before he was raptured (second mention of forty). So we have a pattern of forty connected to resurrection, then rapture.

The Patterns Thus Far Hold True

The rapture patterns of scripture set the stage for future similar events. On this there is much agreement.

- The Pattern Of Bodily Raptures has thus far held true and we are told it will hold true for the Two Witnesses of Revelation – it will undoubtedly hold true for other similar future events.
- The Pattern Of Forty has thus far held true – it will undoubtedly hold true for similar future events.

Pattern Eight: The Pattern of the Jewish Bride

A Jewish Wedding Ceremony is full of significant rituals and is a perfect prophetic parallel of the coming of Yeshua to take his church to be his Bride, a dress rehearsal for The Rapture. The patterns of leaving the father’s home to find a bride, paying the bride price, and returning to build an addition have thus far all held true. When the Jewish Father tells his son to go get his bride, the bridegroom and his friends go to a place near her home and then carry her from her house to his in full view of all the neighbors who have been awakened by their shouting and blowing of the shofars and who are now watching the procession.

- It is a safe bet to believe that those who are resurrected or still living in Yeshua when our Heavenly Father gives Yeshua permission to go get his bride will also have a time of witnessing before their rapture, shall we say ----- forty days? – that’s what the Patterns of Forty indicate!
- It is a safe bet to believe that when Yahweh gives Yeshua permission to go get his bride his Bride will also be clearly visible as they are taken up – that’s what both the Pattern of Bodily Raptures and the Pattern of The Jewish Bride indicate!

I Have A Question: Why The Disconnect?

Hosea 12:10 – *“I have spoken to the prophets; it was I who gave vision after vision; through the prophets I gave examples to show what it would all be like.”*

Romans 15:4 – *“It is written that 'Everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction' ...so that we may have hope.”*

1 Corinthians 10:11 – *“These things happened to them as patterns, and they were written down as a warning to us who are living in the end of the ages.”*

The patterns hold true throughout history, both past and future. Scripture interprets scripture and says: x and y are given as examples. The patterns indicate that past patterns will be similar in the future. So, then, why do so many teach that the patterns do not apply to the rapture of the Bride of Yeshua? Why the disconnect? Can you give me an answer to this conundrum?

Parallels and patterns are one of the methods that Yahweh uses to teach us, as stated in both the Romans and Corinthians passages above. Patterns set the stage for future similar events, and these initial patterns are essential for understanding Yahweh’s message. With this statement scholars, teachers, pastors, and lay people are in agreement and there is little to no disagreement, no disconnect, *except when it comes to the rapture patterns.*

This failure to apply the same standard to all the above patterns is impossible for me to understand! If the patterns of Abraham, Isaac, Yeshua; Joseph and Yeshua; Joshua and Yeshua; Ruth, Boaz, and Yeshua; The Bronze Serpent; Melchizedek; Destruction; and Forty all hold true, then how dare we then dismiss the patterns of Bodily Raptures and the Jewish Bride and teach that these patterns will not hold true as well? Why the disconnect? Can you give me an answer to this conundrum? Is Yahweh schizophrenic? I think not.

Conclusion

1 Thessalonians 5:4-9 – *“But you, fellow believer in Yeshua, are not in darkness, that the Day of Yahweh should overtake you as a thief . . . For Yahweh has not appointed you to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Yeshua Ha’Mashiach.”*

Yahweh is not a god of disorder and chaos, but a god of order and organization. He establishes a pattern and in him there is no change (Psalm 55:19). All that Yahweh has made and ordained has a pattern. The sun, moon, and stars follow the courses he has established. The Earth orbits the sun. The seed is planted, grows, and produces more seed. The patterns of rapture before tribulation – in other words, a pre-tribulation rapture – is another pattern that can be clearly seen throughout scripture.

Order, arrangement, and patterns are all part of Yahweh’s way of doing things. Yahweh is consistent, orderly, unchanging, and the scriptures display a consistent pattern of rapture before tribulation - a pre-

tribulation rapture. The pattern is Harpazo, Heraldng, and Havoc; the pattern is Rapture, Revelation, and Ruination; or if you prefer, the pattern is Departure, Dialogue, and Destruction.

This pattern is consistent for Enoch, Elijah, Yeshua, the Bride of Yeshua, and the Moedim. The rapture happens first, a time of continued warning ensues, then the disaster strikes.

And just what does that little word, salvation [soteria G4991] mean? It means deliverance from! Not deliverance through, not deliverance in, but deliverance from! There is NO hope in looking for the coming of Satan and his Antichrist. There is NO hope looking for rape, robbery, ruin, and murder -- and that is what Satan and the lawless one brings. Stop looking for this person. Start looking instead for Yeshua who brings salvation, who brings deliverance **from, or out of** these things.

The 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.

Raptured, Protected, or Left Behind Representatives

Are there any patterns of raptures or protection of individuals in the Older Covenant? Let's see. In the Older Covenant we have the following pictures or patterns: Two men disappeared while others watched. Two men and their families were hidden away while everyone else died. One man died and was buried, but nobody knew where. These I believe are prophetic patterns of the rapture, protected, or left behind as described in the Newer Covenant.

Enoch

Genesis 5:22-24 – *“Enoch walked with Yahweh after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Therefore all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with Yahweh, and he was not, for Yahweh took him.”*

Enoch walked with Yahweh 300 more years after Methuselah was born, then was taken to Heaven. Enoch's translation or departure was witnessed by others as it happened. Enoch represents those who are translated in the twinkling of an eye and then caught up alive in The Rapture.

Newer Covenant Parallel

Hebrews 11:15 – *“By faith Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death, and he was not found, because Yahweh had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased Yahweh.”*

Jude tells us that Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam.

Similarly, we are in the seventh millennium from Adam, so we can know the season, but not the day and hour.

Elijah

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!’.”*

Twice, scripture tells us that the day of Elijah’s departure, translation, or rapture, was known to the sons of the prophets (2 Kings 2, verses 3 and 5). 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.

Elijah also represents those who are caught up alive in The Rapture.

Noah

Genesis 7:1-10 – *“Noah and his family entered the ark, and seven days later the rains began.”*

When the flood came, Noah and his family were safely kept out of the flood on the ark. Throughout his life prior to the flood Methuselah was alive. Seven days after his death, the flood began.

Noah represents those who are saved from death during the tribulation period, and those who died represent the unbelievers who perish.

Lot

Luke 17:26-29 – *“It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed as it was in the days of Noah and Lot.”*

Lot is removed to the town of Zoar, a place of safety while Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed. Yeshua tells us that the rapture will occur at or just before a time when life will be as it was in the days of Noah and Lot.

Newer Covenant Parallel

Acts 1:9-11 – *“After Yeshua had said these things, he was lifted up while they were looking on, 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, or rapture, 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! Again, like Enoch and Elijah, Yeshua was witnessed as he rose, and represents those who are raptured before a time of tribulation.

Moses

Deuteronomy 34:5-6 – *“Moses was buried by Yahweh and no man knows where his grave is today.”*

Moses represents those who have died in Yeshua, but whose bodies can't be found - perhaps those buried at sea, or the missing in action in a war.

Newer Covenant Parallel

According to the Gospels, we know that Moses and Elijah are now alive as they were seen by Peter and others talking to Yeshua. Another Newer Covenant picture is found in Matthew 27:52-53 – the saints who slept (had died) who were seen walking the streets; raised from the dead and bodies were missing.

Conclusion

In the Older Covenant we have the following pictures or patterns which are prophetic patterns of the raptured, protected, or left behind:

- Two men disappeared while others watched.
- Two men and their families were hidden away while everyone else died.
- One man died and was buried, but nobody knew where.

The Rapture Horses

Scripture is filled with narratives about horses and chariots, but few have ever realized that horses may play an integral part in The Rapture of the Bride of Yeshua. Other books mentioned in the scriptures also speak of horses and their part in a person's rapture. Both scripture and the other books clearly show that each of the raptures were witnessed by others. Let's take a look at these raptures accompanied by horses:

Elijah and The Fiery Horses

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.”*

When Elijah was raptured (taken up) in a whirlwind he ascended into Heaven in the accompaniment of horses of fire! After visiting two schools of prophets, Elisha followed Elijah across the Jordan and then watched him enter the chariot and ascend into Heaven while fifty of the prophets watched from afar. [Elisha and fifty others were witnesses to this rapture accompanied by horses of fire.](#)



Yeshua and His White Horse

Acts 1:10-11a – *“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?’”*

Luke 24:51 agrees, saying: *“And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.”*

Acts 1:11b – *“Yeshua will return in exactly the same way as you have watched him ascend into Heaven.”*

When Yeshua was raptured, he rode a white horse. Proverbs 21:31 tells us that *“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to Yahweh.”* Revelation 19:11 tells us that Yeshua returns on a white horse to judge and wage war, and Acts 1:11b tells us he ascended the same way.

Therefore, there can be absolutely no doubt that Yeshua was raptured on the back of a horse - most likely the same white horse which will carry him back at his second coming. [The apostles were witnesses to his rapture accompanied by his white horse.](#)



The Bride of Yeshua and Her White Horses

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.”*

Revelation 19:14 – *“The armies which are in Heaven followed Yeshua on white horses . . .”*

Scripture tells us that there is an army of people that follows Yeshua, all of whom are riding on white horses, clothed in fine white, clean, and pure linen at his return. Amongst these people is the Bride of Yeshua who had been previously raptured In The Body.

Since the Bride meets Yeshua in the air, and returns in the air on white horses, it is safe to envision that when they are raptured they will be accompanied by horses, just as were Enoch, Elijah, and Yeshua. **No doubt the people who are the Bride of Yeshua will be watched, too, as they ascend on their white horses.**



Enoch and The Flying Horse

Genesis 5:24 – *“Enoch walked with Yahweh; and he was not, for Yahweh took him.”*

Enoch 81:5-6 – *“Testify to all your children; and in the second year the seven holy ones will take you from their midst.”*

Jasher 3:36 – *“Enoch ascended into Heaven in a whirlwind with horses and chariots of fire.”*

While scripture does not specifically tell us how Enoch was raptured, we know from Genesis 5:24 that he was raptured (taken) by Yahweh. We also know from the Book of Enoch 81:5-6 that Enoch was taken from amongst his children. Jasher 3:34 tells us that some of the king’s men remained with Enoch when he went to the place where he was to be raptured, Jasher 3:27 tells us that the horse paced in the air, and Jasher 3:36 tells us that Enoch was raptured in a whirlwind in the accompaniment of horses and chariots of fire! **Enoch’s children and the king’s men were witnesses to his rapture accompanied by horses of fire.**



Conclusion

Enoch was the first to be raptured, and that event set the pattern for all future raptures in scripture - all involve horses. Enoch was raptured in a whirlwind in the accompaniment of chariots and horses of fire.

Elijah was the second to be raptured in a whirlwind in the accompaniment of chariots and horses of fire.

Yeshua was raptured by a white horse. No doubt the Bride of Yeshua will be raptured by white horses as well.

Enoch, Elijah, and Yeshua were witnessed as they were raptured. No doubt so will be the Bride.

How exciting - I sincerely hope and pray that you are ready to meet your white horse and be raptured to be forever with Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha'Kodesh - I am!

The Rapture Bride

The Book of Revelation gives a clear picture of events to come, their sequence, and whether or not the Bride of Yeshua is in Heaven during this period of time.

The Sequence of Events

Revelation 1:19 – *“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter . . .”*

Chapter 1:1-19 – What John has seen:

John sees Yeshua glorified in Heaven. He is the alpha-omega, the aleph-tay, the First and the Last, the Almighty, the one who stands in the midst of the seven lampstands and who holds the seven stars.

Chapters 1:20 to 3:22 – What John sees that are currently present:

Johns also sees the current situation which spans the time between Shavuot (Pentecost) and The Rapture.

There are nineteen mentions of the Church in the first three chapters, and numerous mentions of what the Spirit has to say to the Churches, so the Church is clearly present during this time period. Chapter three ends with the Church on Earth.

Chapters 4 thru 22 – What John sees next are the things that will take place thereafter:

Revelation 4:1 – *“Come up here, and I will show you the things which must happen after this.”*

Chapter four begins with the Church in Heaven, and John now sees what happens after the door in Heaven is opened. From this point on, until chapter nineteen, there is not one single mention of the Church on Earth.

The Spirit

Revelation 3:22 – *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Revelation 4:5 – *“Out of the throne proceed flashes of lightning, sounds, and peals of thunder. There were seven lamps of fire burning before his throne, which are the seven Spirits of Yahweh.”*

In Revelation 1:4 the sevenfold Spirit of God is before his throne, and in Chapters two and three the Spirit is said to be speaking to the churches, which are still on earth at that point. In Revelation 4:5 the sevenfold Spirit of God is seen now again in front of the throne in Heaven. In Revelation 5:6 the sevenfold Spirit of God is sent out into all the earth, and in Revelation 14:13 the Spirit is once again seen in Heaven. In Revelation 22:17 the Spirit says *“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Let anyone who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let anyone who is thirsty come — let anyone who wishes, take the water of life free of charge.”*

The Parallels

The Sounds

Revelation 4:1 – *“I looked, and behold, a door standing open in Heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here’.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *“Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of Yahweh, and the dead in Yeshua will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with the resurrected dead. . .”*

Both Thessalonians and Revelation mention a voice, and a trumpet. Both the voice and the trumpet are calling the Church to come up to Heaven!

The Changes

Revelation 4:1 – *“Immediately I was in the Spirit . . .”*

1 Corinthians 15:52 – *“In a moment . . . the dead will be raised imperishable, and will be changed.”*

In both Corinthians and Revelation an immediate change takes place. John says he is no longer in the body, but in the spirit. Paul says we change from perishable to imperishable.

The Bride of Yeshua in Heaven

The Open Door

Revelation 4:1 – *“I looked, and behold, a door standing open in Heaven.”*

Revelation 19:11-14 – *“I saw Heaven opened and beheld Yeshua sitting on a white horse . . . and his bride following him on white horses.”*

The door into Heaven is open so that we can see, through John’s eyes, what is going to happen there. Only once more will this door open, and that is to allow Yeshua and his Bride to return to the Earth at the final day of the tribulation. In chapter four, the door opens and the Bride goes up. In chapter nineteen, the door opens and the bridegroom and bride come back down! **The Believer, Bride, or Church, therefore, is in Heaven at this point in time.**

The Crowns

2 Timothy 4:8 – *“There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which Yeshua will award to me.”*

James 1:12 – *“The blessed man will receive the crown of life which Yeshua promised to those who love him.”*

1 Peter 5:4 – *“When Yeshua appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”*

Revelation 4:4 – *“Around the throne I saw twenty-four elders with crowns on their heads.”*

Revelation 4:10-11 – *“The twenty-four elders will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are you, Yeshua, our Lord and our*

God, to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and because of your will they existed, and were created'."

Crowns are given as rewards for faithful service by Yeshua. Once the door has been opened, we see twenty-four elders around the throne wearing these crowns, and later casting them at Yeshua's feet. Only those who belong to the Bride of Yeshua are given these crowns. The twenty-four elders, therefore, represent the whole Bride, the Church. [The Believer, Bride, or Church, therefore, is in Heaven at this point in time.](#)

The Clothing

Revelation 3:5 – *“He who overcomes will be clothed in white clothing.”*

Revelation 4:4 – *“The twenty-four elders were clothed in white.”*

Revelation 19:14 – *“The armies of Heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Yeshua.”*

The overcomer is clothed in white. The twenty-four elders are clothed in white. The armies following Yeshua are clothed in white. The overcomers and the elders and the armies are the same people - the Bride of Yeshua. And who is the overcomer? The overcomer is the one who is a child of Yahweh, the one who has accepted Yeshua as their Lord and Savior. The ones who have become the Bride of Yeshua – the Church! [The Believer, Bride, or Church, therefore, is in Heaven at this point in time.](#)

The Praises

Revelation 5:8-10 – *“The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb and sang a new song.”*

Revelation 5:8-10 – *“You have redeemed for Yahweh with your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”*

The elders sing a new song, verifying that the redeemed whom Yeshua has purchased are present and accounted for and are the kingdom of priests and kings of scripture.

Angels aren't redeemed. Unbelievers aren't redeemed. Only those who accept Yeshua as their Lord and Savior.

The redeemed are the Bride of Yeshua – the Church!

The Believer, Bride, or Church, therefore, is in Heaven at this point in time.

Conclusion

Revelation 1:19 – *“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter . . .”*

The Bride of Yeshua, the Church, the Overcomer is clearly in Heaven during the period of time described as that which will happen hereafter.

The door has opened, the Bride has been raptured, and the tribulation begins.

The Bride has been raptured so that she does not have to suffer when Yahweh’s wrath is poured out.

Only those who have rejected Yeshua as their Lord and Savior will suffer Yahweh’s wrath.

The Believer, Bride, or Church, therefore, is in Heaven at this point in time.

The Rapture Crown

1 Corinthians 9:24 – *“In a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the crown.”*

There are five crowns mentioned in scripture:

- The **Incorruptible Crown**: the crown of self control and victory in the Christian life (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- The **Crown of Rejoicing**: the crown of evangelism and soul winning (Philippians 4:1)
- The **Crown of Righteousness**: the crown of those who look longingly for Yeshua’s appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)
- The **Crown of Glory**: the crown of those who faithfully oversee the flock as pastors, elders, leaders (1 Peter 5:2-4)
- The **Crown of Life**: the crown of endurance through trials and persecutions for the sake of Yeshua (James 1:12)

It is the third crown, the **Crown of Righteousness** that we examine today.

The Rapture Crown

2 Timothy 4:8 – *“From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which Yeshua, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

Scripture calls this the Crown of Righteousness. I call it the Rapture Crown! This crown is the easiest crown of all to win – no winning

souls, no endurance needed, no pasturing, no victory over sins – just look longingly for the return of Yeshua in the clouds! Sound simple, right? Let's find out:

Known Facts

Scripture tells us that:

- Yeshua is coming will come and will not delay (Hebrews 10:37),
- Yeshua will appear a second time to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him (Hebrews 9:28),
- Yeshua is not slow in returning (2 Peter 3:8-10),
- Yeshua is standing at the door (James 5:7-9),
- Yeshua will judge everyone and convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts when he returns (Jude 1:14-15)
- Yeshua is coming soon (Revelation 22:12-13, 22:20-21).

The Searchers

Scripture also has a lot to say about the searchers:

- The searchers eagerly wait for Yeshua Ha'Mashiach to be revealed (1 Corinthians 1:7),
- The searchers eagerly await a Savior from heaven (Philippians 3:20),
- The searchers take joy in Yeshua's presence when he comes (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20),
- The searchers Strengthen and encourage each other until he comes (1 Thessalonians 3:13, Hebrews 10:25),
- The searchers look longingly for the return of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach (2 Timothy 4:8),

- The searchers prepare their minds and fully hope for Yeshua's revealing (1 Peter 1:13),
- The searchers rejoice in their present suffering until he is revealed. (1 Peter 4:13),
- The searchers will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away when Yeshua returns (1 Peter 5:4),
- The searchers wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach (Titus 2:13),
- The searchers are confident and unashamed before him at his coming (1 John 2:28)
- The searchers purify themselves in preparation for his appearing (1 John 3:2-3)

Conclusion

The Rapture Crown, called the Crown of Righteousness by Paul, is only available for those who are longingly waiting for Yeshua to appear, for those who prepare and encourage one another until that time.

Only those who live in conformity to Yahweh's commands, who have their minds transformed, and who willingly follow Yeshua are amongst the many who are looking for his appearing.

These people are the searchers who:

- Preach the word; reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2),
- Endure afflictions and do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5),
- Fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

The rest of the people simply aren't interested, they are the scoffers who:

- Will not endure sound doctrine, listen to fables, and have itching ears (2 Timothy 4:3-4), and
- Grouse: "So, where is he? It's been ages and same old same old. Where is the promised coming?" (2 Peter 3:3).

I pray that you will be one of the searchers who receives the Rapture Crown – the Crown of Righteousness!

The Rapture Overcomer

Matthew 13:44 – *“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*

1 John 5:4-5 – *“For whatever is born of Yahweh overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Yeshua is his Son?”*

The person who overcomes is a person who has prevailed, risen above, triumphed over, or defeated the catastrophes, disasters, heartbreaks, misfortunes, and tragedies of this world.

This person has taken Yeshua into his heart – they are faithful and will never deny their faith in Yeshua. This person is charitable, watchful, prayerful, engaged in service to others, is anything but lukewarm, and has washed his robes in the righteousness of Yeshua.

The person who overcomes is a person who Yeshua has declared noteworthy, a person who he will call his own possession, or as the King James puts it: “a peculiar person” and will be rewarded eternal life in the times to come.

Those Peculiar People

Ephesians 1:13-14 – *“You were sealed with the Ruach Ha’Kodesh of promise, who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of Yahweh’s own possession, to the praise of his glory.”*

1 Peter 2:9 – *“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for Yahweh’s own possession; that you may proclaim the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

A person for Yahweh’s own possession is the same as a peculiar people in the KJV! In Hebrew the word translated own possession is cēgullah [H5459]. In Greek the word is peripoiēsis [G4047]. Both words mean: a possession, one’s own property, a valued property, a peculiar treasure or person.

The peculiar person who becomes Yahweh’s own possession is a person who has obeyed his voice and kept his covenants (Exodus 19:5). The peculiar person who becomes Yahweh’s own possession is a person who has been chosen (Deuteronomy 7:6, Deuteronomy 14:2, Psalm 135:4). The peculiar person who becomes Yahweh’s own possession is a person who is honored and praised above all nations (Deuteronomy 26:18-19). The peculiar person who becomes Yahweh’s own possession is a person who is spared from Yahweh’s wrath (Malachi 3:17). The peculiar person who becomes Yahweh’s own possession is a person who is zealous for good works (Titus 2:11-14).

Rewards For Those Who Overcome

Eternal Life

Revelation 2:7 – *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of Yahweh.”*

Revelation 2:11 – *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.”*

The overcomer receives eternal life, not eternal death and torment in the lake of fire.

Hidden Manna and a White Stone

Revelation 2:17 – *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.”*

The overcomer receives a white stone with their name inscribed upon it. The High Priest of the Older Covenant wore a breastplate with the names of the twelve tribes inscribed on twelve stones (Exodus 28:21). History records a Roman custom in which the champions of athletic games were awarded white stones with his name inscribed on it which gave him access to the victory banquet – hence the Biblical inscribes white stone gives the bearer entrance to the hidden manna at the eternal victory celebration in heaven!

Authority To Rule

Revelation 2:26 – *“He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.”*

Revelation 3:21 – *“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”*

The overcomer receives authority to rule as a regent of Yeshua over the nations and peoples of the millennial age. This person is a member of the Kingdom of Priests who reign upon the earth (Revelation 1:6 and 5:10). This person also receives authority to judge the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3).

Righteous Living In The Presence Of Yahweh

Revelation 3:5 – *“He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.”*

Revelation 3:12 – *“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God, and my new name.”*

The overcomer receives the right to be in the presence of Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha’Kodesh for all eternity. The veil between the holy and the most holy has been utterly removed. Never again will the overcomer be separated from God Almighty.

An Eternal Inheritance

Revelation 21:7 – *“He who overcomes will inherit all these things, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”*

The overcomer receives adoption into Yahweh’s family as a son or daughter, not a slave or servant. The overcomer inherits all that belongs to Yeshua (Luke 12:32, Romans 8:17, Acts 20:32, Galatians 4:7, James 2:5).

Conclusion

The overcomer is a chosen, peculiar person who Yahweh calls his own possession.

The overcomer has triumphed over the world through the blood of Yeshua.

The overcomer is faithful and will never deny their faith in Yeshua.

The overcomer is zealous for good works, not slothful.

The overcomer receives many rewards including eternal life in the times to come.

Other Rapture/Resurrection Images

Noah's Dove

The dove is let loose three times from Noah's Ark – Genesis 8:8-12. The first time the dove comes back with nothing in its beak. The second time it comes back with an olive branch. The third time it doesn't come back at all, and we are told that the sea had dried up.

The 'sea' is often an illustration of the Gentiles and the 'olive branch' a symbol of Israel. The 'dove' is a symbol of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, the Holy Spirit. Could it be that the reason the dove is gone is because the Church has been raptured, and the restraining influence of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh has also been removed (2 Thessalonians 3:6-7)?

When did the dove disappear? On the first day of the first month – on Yom Teruah – on the day the Dead in Yeshua rise first!

The Dead Rise to New Life

— **Isaiah 26:19-20** – *“Your people have died, but they will live again; their bodies will rise from death . . . the ground will give birth to the dead. My people, go into your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide in your rooms for a short time until Yahweh's anger is finished.”*

— **Job 19:25-26** – *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the Earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I will see Yeshua.”*

— **Daniel 12:1-3** – *“At that time Michael will arise, the great prince who has charge of your people. There will be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people will be delivered, every one whose name will be found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the Earth will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”*

Newer Covenant Parallel

— **1 Corinthians 15:53-54** – *“This corruptible body must put on incorruption, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this corruptible body will have put on incorruption, and this mortal body will have put on immortality, then will be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’.”*

Conclusion

The ‘sea’ is often an illustration of the Gentiles and the ‘olive branch’ a symbol of Israel. The ‘dove’ is a symbol of the Ruach Ha’Kodesh.

When did the dove disappear? On the first day of the first month – on Yom Teruah – on the day the Dead in Yeshua rise first.

Section Commentary

The Older Covenant has many scriptures that point to the rapture. Some scriptures point to an individual rapture or rapture of a specific person. Of those raptures, some are bodily raptures and others are raptures in the spirit.

Bodily raptures have several common elements and all involve horses and all involve witnesses.

Other bodily raptures feature a whirlwind in the accompaniment of chariots and horses of fire. Yeshua was raptured by a white horse. No doubt the Bride of Yeshua will be raptured by white horses as well, and may have many witnesses to this blessed event.

The raptured Church is clearly seen in Heaven in the Revelation passages. The sounds, the clothing, the crowns, and the twenty-four elders all point this out.

The rapture parallels, pictures, and types show a distinct progression or pattern: rapture, revelation, ruination. The pattern can also be described as: departure, depiction, destruction. Enoch, Noah, Elijah, and the Bride of Yeshua are all raptured first.

A time of continued warning ensues, then the disaster strikes.

Clearly the dead rise to life again, the risen are kept from the time of wrath, the parallels, patterns, pictures, and types show that the Rapture takes place before the Tribulation.

Let's continue our journey to 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.

Advance Notices

Who Knew

Can you name any Prophets who knew the day of their rapture according to the scriptures?

Hint

There are three prophets to choose from, but only one that scripture directly states that he knew.

Personal Advance Notices

Will there be a personal ‘Advance Notice’ on The Rapture for the Bride of Yeshua? Surely you jest. Didn’t Yeshua say of that “*day and hour no one knows*”? Yeshua did, indeed, say that, but in other scriptures, a definite pattern showing ‘Advance Notice’ of rapture-like events can be noticed.

Enoch

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. Did Enoch, perhaps, have ‘Advance Notice’ of when he would be taken? Scripture doesn’t specifically tell us. But the Book of Enoch does. Enoch had one full year of advance notice.

Methuselah

Scholars interpret Methuselah’s name to mean his death brings, specifically his death would bring the flood that would destroy the world. This definitely sounds like ‘Advance Notice’.

Noah

Throughout his life prior to the flood Methuselah was alive. Seven days after his death, the flood began. Could his death be considered ‘Advance Notice’ to Noah and those living at that time? Certainly the shutting of the door to the ark seven days before the flood would have been ‘Advance Notice’ to Noah and his family inside the ark!

Lot

Lot is removed to the town of Zoar, a place of safety while Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed. Could the angel’s warnings to him the eve before his departure to the mountain town of Zoar be considered ‘Advance Notice’? I say they do indeed and Lot had only hours of advance notice.

Elijah

Twice, scripture tells us that the day of Elijah’s departure, or rapture, was known to the sons of the prophets (2 Kings 2, verses 3 and 5). This definitely sounds like ‘Advance Notice’.

Yeshua

While Yeshua and his disciples were discussing the restoration of the kingdom, Yeshua was taken up into the clouds. In those days, there was no Facebook, Twitter, nor cell phone service! Is it possible that Yeshua knew when he would be taken up, and timed it so that his disciples would be there with him at the time?

Perhaps Yeshua had some ‘Advance Notice’ of this event. Scripture hints that this may be so. Both Moses and Elijah spoke about his “exodus” which he was to accomplish from Yerushalayim (Luke 9:30-31). Traditionally, this exodus has been interpreted to mean his death.

Luke 9:51 tells us: “*When the days were approaching for his ascension, he was determined to go to Yerushalayim.*” Perhaps this ascension [analempsis G354] is the greater exodus being discussed. Again, this definitely sounds like ‘Advance Notice’.

The Bride

Paul, after discussing the resurrection of the dead and subsequent rapture of the living states very clearly: “*You, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise . . .*” (1 Thessalonians 5:4). This also definitely sounds like ‘Advance Notice’ will be given.

Yahweh’s Promise of Advance Notice

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

Yahweh guarantees that the rapture, like many other events, will not happen without him first giving some form of advance notice.

Event Oriented Advance Notices

Birth Pangs

From the moment a woman conceives a nine month ‘Advance Notice’ is given that she is going to have a baby. Some women go months and not even realize they are pregnant, and in rare cases, not even until the baby is coming out!!! Some babies are born early without much warning, and in other cases are “overdue”.

No matter when the actual day and hour of the birth, all know the “season”. Yeshua links his next coming with birth pangs, and since the birth pangs appear to be increasing in both frequency and intensity, consider yourself, without doubt, to have been given ‘Advance Notice’ that the event is imminent — we are no longer in the initial phases!

The Exodus Out Of Egypt

Prior to their going to Egypt, Abraham was told that his descendants would spend four hundred years in bondage in Egypt (Genesis 14:13). At the end of those years, Moses appears, performs the ten plagues, then informs the Hebrew slaves that they will be taken out of Egypt in fourteen days (Exodus 12:1-13).

The Three Days

Numerous times before a gathering together, the people are commanded to cleanse themselves and prepare for the gathering. Two

notable instances of ‘Advance Notice’ occur in Older Covenant Scripture. In Exodus 19, the gathering at the mountain is definitely a picture of The Rapture – the parallels between this passage and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 are quite clear.

In Joshua, prior to the people being brought into the promised land, a picture of The Rapture when the Bride of Yeshua is taken in their promised land, Heaven, the people must first prepare for three days. Notice that after the preparation, the people follow the Ark of the Covenant at about 2000 cubits.

We are now about 2000 years behind our ark, Yeshua, returning to his father’s side in Heaven! Hosea 6:1-3 tells us that he will raise us up in the third day, and we will live in his sight.

Yom Teruah

Yom Teruah, also called The Feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hashanah, or the Feast of the New Moon, celebrates the 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. They had a two day period in which they knew it would happen, but not the exact day or time. Hence, the expression Yeshua used: “*You do not know the day or the hour.*”

The Wedding

In a Jewish Wedding, after agreeing on the bride-price, the groom would then go back to his father's home and build an addition for himself and his bride, promising to return for his betrothed. This was a very planned out event and was watched by both family, neighbors, and townsfolk.

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 friend of the groom would go to the bride's home to announce that the groom was on his way to lift up his bride and carry her to the new home. In effect, the bride and her bridesmaids were given a very minimal 'Advance Notice' that the wedding was about to begin.

The Rapture

Paul, after discussing the resurrection of the dead and subsequent rapture of the living states very clearly: "*You, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise . . .*" This also definitely sounds like 'Advance Notice' will be given.

Section Commentary

Advance notice is the scriptural norm. In every case the person being raptured knows he will be:

- Enoch had a full year of advance notice (Enoch 81:5-6).
- Elijah and two schools of prophets knew the day of his departure (2 Kings 2:3-5).
- Yeshua knew about his departure prior to going to Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) to be crucified (Luke 9:30-31).

While some of the above examples may be stretching the idea of an ‘Advance Notice’ a bit, a definite pattern showing advance notice of rapture-like events can be noticed and the possibility that an ‘Advance Notice’ may be given. Will it be a hundred year notice? Will it be a week’s notice? Will it be a three day notice? Will it be just a few hours or minutes? Scripture doesn’t give us a definite answer to this question.

However, two examples (Yom Teruah and The Wedding) were well known to Yeshua’s Disciples, and when he said: “*You do not know the day or the hour*” they would have immediately thought of one or both and understood that he wasn’t saying they would be caught totally blind as to the timing, and would more than likely have some advance notice.

Paul may very well be confirming this possibility in 1 Thessalonians 5:4 when he says: “*But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief.*”

The Promise of Advance Notice

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

How Yahweh chooses to give us an ‘Advance Notice’ for the rapture is not detailed in scripture. The patterns indicate that he might, but more importantly his promise in Amos 3:7 states very clearly that he will. Yahweh guarantees that the rapture, like many other events, will not happen without him first giving some form of advance notice.

Whether or not we get an advance notice matters not – all who belong to Yeshua will be raptured.

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.

Who Watched

Who Watched

Did anyone witness the person being raptured according to the scriptures?

Hint

Fifty saw. Many saw. The King's men saw

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.

Travel Techniques



The Transportation Modus

Elijah

2 Kings 2:11 – *“There appeared a fiery chariot with horses of fire; and as it separated the two of them from each other, Eliyahu went up into heaven in a whirlwind.”*

Again, we see the use of horses and chariots of fire to carry the raptured person into heaven. There is no mistaking the mode of transportation that Yahweh used to carry Elijah into heaven, and no excuse for thinking some other method was used.

*** Like Enoch, Elijah is also carried into the clouds by horses of fire pulling a fiery chariot. ***

Yeshua

Acts 1:11b – *“Yeshua will come in just the same way as you have watched him go into heaven.”*

Revelation 19:11 – *“Before me was a white horse. Sitting on it is Yeshua who passes judgment and makes war in righteousness.”*

The mode of transportation for Yeshua is not explicitly stated in scripture, nor in non-canonical works, such as the Books of Enoch and Jasper. However, connecting the dots between Acts and Revelation once again informs us that horses are involved. Yeshua comes back on a white horse. He is taken the same way according to the two “men” who spoke to the disciples!

*** In other words, Yeshua is carried into heaven by a horse -- a white horse rather than a fiery horse! ***

Enoch

Jasher 3:36-37 – *“On the seventh day Enoch ascended into Heaven in a whirlwind with horses and chariots of fire.”*

Scripture gives us no details of Enoch’s ascension, but Jasher 3:36-37 tells us that the horse descended from heaven and paced in the air, waiting for Enoch to climb aboard. Apparently, Enoch is one who loved long goodbyes.

It was only on the seventh day that Enoch, we are told, was taken into heaven by horses and chariots of fire. There is no mistaking the mode of transportation that Yahweh used to carry Enoch into heaven, and no excuse for thinking some other method was used.

*** Enoch is carried into the clouds by horses of fire pulling a fiery chariot. ***

Conclusion

Enoch, Elijah, and Yeshua were all carried to Heaven by the horses sent as the modus of transportation when they were raptured in the body, not in the spirit.

No other form of transportation is used, though both Enoch and Elijah most likely rode in the chariots and only Yeshua directly rode upon the horse.

The Second Interlude

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event

Individuals, horses, chariots, whirlwinds, singing, shofars blowing, the Church in Heaven in the throne room of Yahweh. Riding horses into the clouds, often accompanied by fiery chariots, being in Yeshua's presence.

All these remind me of heading out to a circus, or carnival, or big-top show and sound like joyous events to me.

One might say, it even sounds like a party!

Whether in the body or in the spirit one always enters into the presence of Yahweh and the Heavenly Throne Room.

All these rapture occasions sound like joyous occasions to me.

We are given plenty of warnings and advance notices of these events. The patterns are numerous and definitive. We are Raptured (Harpazo / Departure) from the Earth. Revelation (Heralding / Dialogue) continues through the two witnesses, the 144,000, and the angel in mid-heaven. Then Ruination (Havoc / Destruction), the great and terrible day of the Lamb and of God, ensues.

We are given immortal bodies. We are given crowns. We are given white clothing. We sing new songs.

All these events and happenings sound like joyous occasions to me.

Not having to experience Yahweh and Yeshua's wrath and to be gathered together with Yahweh, Yeshua, the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, and all who have placed their trust in Yeshua as their Lord and Savior prior to the tribulation sounds like a joyous, heartwarming, glorious occasion to me.

What does it sound like to you?

*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*.

No Resurrection Say the Sadducees

Acts 23:6 – “*Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial’.*”

There are many who believe that the resurrection is not a real phenomenon. Primary in this thinking were the Sadducees. The Pharisees and Apostle Paul, however, took a totally opposite stance, and said there is indeed a resurrection and it is very real. Scripture also says the resurrection is real and gives us several examples.

During much of Paul’s ministry he categorically refuted the false teaching of the Sadducees which stated that “*there is no resurrection of the dead*” (Matthew 22:23, Mark 12:18, Luke 20:27, Acts 23:8). Yeshua also refuted that false teaching (Matthew 22:23-34, Mark 12:18-27, Luke 20:27-37, Luke 14:14, John 5:29, 11:25), as did Peter

and John (Acts 4:1-3, Acts 4:33).

Paul addresses the resurrection in Romans Chapter 6, saying: Just as *“the Messiah was raised from the dead, likewise we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will also be united with him in a resurrection like his”* (Romans 6:4-5). We see Paul refuting the Sadducees’ false teaching when speaking to philosophers in Athens (Acts 17:18, Acts 17:31). Just before the Roman soldiers rescued him from the crowd and took him to their barracks, we once again find Paul engaging in that same argument over whether there is a resurrection or not (Acts 23:6-10) which he later explains to Felix, the Governor (Acts 24:15, Acts 24:21; Acts 26:6).

1 Corinthians Chapter 15

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – *“Not all of us will die! But we will all be changed! It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.”*

Paul’s PhD dissertation, his doctoral Thesis (if you will), is found in Chapter 15 of First Corinthians. He starts his thesis saying Yeshua was resurrected, seen by Peter, then the twelve, and then by over 500 (v 4-6). Continuing on, he says last of all he himself saw the resurrected Yeshua (v 8). In verse 12 he proclaims if Yeshua has been raised then how dare you continue to teach a lie saying there is no resurrection! But, he continues, the fact is that Yeshua has been raised from the dead

(v 20). Verse 29 has Paul being a bit sarcastic and asking why people bother being immersed (baptized) for those who are dead if there is no resurrection.

When asked “*In what manner are the dead raised? What sort of body do they have?*” Paul acerbically replies “*Stupid! When you sow a seed, it doesn't come alive unless it first dies*” (v 35). And then goes on to describe the overall process, culminating in his most quoted and memorable summation in verses 51-52.

Paul succinctly refutes the Sadducees false teaching that “*there is no resurrection*”. He says, in essence: “*Not only is there a resurrection, here's how it happens [in the twinkling of an eye], and here's when it happens [at the Last Trump, also known as Yom Teruah].*”

It is verses 51-52 that introduce 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 split second or nanosecond of time. Our bodies will instantly become immortal and incorruptible, or as some put it: *Glorified*.

1 Corinthians Is Not About The (Pre-Tribulation) Rapture

The words used in the Newer Covenant describing a seizing, snatching, or carrying away 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 analisis – 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

Not one single word used to describe the Rapture [*seizing, snatching, or carrying away*] **can be found** in the *entire chapter* of 1 Corinthians 15.

Neither are they found in the *entire book* of First Corinthians. The word harpazo is the single word of these six words Paul uses but it is found only in Second Corinthians.

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

- G853 aphanizo – to snatch out of sight, put out of view, make unseen; to cause to vanish away
- G854 aphanismos – to disappear, to vanish
- G855 aphantos – taken out of sight, to become invisible, vanished

Not one single word used to describe someone or something disappearing, becoming invisible, or vanishing **can be found** in the

entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15. Neither are they found in the *entire books* of First or Second Corinthians.

No matter how fully you deny it, no matter how rattled, upset, or ruffled you have become, Paul's dissertation in First Corinthians Chapter 15 does not address the Rapture – it only addresses the Resurrection and Glorification of our bodies, both of which do take place before the Rapture and also take place before the Tribulation Period.

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 signless 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.

Matthew 9:25 recounts the resurrection of a ruler's daughter. Acts 10:39-41 tells us that the apostles "ate and drank with Yeshua after he rose from the dead." Luke 7:15 tells us "the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother." Egeiro is the word Paul uses in 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 to describe Yeshua's resurrection, who by the way, was seen not only by Peter, but also by more than five hundred brothers at one time. Egeiro is also the word Paul uses to describe all who are resurrected and given their immortal, incorruptible bodies! They too will be witnessed by many – they do not just instantly disappear.

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. It is used of Yeshua's resurrection twice, in Luke 24:46, John 20:9, and Acts 17:3 explaining and proving that he had to suffer and rise again from the dead. Anistemi is the form used in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 to describe the dead in Yeshua who rise first.

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.

Acts 26:23 tells us that “Yeshua would die, and that he, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to both the Jewish People and to the Gentiles, the Goyim.” Again, no instant disappearance here, either – he did witness to over 500 after he was raised (1 Corinthians 15:6).

G4891 sunegeiro: to raise up together from mortal death to a new and blessed life dedicated to God.

Hmmm, not a resurrection that culminates in an instant disappearance, but a new 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.

Isaiah 26:19 puts it this way: “*Your dead will come back to life; your corpses will rise up. Wake up and shout joyfully, you who live in the ground! For you will grow like plants drenched with the morning dew, and the earth will cast out the dead.*” Growing like well watered plants

doesn't even remotely lend itself to instant disappearance teachings!

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 Ten Resurrections/Resuscitations From The Dead

The son of the widow from Zarephath in Sidon

1 Kings 17:22 – “*The child’s soul came back into him, and he revived.*”

Luke 4:26 – “*Elijah was sent to none of them but only to a widow of Zarephath, a city of Sidon.*”

The full narrative can be found in: 1 Kings 17:17-23

The son of the wealthy Shunammite widow from Shunem

2 Kings 4:35 – “*The child sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes.*”

The full narrative can be found in: 2 Kings 4:18-35

The dead man placed into the tomb of Elisha

2 Kings 13:21 – “*When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the dead man came to life and stood on his feet.*”

The full narrative can be found in: 2 Kings 13:20-21

The prophet Jonah from Gath-Hepher, the son of Amittai

Jonah 2:6 – “*Yahweh brought me up alive from the pit.*”

The full narrative can be found in: Jonah 2:1-10

The daughter who is only “asleep”, known as the daughter of Jairus

Luke 8:54-55 – “*But he took her by the hand, called out, ‘Little girl, get up!’ and her spirit returned.*”

The full narrative can be found in: Matthew 9:23-25; Mark 5:35-43; Luke 8:49-56

The only son of a widow from the town of Nain

Luke 7:14-15 – “*Yeshua said, ‘Young man, I say to you: get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to speak.*”

The full narrative can be found in: Luke 7:11-15

Lazarus from Bethany, the brother of Martha and Mary

John 11:43-44 – “*Yeshua shouted, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The man who had been dead came out.*”

The full narrative can be found in: John 11:11-44

Tabitha from Joppa, also known as Dorcas

Acts 9:40 – “*Peter said, ‘Tavita! Get up!’ She opened her eyes; and on seeing Peter, sat up.*”

The full narrative can be found in: Acts 9:36-42

Eutychus from Troas, who fell from the third story to the ground

Acts 20:10 – “*Paul said, ‘Do not be distressed, for he is still alive!’*”

The full narrative can be found in: Acts 20:9-11

And possibly the Apostle Paul, presumed to be dead

Acts 14:19 – “*They presumed Paul to be dead . . . but he got up and went back into the city.*”

The full narrative can be found in: Acts 14:19-20

Wait: None of Them Just Disappeared!

The above statement is 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.

But, But, But: None of Them Got Glorified Bodies

The above statement is also absolutely true: 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

The Holy Ones from Jerusalem

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

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.

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.

The Two Witnesses of Revelation

Revelation 11:11-12 – *“But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here!’ And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.”*

The two witnesses are resurrected, and stand on their feet, then were called to come up, finally were raptured.

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:

The Dead and Living in Yeshua

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – *“Not all of us will die! But we will all be changed! It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.”*

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!

Proving the Scriptures – Many Witnesses

Numerous times scripture tells us “*You certainly see, but you don’t get the point!*” (Isaiah 6:9; Ezekiel 12:12; Matthew 13:14; Mark 4:12; etc.) and we wonder why Yahweh/Yeshua speaks in parables. I like the way the Complete Jewish Bible translates Jeremiah 5:21 – “Hear this, stupid, brainless people, who have eyes but do not see . . .”

The resurrection/resuscitation pattern, the witnessed rapture pattern, and the wedding pattern all agree – there is no such thing as an instant disappearance rapture. And that is three witnesses, as required by scripture (Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1, etc.) which establish a fact. If the resurrection / resuscitation patterns show zero instant disappearance events, two or three witnesses establish a fact, and Yahweh/Yeshua doesn't change, then why would the rapture of the Bride be an instant disappearing act? More than likely the rapture of the Bride will also be fully witnessed and will take more than a twinkling of time to finish.

I believe the rapture from Earth to the clouds may take time – whether short or long scripture does not specify. Elijah ascended fairly quickly. Yeshua's ascension may have taken a bit longer, as the witnesses were still staring up to the clouds for quite some time! If the Bride in a Jewish Wedding has to literally be carried from her house to the house of the Bridegroom's father in full view of all those who have been awakened by the shofars and shouting of the bridegroom's friends, isn't that yet one more pattern of no instant disappearance? And yet, once we

get to the clouds the transfer from there to Heaven may be in an instant! Scripture simply doesn't give us all the details.

The Resurrection is NOT the (Pre-Tribulation) Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 – *“We who remain alive when Yeshua comes will certainly not take precedence over those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with Yahweh’s shofar; those who died united with the Messiah 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; and thus we will always be with him.”*

Paul starts his teaching reminding everyone that if Yeshua has been raised, then so will the dead (vv 13-14). He states in verse 15: *“we who are alive, who are left until the coming of Yeshua, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep”* and repeats it differently in verse 16, stating: *“the dead in Yeshua will rise first.”* The living do not get raptured before the dead are resurrected.

In other words, when Yeshua returns, the first thing that takes place is the change of body type to Glorified Body for both the living and the dead, and the resurrection of the dead in that same moment. These are the only two events that take place simultaneously. The living do not need to be resurrected, only changed from mortal to immortal, corrupted to incorruptible! Once the dead have risen, then and only then do both the previously dead and the still living in their glorified bodies ascend together to meet Yeshua in the clouds (v 17).

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.

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.

Paul clearly states there is a sequence:

first

– the change to Glorified Body for both the dead and living members of the Bride of Yeshua accompanied by a simultaneous resurrection of the dead members

second

– the gathering together and then the rapture, all three of which do take place before the Tribulation Period.

The Resurrection / Change to Glorified Body and The Rapture are not the same event.

That Ain't No Zombie, and A Pregnant Pause

Matthew 27:52 – *“The graves were opened, and many holy people who had died were raised to life.”*

There are several examples in scripture of the dead being raised. 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 individuals that were resurrected/resuscitated according to the scriptures that did not instantly disappear but were seen by many after their resurrection/resuscitation are:

The son of the widow from Zarephath in Sidon

The son of the wealthy Shunammite woman from Shunem

The dead man placed into the tomb of Elisha

The prophet Jonah from Gath-Hepher, the son of Amittai

The daughter who is only “asleep”, known as the daughter of Jairus

The only son of a widow from the town of Nain

Lazarus from Bethany, the brother of Martha and Mary

Tabitha from Joppa, also known as Dorcas

Eutychus from Troas, who fell from the third story to the ground

And possibly the Apostle Paul, presumed to be dead

Not one of these people instantly disappeared after their resurrection / resuscitation.

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 to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; proclaim freedom to the captives, let out into light those bound in the dark; to 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 the 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?

The Apostasia

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 – *“But in connection with the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our gathering together to meet him, we ask you, brothers, 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 until after the Apostasy has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom.”*

Today we will look at another topic linked to the pre-tribulation rapture of the Bride of Yeshua – that of the apostasia to see if this word has been correctly translated, or if it has been irresponsibly mistranslated. Does Paul’s use of the word apostasia indicate a spiritual departure, or a spatial departure, or both – let’s take a closer look:

Historical Translations

Several translations of the Greek New Covenant apostasia into English prior to the King James Authorized version of 1611 translate apostasia as either the departure or the departing. Those translations are:

- The Tyndale Bible (1526 / 1534) a departynge fyrst
- The Coverdale Bible (1539) a departynge come firft
- The Cranmer Bible (1539) a departynge fyrst
- and The Geneva Bible (1557) a departing first

One newer translation that also translates apostasia as departure is

- The Hebrew Names Version (1997).

Modern Translations

Modern translations of the Greek New Covenant apostasia into English use various words. For example:

- The Complete Jewish Bible – apostasy
- The New American Standard Bible – apostasy
- The New English Translation – rebellion
- The New Revised Standard Version – rebellion
- The English Standard Version – rebellion
- The King James Version – a falling away

The Word Apostasia

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – “*The tribulation will not come until **The Departure** comes first . . .*”

The words translated “*the departure*” are the Greek words hé apostasia [he G3588 apostasia G646], meaning the departure. The word hé simply means “the”. The Latin Vulgate (“ne quis vos seducat ullo modo quoniam nisi venerit discessio . . .”) uses the word “discessio” which also translates as: a withdrawal, a dispersal, a separation, or a departure. The literal English translation therefore correctly reads “the departure comes first.”

A Spiritual Departure

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – *“For the Day will not come until after the Apostasy has come . . .”*

Apostasia [G646], formed from the conjunction of apo and stasia is defined literally as “a leaving, from a previous standing.” Today it has come to mean a defection from truth or rejection of truth; in other words, an apostasy.

Below are a couple of examples:

Genesis 6:5 – *“Yahweh saw that the people on earth were very wicked, that all the imaginings of their hearts were always of evil only.”* In the days of Noah the people of the earth had departed from righteous living which resulted in the earth being flooded and destroyed (Genesis 6:17; 9:11).

2 Chronicles 36:21 – *“The land experienced its sabbatical years; it remained desolate for seventy years, as prophesied.”* In the days when Nebuchadnezzar ruled Babylon, judgment against Israel was rendered for Israel’s departure from honoring the Sabbaths. The Temple was destroyed and the people are exiled to Babylon.

John 11:48 – *“The Romans will come and destroy both the Temple and the nation.”* By the time of Yeshua the Pharisees and Sadducees had departed from the written Torah and were teaching primarily from the Oral Traditions of the rabbis. The Temple is destroyed again and the people are exiled to all the nations of the world.

The First Spiritual Sequence:

First – Departure from righteous living as commanded by The Torah,
Second – Destruction.

The historical patterns show a departure from scriptural or doctrinal principles prior to judgment leading to some form of destruction.

The Second Spiritual Sequence:

First – Departure, Second – Revealing.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 – *“When our Lord Yeshua returns, we will be gathered up to meet him. So do not be easily upset or disturbed by people who claim that he has already come or that the Day of The Lord has begun . . . and do not let anyone in any way deceive you, for the tribulation will not come until The Departure comes first, and then the revealing of the Man of Lawlessness, the Son of Perdition, comes second.”*

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 – *“He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed.”*

Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians describes the sequence of events regarding the gathering together of those in Mashiach (Christ) and confirms that that time had not yet happened – the Day of the Lord or tribulation period was still in the future.

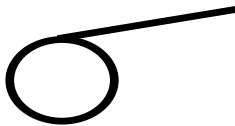
Paul admonishes the Thessalonians not to be deceived, and then goes on to describe the future sequence of events. Note the parallel sequences in both verse three and then verses seven and eight of

Second Thessalonians! First, the departure. Then, the Man of Lawlessness, the Son of Perdition, or as he is commonly known, the antichrist, is revealed.

A Spatial Departure

The word Apostasia is made up of two words, apo and stasia.

- Apo [G575] a motion away from a place or person, the separation of apart from the whole. It is a state of separation, that is of distance – either physical: of distance of place, or temporal: of distance of time. It is graphically represented by a straight line going away from the circumference of a circle:



Note the similarity to the way the horses leave the earth for the clouds (pg. 55)

- Stasia means a standing away, to draw out, or to separate. It comes from the root word Stasis [G4714]. Together they mean a standing away from, a drawing out from, a separation away from, or a going out from among. This fits exactly with the images of the “great escape” and the “gathering together” of scripture.

Apostasia is the feminine form of apostasion [G647], which is a derivative form of ahistemi [G868], all of which refer to a departure from someone or something. In other words, a separation of distance, either physical or temporal.

Aphistemi [G868] is translated “depart” or “departed” 13 out of 16 times in the Newer Covenant scriptures, and as withdraw, drew away, or refrain from in the other scriptures. Below are a couple of examples:

Luke 2:37 – *“Anna never departed the temple, serving night and day with fasting and prayer.”*

Luke 13:27 – *“And Yeshua will say, ‘Depart from me, all you evildoers’.”*

Acts 12:10 – *“immediately the angel departed from Peter.”*

2 Corinthians 12:8 – *“I implored Yeshua three times that the messenger of Satan might depart from me.”*

The Spatial Sequence:

First – Departure as in the rapture, second – Destruction.

This historical pattern of rapture, or departure, before destruction can be seen in the raptures of Enoch, Elijah, and Yeshua. The Bride of Yeshua will also be raptured before the Day of the Lord, or Tribulation Period commences.

Another Apostasy (Speaking in English)

Acts 21:21 – *“They have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to **forsake** Moses . . .”*

The word apostasia (forsake) in this scripture at the pashat or literal surface level of understanding, may indeed indicate an apostasy, leaving, or rebellion of faith – a falling away from pure exposition of scriptural or doctrinal principles, or to a falling away from the Torah – a falling away from the teachings of Moses. However, it could also literally be translated to mean: *“Just turn your back on Moses himself,*

and walk away from him.” Today we are seeing just such an abandonment or forsaking of scripture and sound doctrine, as well as a falling away from (or turning of the back on) the church and the church’s teachings as the time of Yeshua’s return draws near.

Conclusion

Understanding the precise context of the scriptures in which the word apostasia is used clearly determines which meaning is being expressed.

Paul’s Second Thessalonians letter, at the pashat level, may only be addressing the topic of a departure away from scriptural or doctrinal principles prior to the revealing of the antichrist, as in Acts 21:21. If apostasia in 2 Thessalonians is referring to the harpazo or departure of the Bride of Yeshua, this may be a deeper meaning of the topic and the Bride will also depart from earth prior to the commencement of the Tribulation Period. At the sod, as yet unrevealed level of understanding, in context of the harpazo (the gathering, rapture, or departure) of the Bride of Yeshua, the Bride is gathered first, then secondly the antichrist is revealed. This agrees fully with Matthew 16:18 which states that the Church cannot be overcome by Satan or the all powers of Hell. That the apostasia could be the harpazo can also agree with Paul’s statement that the Bride of Yeshua is to wait for Yeshua *“who rescues us from the coming wrath”* (1 Thessalonians 1:10) and also with his statement that *“Yahweh did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Yeshua Ha’Mashiach”* (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

The Imminent Return of Yeshua

Near At Hand

The Greek words eggus [G1451], eggizo [G1448], or tachu [G5035] mean at hand, near, or without delay – in other words: imminent. They are equivalent to the Hebrew word qarowb [H7138]. Imminent means impending; hence it could happen immediately, within ten minutes, ten months, or ten years. Imminence is always the meaning of at hand or near when speaking about the return of Yeshua. For example:

- The night is far gone, the day is near (Romans 13:12)
- Yeshua is near (Philippians 4:5)
- The time is near when all things will end (1 Peter 4:7)
- You see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:25)
- Yeshua’s return is near (James 5:8)

Times and Seasons

Daniel 2:21 – *“Yahweh changes the times and seasons . . .”*

Daniel 7:25 – *“The antichrist will attempt to alter the seasons and the law; and [the holy ones] will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.”*

Daniel 2:21 tells us that Yahweh is he who changes the times and seasons. Times in this verse is the Hebrew word iddan [H5732] which means a set time. Seasons is the Hebrew word zman [H2166] which means an appointed occasion. In Daniel 7:25 the antichrist is the one

who attempts to change the seasons and times. In this verse, the word seasons is zman and the word times is iddan. Iddan and zman can be used interchangeably, as both indicate a set time or occasion.

Acts 1:7 – *“Yeshua said to them, ‘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 times, used by both Yeshua and Paul, is the Greek word kairos [G2540] which means a set time or occasion. Some translations use the word “dates” in place of the word times, which gives a more accurate sense of the terms being used.

The Moedim

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

Another frequently used Hebrew word for seasons is moed [H4150]. Moed has been translated as seasons, festivals, feasts, months, and appointed times. Yahweh established seven Moedim in which he embedded prophecies of coming events.

The seven moedim are Pesach, Chag Ha’Matzot, Reishit Katzir, Shavuot, Yom Teruah, Yom Kippurim, and Sukkot (In English: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonements, and Booths). There is a pattern to the prophecies that are represented by the Moedim. The pattern 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.

The Anxious Wait

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

The question arose asking if those who had died, as well as those who were still living, had already missed the Rapture and were now in the Tribulation Period. The Apostle Paul assured them that the Tribulation Period had not yet begun, and that the dead **MUST** rise first **BEFORE** the living are raptured (4:16-17).

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 (1 Thessalonians 5:1), 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 and the taking up of the living righteous, the day of hiding and concealment before the time of

tribulation. He taught that the next moed to be completed, 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. We do not know which Yom Teruah will be THE Yom Teruah to make completion: it could be five years, next year, or even this year on the Biblical Calendar, hence an imminent event!

A Third Witness

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

2 Corinthians 13:1 – *“Every fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”*

We have two witnesses so far that indicate that the resurrection must take place first. Is there a third? Indeed there is. Upon the death of Yeshua, the graves were opened and the dead arose (Matthew 27:52). After his resurrection, he led a host of captives upon ascending to Heaven (Ephesians 4:8). Again, **FIRST** the resurrection, **THEN** the rapture.

The Imminent Return

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 resurrection of the dead on Yom Teruah is that imminent event that Yeshua commands us to be looking forward to witnessing and experiencing! The Bride of Yeshua isn't going anywhere until Yom Teruah begins!

The Rapture of the Bride

And 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!



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.

*As you ponder these things, ask yourself:
“How close are we to the return of Yeshua Ha’Mashiach?”*

Appointed Times and Signs

The Moedim – One Time Events

Ecclesiastes 1:9 – *“What has been is what will be, what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”*

You have heard it said, history repeats itself, and that is true to some extent. Previous happenings in history tend to happen again and again, but not in exactly the same way.

The same holds true for scriptural events. Each event in scripture, prior to its final fulfillment, may repeat more than once, but is only a shadow of the real event prophesied.

Shadows

Numbers 21:9 – *“Moshe made a bronze serpent and put it on the pole; if a snake had bitten someone, then, when he looked toward the bronze serpent, he stayed alive.”*

The bronze serpent, for instance, was a shadow of Yeshua being hung on the cross. John 3:14 affirms that the serpent is merely a shadow: *“Just as Moshe lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”*

The reign of Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 11:31) is merely a shadow of the real event, the reign of the future antichrist (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14). There are many more examples of shadows throughout the scriptures.

It Only Happened Once

Colossians 2:17 – *“These are a shadow of the things to come.”*

Hebrews 10:1 – *“The Torah has in it a shadow of the good things to come.”*

There are many events which only happen once, even though they are also a shadow of future events. Eleazar only went to Paddan-Aram once to get a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:4), a shadow of Yeshua coming to get his bride.

Lot was only taken out of Sodom once (Genesis 19:15), a shadow of the rapture.

The Hebrew slaves were only taken out of Egypt once (Jude 1:5) and Lazarus was only resurrected/resuscitated once (John 11:43). Each of these two events is a shadow of the future one-time only event of the resurrection of the dead in Yeshua.

The Moedim

1 Peter 3:18 – *“Yeshua himself died for sins, once and for all . . . He was put to death in the flesh but brought to life by the Spirit.”*

The moedim are also one-time events that **do not** repeat. True, they are rehearsed many times before the real event, but those rehearsals are mere shadows. For instance, Pesach (Passover), which pointed to Yeshua’s crucifixion, only happened once. The same holds true for Chag Ha’Matzot (Unleavened Bread) and Reishit Katzir (Firstfruits) – Yeshua was only buried once, and was only resurrected once.

But what about Shavuot (Pentecost)?

Peter states very clearly that the giving of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) fulfilled Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2:16-21). Again, this only happened once, and today are to be celebrated as memorials to what Yahweh has already accomplished.

What, then, can we say about Yom Teruah (Trumpets), Yom Kippurim (Atonements), and Sukkoth (Booths)? Will they, too, be one-time events? Indeed they will. There will only be one resurrection of the dead in Yeshua and rapture of the Bride. Likewise, there will only be one seven year Tribulation Period, and only one millennial reign of Yeshua, fulfilling the Yom Kippurim and Sukkoth moedim.

Conclusion

Leviticus 23:2 – *“The moedim of Yahweh are my set feasts.”*

The moedim are one-time events that do not repeat. Yeshua was crucified, was buried, and was resurrected only once, fulfilling the Pesach, Chag Ha'Matzot, and Reishit Katzir moedim. The giving of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, allowing the apostles to speak in other languages, only happened once and fulfilled the Shavuot moed. Each of these moedim only happened once in history, and will not be repeated.

The resurrection of the dead in Yeshua and subsequent rapture of the Bride will fulfill the Yom Teruah moed. The Tribulation Period and Millennial Reign of Yeshua will fulfill Yom Kippurim and Sukkoth. These, too, will only happen once and will not be repeated again.

The Rapture Order Of The Moedim

Over the past pages we have examined over a dozen topics that point to a pre-tribulation rapture.

- ◆ We have looked at the Rapture Wedding Vows at Mount Sinai and at the Jewish Wedding Ceremony.
- ◆ We have looked at the Rapture Concealments: Saved, Gathered, and Gone.
- ◆ We have looked at the Rapture Harpazos: Enoch, Moses, Elijah, Lazarus, Yeshua, and the Saints.
- ◆ We have looked at the Rapture Patterns: Harpazo, Heralding, and Havoc / Rapture, Revelation, and Ruination / or if you prefer: Departure, Dialogue, Destruction.

Yahweh is a God of Order

1 Corinthians 14:33 - *“Yahweh is not a God of confusion but of shalom.”*

1 Corinthians 14:40 - *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”*

Yahweh is not a god of chaos, confusion, or disorder. He is a god of peace and order. In other words, Yahweh don't do random! He establishes a pattern and in him “there is no change” (Psalm 55:19). He is the God who has determined the end from the beginning.

Now we will look at the order of events represented by the Moedim of Yahweh to see if these, too, point to a pre-tribulation rapture.

The Moedim

Leviticus 23:1-ff – *“The set feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, you shall proclaim in their appointed season. They shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations.”*

Pesach, Chag Ha'Matzah, and Reishit Katzir

Romans 6:4 - *“Therefore we have been buried with Yeshua through baptism into death, so that as Mashiach was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”*

Pesach (Passover), Chag Ha'Matzot (Unleavened Bread), and Reishit Katzir (Firstfruits) sets the pattern: death precedes burial, which precedes resurrection. We are to put to death sin in our lives. This sin is to be buried with Yeshua in his burial. This burial, called repentance, leads to new life, to our becoming a new creation, a form or type of resurrection.

Shavuot (Pentecost)

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 - *“He who establishes us with you in Yeshua, and anointed us, is Yahweh; who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh in our hearts.”*

Shavuot sets the pattern for the receiving of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, the Holy Spirit. Repentance leads to a new life in Yeshua, a form of resurrection. Upon repentance and acceptance of Yeshua as Lord and Savior, the Ruach Ha'Kodesh is given as a guarantee of that action.

Yom Teruah (Trumpets)

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - *“Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of Yahweh.”*

Yom Teruah sets the pattern for the rapture. It announces Yeshua’s wedding day, his coronation as King, the day of the resurrection of the dead, and the rapture of his Bride. Yom Teruah is the next moed to be fulfilled on Yahweh’s Daytimer! And it precedes the last two moedim on that calendar.

Yom Kippurim (Day of Atonements)

Exodus 29:37 – *“Seven days you will make atonement on the altar and consecrate it; therefore the altar will be especially holy, and whatever touches the altar will become holy.”*

Yom Kippurim sets the pattern for judgment or tribulation. The moed lasts seven days, a pattern of the seven years of tribulation.

Sukkot (Tabernacles)

Deuteronomy 31:10 – *“Moses commanded them, ‘At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at Sukkot.’”*

Sukkot sets the pattern for Yeshua’s millennial reign, **after** the seven years, a time of release.

Both Yom Kippurim and Sukkot follow the dress rehearsal for the rapture. Tribulation, on Yahweh’s Daytimer does NOT precede rapture. The Millennial reign does NOT precede judgment or tribulation.

Just the opposite, the Rapture happens first in order, followed by the tribulation, and lastly by the reign of Yeshua.

The Moedim Patterns:

Galatians 4:4 – *“When the appointed time arrived, Yahweh sent forth his son, Yeshua.”*

There is a pattern of dress rehearsals that are represented by the Moedim of Yahweh. The pattern is: death, burial, resurrection, giving of the spirit, rapture, judgment, millennial reign. The first four have already been fulfilled. They were not random events, but event that happened at the set, appointed time.

The pattern is succinct and not one bit random. The moed of Pesach always takes place on the 14th of Nissan. Chag Ha'Matzoh always takes place the next day, and Reishit Katzir always takes place on the following Sabbath. Shavuot follows exactly 50 days after Chag Ha'Matzoh. The moed of Yom Teruah always takes place on the 1st Day of 7th Month, Yom Kippurim always takes place on the 10th Day of 7th Month, and Sukkot always starts on the 15th Day of 7th Month.

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 event – not in the least. Again, Yahweh doesn't do random!

Yom Kippurim and Sukkot are also set appointments, not random events. They, too, will happen at the appropriate set time.

Conclusion

Yahweh is a god of peace and order, not a god of chaos, confusion, or disorder. The patterns evidenced by the dress rehearsals, by the Moedim of Yahweh, clearly establish an order of events. That pattern is death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua, giving of the spirit, resurrection of the dead in Yeshua and the rapture, judgment, and the millennial reign. The first four have already been fulfilled.

The coming of Yeshua to resurrect the dead and take his bride to his father's house is not a random event. It was planned before the foundations of the earth were laid. The imminent return we should be looking for is the Resurrection of the Dead in Yeshua.

The moedim pattern, just as the patterns we have previously looked at over the past many pages, also clearly point to a pre-tribulation rapture.

The Pre-wrath, Mid-Trib, and Post-Trib positions can only be supported by misinterpreting scripture, by violently twisting it, by trying to take Heaven by force (Matthew 11:12).

The Yom Teruah Pattern

Psalm 89:15 – *“Happy are those who hear the blessed sound of the Shofar, the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of the presence of Yahweh.”*

The official Hebrew name of the moed is Yom Teruah. Yom Teruah is also called The Feast Of Trumpets, The Feast Of Blowing, The Feast Of Repentance, or the Feast Of The New Moon.

Yom Teruah is the festival of the Jewish New Year, called Rosh Hashanah, and the only moed that celebrates the 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 moed start. There is a two day period in which they know it can happen, but not the exact day or time. Hence, the expression Yeshua used: *“You do not know the day or the hour”* (Matthew 24:36).

Names for Yom Teruah include:

- **Yom Teruah:** Day of the Awakening Blast, or Day of the Sounding of the Shofar.
- **Yom Ha’Din:** The Day Of Judgment, The Day Of Opening The Books, The Opening Of The Gates.
- **Yom Ha’Kiddushin / Nesu’im:** The Wedding Day Of The Messiah.
- **Yom Ha’Melekh:** The Day Of The Coronation Of The Messiah.
- **Yom Ha’Akedah:** The Day Of Abraham’s Offering of Isaac.

- **Yom Ha’Natzal:** Day Of The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead and Taking Up of the Living Righteous.
- **Yom Ha’Keseh:** The Hidden Day, The Day of Hiding or Concealment.

The Names and Their Significance to the Rapture:

Yom Teruah: Day of the Awakening Blast, or Day of the Sounding of the Shofar.

Leviticus 23:24 – *“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you will have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.’”*

Numbers 29:1 – *“On the first day of the seventh month you will have a holy convocation; you will not work at your occupations. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets.”*

Yom Teruah, The Feast of Trumpets, is indelibly linked with the blowing of trumpets. The celebration uses 100 distinct blasts but only four different types of blasts during the festival. They are the single Tekiah blast which signifies the sound of the King’s coronation, the three short Shevarim blasts which signify repentance, the nine staccato Teruah blasts of alarm which signify the call to awaken the soul, and the great long Tekiah Ha’Gadol blast which signifies the voice of Yahweh. The fourth and final type, the Tekiah Ha’Gadol, is known to the Jews as the **“Last Trump”** or as the **“Trump of God”**. Paul references this in his epistles!

Yom Ha’Kiddushin / Nesu’im: The Wedding Day Of The Messiah

Joel 2:15-16 – *“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and the babies. Let the bridegroom go forth out of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.”*

Yom Teruah mirrors the Jewish wedding ceremony, including the escape theme in which Yahweh causes his people to escape wrath, and the concept of concealment behind a closed door. Only the father could determine the day and hour when the bridegroom would show up unannounced to take his bride home. Once the groom and betrothed were together, they proceeded to the groom’s new home, which was the same home as his father’s. Once back at the father’s home, the groom and bride then would be concealed in the Chuppah for seven days. Again, the image of a celebration that is hidden.

Yom Ha’Natzal: The Day Of The Resurrection Of The Righteous Dead And The Taking Up Of The Living Righteous

Daniel 12:2 – *“Many of those who have died will awaken to everlasting life, but others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”*

Isaiah 26:19 – *“Your dead will live, their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy!”*

In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, the apostle Paul writes that *“Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven with a loud shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of Yahweh . . .”*

Paul states that when the trumpet of Yahweh sounds, *“those who have died believing in Yeshua will rise first. After that, we who are still alive will be gathered up with the resurrected dead in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air. And we will be with him forever.”*

In 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Paul tells us: *“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.”* The last trump is referring to the Moed of Yom Teruah and reveals the day of the resurrection of the righteous dead and their catching away or rapture.

According to 1 Thessalonians 4, when this trump is sounded, the dead rise and then both they and the Bride of Yeshua go to meet Yeshua in the clouds. This day of resurrection is a day of blessing, or as Paul puts it in Titus 2:13 – *“our blessed hope”*. Peter says the same in 1 Peter 1:13.

Yom Ha’Keseh: The Hidden Day, The Day of Hiding or Concealment

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

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, a hidden day because it is hidden from Satan, the adversary, in the same manner that the

resurrection of Yeshua on the third day was hidden from his knowledge.

On Yom Teruah, Israel diminishes itself and conceals its greatness in awe of the Day of Judgment. The Almighty, too, places a cover of concealment over his People's sins and accords them forgiveness. All that transpires on this day is characterized by concealment, and is applied in the individual's behavior.

Isaiah 26:20 speaks of a time when concealment or hiding is essential – during the time of wrath: *“My people, go into your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide in your rooms for a short time until Yahweh's anger is finished.”*

Psalms 27:5 speaks of a similar hiding: *“In the day of trouble he will conceal me in his tabernacle; in the secret place of his tent he will hide me.”* Song of Songs 2:10-14 tells of the bride who has “come away” hidden in the secret places of the rock. Chapter 6 confirms that she is hidden, unable to be found by those who seek her. Her bridegroom, Yeshua, asks them *“Why do you look for the bride?”* These passages reference Yom Teruah, albeit in a hidden manner!

Conclusion

Yom Teruah's three main themes are Resurrection of the Righteous, Kingship of the Lord, and Marriage of the Lamb, all rapture images. There is a two day period in which we know it will happen, but not the exact time. Only when two witnesses see the edge of the moon, can the moed start. Hence, "*You do not know the day or the hour.*" Yom Teruah is a day of hiding – a day whose importance is hidden from Satan and in which Yeshua's Bride is also hidden. Those who wait for The Rapture expect to be hidden in Heaven during the tribulation period. The blowing of the shofar easily portends both a kingly coronation and a resurrection and rapture.

Combined, all these images present Yom Teruah as one of the premier representations of The Rapture event and therefore is one of the major candidates for the day of The Rapture. No one, I repeat NO ONE, can say that any particular Yom Teruah is that day, however! All we can do is stay alert and look forward to that day when our blessed hope is realized.

The Signs

Luke 21:28 – *“As you see these things happening, look up, for your redemption draws near.”*

By the Year 2017

- Russia and Iran have formed an alliance based on sales of weapons from Russia to Iran that states that Russia will help defend Iran in the event of a war with Israel and its allies.
- Russia and Syria have formed an alliance based on sales of weapons and Russia will help defend Syria in the event of a war with Israel and its allies.
- Russia has also formed an alliance with China, called the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and has ties to Libya and other Arab/Muslin nations. The Iran, Russia, and China alliance is still as strong as ever.
- Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, and Ethiopia are uniting with a primary goal in mind of invading Israel via Syria. This may lead to the Gog-Magog fulfillment of scripture (Ezekiel 38-39).
- Turkey has formed key alliances with Lebanon, Syria, and Iran for mutual defense against enemy attacks.
- There have been several shake-ups of governments in Egypt, Lybia, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen and other countries.
- The surprise alliance of 2017 was the newly formed alliance between Saudi Arabia and Israel. This virtually completes the alliance of nations that will speak against the Russia, Iran, and Turkey alliance mentioned above when these nations come against Israel (Ezekiel

38:13).

- War is endemic around the globe, and terrorist attacks are almost daily.

In 2017 Israeli connections between scripture and generations were noted:

- It has been 120 years from the first Zionist Congress held Basel.
- It has been 100 years from the Balfour Declaration.
- It has been 70 years from the United Nations Resolution 181.
- It has been 50 years from the Capture of Yerushalayim.
- It has been 3 years from the Blood Moon tetrad.

In the Year 2018

- Earthquakes and especially volcanic activity appear to be increasing world wide. By the end of 2018 they were five times the average rate!
- Massive animal, bird, and fish deaths also continue to show activity world wide.
- Unexplained groaning, booming, and mysterious noises have been noticed in various places world wide.
- Tornadoes, sinkholes, and other abnormal activity in various places is happening world wide.
- In Noah and Lot's days, the fallen angels were mating with humans. We are once again being conditioned to freely accept and have sex with, perhaps even procreate with alien beings, to “go after strange flesh”.
- President Donald Trump declared that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. Then Trump moved the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to

Jerusalem. And then Trump dumped the dumping of the Iran Nuclear Deal! The Middle East and much of Europe have been in an uproar ever since.

- Hamas organized, promoted, and orchestrated the "March of Return" in Gaza. The demonstrators have burned thousands of tires, lobbed fireballs at Israeli soldiers, and planted explosives along the border fence, burning more than 7,000 acres and leaving the ground covered with ashes. Hamas remains committed to terrorism and they have increasingly close ties with Iran and Hezbollah.
- Several prophetic events took place on or around the Temple Mount: the falling stone, the slithering snake, the mist, and the dedication of the Stone Altar.

In the Year 2019

- In March the Donald Trump recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.
- In November, a letter composed by the Chief Rabbi of Tzfat, Rabbi Shmuel Eliyah thanked President Donald Trump for recognizing Israel's right to Judea and Samaria. The letter was signed by over two-hundred other Rabbis, and quoted both Jeremiah verses above, stating that Trump's actions have fulfilled both prophecies.
- Jordan is becoming increasingly hostile to Israel. In December, the Jordanian army conducted a large-scale drill simulating a war with Israel involving F-16 warplanes and helicopters.
- Gaza continues to be a source of rocket fire into Israel. Gaza terrorists fired rockets at Sderot exactly when the Bnei Akiva children were

holding an event.

- The US House of Representatives approved a resolution supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, in direct opposition to several pro-Israeli actions by the Trump administration.
- In December Donald Trump passed an Executive Order which explicitly declared that the Jews are a nation and that any US universities or colleges that continue to support the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction movement will lose all federal funding. The order is based on the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism which includes Demonization, Double-Standard, and Delegitimization.
- Also in December, Boris Johnson was overwhelmingly elected to be Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. His first official act was to make it illegal for UK Public Agencies to work with groups that boycott Israel.
- Russia, Iran, and Turkey have signed an agreement condemning Israel for attacking her enemies in Syria which appears to be an effort to protect Iranian forces preparing to attack Israel.
- Third Temple fever is at a pitch. The articles are all prepared, and many politicians are calling for it to be built immediately. In December 2019, a quorum of ten Jewish men stood and prayed on the Temple Mount.

In the Year 2020

- In 2020 more Jews visited the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem, than anytime in the last 2000 years.
- In September, Donald Trump signed the Abraham Accords which

resulted in many nations reviewing how they interact with each other and with Israel.

- In the following months Israel normalized relations with Bahrain, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, and Morocco.
- In December Saturn and Jupiter were in conjunction. Some have compared this to the Bethlehem Star.
- 2020 saw a worldwide virus pandemic.
- 2020 saw an increase in unbridled lawlessness. Good has been relabeled evil, and evil is celebrated as good.
- 2020 saw increased persecution of Christians and Christian Churches, including the closure of many churches.
- 2020 also saw an increase in false doctrine, including a love of the doctrine of demons, and a lessening of teaching of Biblical Prophecy.
- 2020 saw a marked increase in delusion due to the rapid decline in the love of the truth. Delusions such as police are not needed, there was no holocaust, America is a totally racist nation, and there was no fraud committed during the November Presidential election were perpetrated.
- Plagues of locusts covered thirteen nations, poisonous toads wreaked havoc in Florida, and China was for a short time covered in darkness during the middle of the day.

In the Year 2021

- In August 2021 the United States withdrew all U.S. military from Afghanistan in the midst of the Taliban seizing the country.
- In June 2021 Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's twelve year reign

was voted to end by Israel's Parliament and Naftali Bennett was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

- In November 2021 the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference took place in Glasgow, Scotland. The EU, China, Japan, and other major economies have pledged carbon neutrality by 2050/2060.
- In 2021 dozens of people around the world, especially pro athletes, were experiencing heart problems.
- In 2021 over 4 million people worldwide are claimed to have died from COVID-19. By November VAERS had reported over 1 million adverse reactions to the “jabs”, a number which is thought to be only 1% of the actual total number of people affected by the jabs.
- In 2021 mutual masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, how to use a condom, same sex activities, transgender lifestyles, and other sexual subjects are taught in the schools to children as young as kindergartners.
- In 2021 rising food prices, food shortages, and global famines have developed along with other supply chain deficiencies.
- In 2021 there were 70 confirmed eruptions at some point during 2021 from 69 different volcanoes. Earthquakes in the 7 to 10 magnitude range are almost three times the normal yearly number.
- In 2021 talk of the “Great Reset” has been an almost daily news item as the world moves toward a cashless society.

In the Year 2022

- 2022 saw an increase in anti-Semitic words and deeds. Physical attacks on Jews, anti-Semitic vandalism and hate crimes in the US have increased.
- In the first nine months of 2022, pro-abortion extremists carried out at least 57 attacks against Christian houses of worship.
- Yeshivas are being required to offer secular classes and to affirm the homosexual community.
- The predictions of Ezekiel, made over 2600 years ago, line up very closely with the current alignment of nations that we see emerging today: the Islamic nations which are forming coalitions to “wipe Israel off the face of the earth”, the Northern and Eastern nations that are making efforts to establish a One World, Order, and a small number of nations which tend to be supportive of Israel to a smaller or larger extent.
- On September 15, 2022, five currently unblemished red heifers arrived in Israel from Texas. A key element for the Red Heifer Sacrifice, Crimson Worm-Dye, has been developed in preparation for the Third Temple.
- In October, a full-dress reenactment of the water libation was held in Jerusalem with several hundred participants led by Kohanim in priestly garb, accompanied by Levites playing musical instruments.
- Between November 6th and 18th, the United Nations climate conference COP27 was held on the Sinai Peninsula in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The COP27 ten commandments are anathema to Yahweh’s Ten Commandments and wholly satanic in nature.

- As of December 23rd the latest VAERS data showed 1,490,460 adverse events from the Covid-19 serums and 33,334 deaths, of which 915,411 adverse events and 16,155 deaths are from the United States. According to the VAERS website these figures may only account for 1% of the actual number of adverse affects.

But even more importantly:

- The Jews are back in the land of Israel.
- The Judean desert is blooming.
- Hebrew is once again a national language.
- The Israeli Defense Forces are an exceedingly great army.
- Yerushalayim has been conquered and is in the control of the Israelis.
- Yerushalayim is rapidly becoming the focal point of world politics.

The Timing

The Signs in the sun, moon, stars, and heavens are burgeoning. All of these things point to the nearness of The Rapture, but none tells us exactly when it will be. We simply know that because of these things, The Rapture is at hand, or near.

The words at hand, or near, mean imminent. Imminent means impending; hence it could happen immediately, within ten minutes, ten months, or ten years. Imminence is always the meaning of at hand or near when speaking about the return of Yeshua.

For example:

- The night is far gone, the day is near (Romans 13:12)
- Let your gentleness be known to all. Yeshua is near (Philippians 4:5)
- The time is near when all things will end (1 Peter 4:7)
- There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars (Luke 21:25)

Imminent is great, but exactly where are we on the time line?

Here are a few possibilities for where we may be on the time line:

- ++ The Rapture may happen.
- Russia, Turkey, and their allies will then come against Israel in the War of Gog and Magog. (Ezekiel 38-39)
- Yahweh himself will win the victory, Israel will be at peace again.
- Then the antichrist is revealed.

Or Perhaps

- Russia, Turkey, and their allies will come against Israel in the War of Gog and Magog. (Ezekiel 38-39)
- Then the antichrist is revealed.
- ++ The Rapture may happen.

Only one or neither of the above may happen first! In that case:

- ++ The Rapture will happen first.
- Then the antichrist is revealed.
- The seven year treaty is confirmed, and the tribulation period of seven years begins.
- All of the wars mentioned in many prophecies then unfold.

The Rapture could take place before any major war breaks out in the Middle East, hence before the immediate nations surrounding Israel invade.

OR, it could happen after one or more major wars, as Yahweh does not want anyone to be lost, and what better way to show his omnipotence and grace than to let everyone witness his people's victory over their immediate enemies or after his victory over Russia and its allies.

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

The birth pains appear to be increasing in both frequency and intensity!

Prophecy continues to unfold as foretold by the Hebrew prophets. The prophetic signs are burgeoning and not abating. The stage is being set. Today we are one day closer to the return of Yeshua than we were yesterday. Tomorrow we will be even one day closer.

Yeshua Ha'Mashiach is coming soon – his return is imminent. Be sure you are ready and watching. Yeshua Ha'Mashiach is coming soon – so be of great cheer, keep looking up, lift up your heads and see your redemption draw near. Keep maintaining an attitude of gratitude.

Be sure Yeshua is your Redeemer, King, and High Priest, and your sins are forgiven. Be sure you are believing The Truth, not The Lie. Be sure Yeshua is your Redeemer, King, and High Priest, and your sins are forgiven.

Amen, Maranatha!!

Section Commentary

The *hé apostasia* may indeed be a reference to The Rapture, not just a reference to an apostasy from the faith or doctrinal teachings.

The instantaneous departure Rapture images do not seem to be supported by scripture. Just the opposite – the departure may happen hours, days, or even weeks after the dead are raised. A definite sequence or pattern in scripture shows that there may be what I call a pregnant pause between the two events. The resurrected dead, not zombies, may spend some time witnessing to the living just as they did at the time of Yeshua's resurrection.

The moedim also show a distinct pattern to the dress rehearsals that are represented by the Moedim of Yahweh. The pattern is death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua, giving of the spirit, resurrection of the dead in Yeshua and the rapture, judgment, millennial reign. The first four have already been fulfilled. The next moed is the dress rehearsal for the resurrection and rapture. Yahweh is not a god of chaos.

The signs given by the prophets are burgeoning. Alliances are forming just as prophesied. Wars and rumors of wars are burgeoning. Epidemics are on the rise. Earthquake and volcanic activity are on the rise. But most importantly, numerous prophecies regarding the re-establishment of the nation of Israel have been fulfilled. The return of Yeshua is closer today than ever before.

Wedding Patterns

At Mount Sinai With Moses

Did you know that the noisy, joyous gathering at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19) is a picture, pattern, or type of the taking of the bride and the coming rapture celebration?

The Courtship

After four hundred years of slavery in Egypt, Yahweh began to prepare the Hebrews to leave Egypt. To do so, he first vanquished ten of the Egyptian gods (Exodus Chapters 7 to 12):

1. **Exodus 7:14-24** – HAPI, the god of the Nile. The Nile turns to blood.
2. **Exodus 8:1-5** – HEQIT, Frog-headed bringer of fertility and goddess of fruitfulness. Frogs everywhere.
3. **Exodus 8:16-19** – LEL, god of the Earth. Gnats everywhere.
4. **Exodus 8:20-32** – KHEPERA, Beetle god in the form of a beetle. Flies everywhere.
5. **Exodus 9:1-7** – APIS/HATHOR Apis was the god of cattle, and Hathor a cow-headed goddess. The cattle die.
6. **Exodus 9:8-12** – NUT - goddess of Heaven. Boils appear on the Egyptians.
7. **Exodus 9:18-35** – IRIS - god of Water. Hail covers the land, kills many people, plants, and livestock.
8. **Exodus 10:12-20** – SERAPIA/SEBEK – Serapia, the protector from Locusts; Sebek the god of Insects. The locusts eat everything in sight.

9. **Exodus 10:21-29** – RA or RE, The Sun god. Darkness covers all of Egypt except Goshen, the residence of the Hebrews.
10. **Exodus 12:1-36** – PHARAOH, Considered to be a son of the gods. Death of all of the firstborn sons.

After vanquishing the Egyptian gods, Yahweh next performs numerous miracles:

1. **Exodus 14** – The Hebrews walk through the Red Sea on dry land, but the Pharaoh and his army drowns.
2. **Exodus 15** – The bitter water at the well of Marah is turned into sweet water.
3. **Exodus 16** – Manna and quail are provided for the grumblers to eat.
4. **Exodus 17** – Water from the rock is provided for the grumblers.

The Wedding

Exodus 19:5 – *“If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples.”*

Finally the Hebrews arrive at Mount Sinai, also known as Mount Horeb or Jebel al-Lawz. This mountain, contrary to many who place it in the Sinai peninsula, is in Midian, or Saudi Arabia, the land of Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro (Exodus 3:1). It is here that the actual wedding ceremony takes place.

The Four Necessary Items

At every Jewish wedding there are several items that are part of that ceremony: a place of cleansing (mikveh), a place of covering or a canopy (chuppah), a written marriage agreement (ketubah), and a visible, tangible expression of the love (ôth). We find all four items at Mount Sinai:

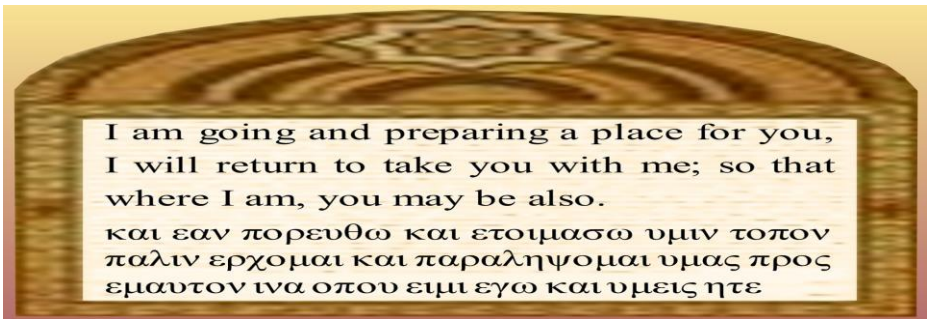
1. A Mikveh [H4723] - Yahweh commands the people to cleanse themselves and make themselves ready for the marriage (Exodus 19:10-14).



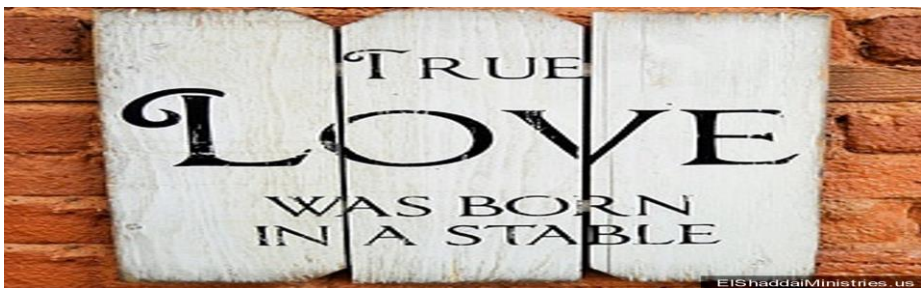
2. A Chuppah [H2646] - not only does Yahweh cover the entire mountain with a cloud, but the Hebrew scripture can literally be translated “*they stood **under** the mountain*” (Exodus 19:17).



3. A Ketubah [from kathab H3791] - the two copies of the Ten Commandments; one copy for the husband, one for the wife. Yahweh trusted his Bride so fully that both copies were given to Moses for her to hold and to keep (Exodus 20:1-17).



4. An Ôth [H226]- Yahweh institutes the Sabbath as a weekly sign (ôth) that he and his Bride belong to each other and are to enjoy each other's presence (Exodus 20:1-17, Exodus 31:16-17).



The Ten Commandments

Are the Ten Commandments just a list of do's and don'ts? A list of rules to follow? Yes, they are all of that, but are also much more. Now, take a look at the first four commandments in light of a wedding ceremony. Each commandment is also an expectation of the behavior that describes a person's behavior once they are married.

My interpretation of these ‘commands’ as wedding vows is below:

The Wedding Vows – The Ketubah

Commandment One: Yahweh has just vanquished all of the Egyptian gods, whom he calls ‘other lovers’, then brings the Hebrews out to Mount Sinai, and says in effect: *“Remember what I’ve done for you. Put me first. Have no other lovers (gods) before me, for I have taken you to be my bride.”* (More on this commandment below)

Commandment Two: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Now that I’m your number one lover, don’t dwell on your former lovers. In fact, don’t make statues of them, don’t keep paintings of them on your walls, don’t listen to them, don’t even talk about them!”*

Commandment Three: Yahweh then says in effect: *“When you take my name as your name, don’t do it lightly or in vain.”* Marriage was never done lightly, frivolously, or in vain - from the acceptance of the betrothal, the bridegroom and bride-to-be were considered married, and all the covenants, privileges, and duties of a fully married couple applied. (More on this commandment below)

Commandment Four: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Spend quality time with me. Let’s meet together every Sabbath and get to know each other more intimately.”* Now consider these parallels between the Exodus 19 passage and Paul’s writings in the Newer Covenants a parallel, pattern, picture, or type of The Rapture. (See the Comparison Chart below)

Commandment Five: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Have respect for your parents and each other.”*

Commandment Six: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Don’t murder each other. Life is precious and is not to be taken.”*

Commandment Seven: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Don’t take other lovers. I am your true husband.”* (More on this commandment below).

Commandment Eight: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Don’t take each other’s belongings. I will supply all your needs.”*

Commandment Nine: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Don’t lie or tell each other tall tales. Speak only the truth.”*

Commandment Ten: Yahweh then says in effect: *“Don’t crave another’s spouse, possessions or servants. I will supply all your needs.”*

The Bridegroom and The Bride

Commandment One

Isaiah 54:5 – *“For your creator is your husband - His name is: the LORD of hosts; the Redeemer; the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth.”*

Yahweh is clearly described as the Hebrew’s true husband. In the same way, Yeshua is the true husband of the Bride of Christ.

Jeremiah 2:2 – *“I remember the devotion of your youth, the love of your betrothal, your following me in the wilderness.”*

The Hebrews are clearly described as taking Yahweh as her husband at Mount Sinai.

Hosea – Hosea, Chapter Two, is an unhappy comment on the Hebrew’s harlotry at Mount Sinai and afterward. She has chased other lovers of whom she says have given her “*my bread and my water*” (2:5), but it is only Yahweh who really gives her the bread and water.

“Taking” a Wife

The expression, “*took . . . to be his wife*”, is used throughout scripture to describe a marriage and the attendant ceremony and taking of vows. A few samples are listed below:

Genesis 11:29 – Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. Abram’s wife was Sarah, and Nahor’s wife Milcah.

Genesis 21:21 – Ishmael took a woman from Egypt to be his wife.

Genesis 24:67 – Isaac took Rebekah as his wife, and he loved her.

Genesis 26:34 and 28:9 – Esau took women as wives from the Hittites and from the Ishmaelites.

Genesis 29:21-28 – Jacob took both Leah and Rachel to be his wives.

2 Samuel 11:27 – David took Bathsheba to be his wife.

The same expression, “*took . . . to be his wife*”, is used to describe Yahweh taking the Hebrews as his wife:

Exodus 19:5-6 – “*If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then I shall take you to be My Cēgullah among all the peoples.*” Yahweh will take as his wife (his cēgullah – his peculiar

treasure) those who obey their wedding vows. They become a kingdom of priests, exactly the same expression used in Revelation 1:6 to describe the Bride of Yeshua!

Commandment Three

“When you take my name as your name, don’t do it lightly or in vain.”

In a Jewish wedding ceremony, once the groom had established and paid the purchase price for the bride he would then offer the Cup Of Covenant to his prospective bride, thereby pledging his life to and for his bride. If the bride accepted this promise, she would then drink of the cup confirming that she, too, would pledge her life to and for her betrothed. This was never done lightly or frivolously – from this point on the bridegroom and bride-to-be were considered married, and all the covenants, privileges, and duties of a fully married couple applied.

Commandment Seven

Genesis 2:24 – *“A man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”*

Matthew Chapter 22, Mark Chapter 12, and Luke Chapter 20, say Yeshua is questioned about a woman who had had seven husbands, all of whom had died. The question is asked, *“In the resurrection, who’s wife will she be?”* To which Yeshua replies, *“She will be the wife of no one, but will be like the angels in Heaven who are neither given nor taken in marriage.”* The angels have only one “husband”, the Lord God Almighty, Adonai.

When we are resurrected, we will have only one “husband” as well. It is only in this physical life that Yahweh allows a man to have a wife and a woman to have a husband. In essence, the seventh commandment states: *“I, Yahweh allow each man to have only one woman as his lover until your physical body becomes a spiritual body. Likewise, women, I allow each woman to have only one man as her lover until your physical body becomes a spiritual body.”* Once we are resurrected, and are given our spiritual, immortal, incorruptible bodies, we are no longer given nor taken in marriage.

Even in this physical dimension, there are those who are neither given nor taken in marriage and who belong solely to their true husband, the Lord God Almighty, Adonai:

Matthew 19:12 – *“For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it.”*

Isaiah 56:4-5 – *“For thus says Adonai: ‘To the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off’.”*

Those who are eunuchs are not to consider themselves to be a dry tree with no children and no future (Isaiah 56:3).

Conclusion

The Ten Commandments, are indeed a list of do's and don'ts, a set of rules to live by, but are not a burden to bear. Just the opposite – they are a written testimony to the sacrament of marriage and are a joy and a gift of love from a husband to his wife, and from a wife to her husband.

The event at Mount Sinai was clearly a wedding ceremony. That the Hebrews were called to be Yahweh's bride is attested to in many scriptures. Yahweh called the Hebrews to be his bride and he is their only true husband. After the Millennial Reign of Yeshua, the marriage between Yahweh and the Hebrews will be finalized. It is Yahweh who gave the Hebrews bread and water in the wilderness. It is Yahweh who calls the Hebrews his peculiar treasure, his Cēgullah, a kingdom of priests.

In heaven, after the resurrection, there will be no marriage between humans, just as there is no marriage between angels even now. Yeshua has called upon us to be his bride and he is our only true husband. The marriage between Yeshua and his bride will be finalized, and the marriage supper will be celebrated at his second coming. Yeshua is our living bread and our living water. Yeshua calls his bride a peculiar treasure, his Cēgullah, a kingdom of priests.

In Exodus:

— Yahweh (Elohim / God) comes down from Heaven in a cloud and his voice is heard, sounding like thunder.

— The people were consecrated then gathered together as a people holy to Yahweh (the LORD).

— They were only allowed to go up to the mountain when a ram's horn (shofar) sounded a long blast.

Now read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 – *“Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven, with a loud shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of Yahweh, and the dead in Yeshua 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.”*

These two passages are but a tiny sample of the scriptures that speak of The Rapture. I firmly believe in The Rapture and suspect it's not far off. I hope your studies of scripture will satisfy you that The Rapture is real as well.

CHART: A Closer Look At The Rapture In Exodus 19 And The Coming Of Yeshua

Passages In Exodus

19:5 – Israel shall be a peculiar treasure
19:6 – Israel is a kingdom of priests
19:7 – The Elders are called before Yahweh
19:9 & 16 – God came down in a thick cloud
19:10 – The people were to sanctify their garments
19:11 – Yahweh came down on third day
19:16 – Yahweh came with lightning
19:18 – Yahweh descended on the mount
19:18 – Yahweh descended in fire
19:19 – A trumpet waxed long and loud
19:19 – Yahweh answers Moses in a loud voice
19:20 – Yahweh descends from heaven
19:20 – Yahweh calls Moses to come up

Newer And Older Covenant Parallels

1 Peter 2:9 – The Church is called a peculiar people
Revelation 1:6, 5:10 – The Church of kings and priests
Revelation 4:10 – The 24 Elders are in heaven
Acts 1:9-11, Rev 1:7 – Yeshua will return in a cloud
Revelation 16:15 – The people are given clean garments
Hosea 6:1-2 – The Church will be raised on the 3rd day
Matthew 24:27 – Yeshua's coming is as lightning
1 Thessalonians. 4:16 – Yeshua will descend from Heaven
2 Thessalonians. 1:7-10 – Yeshua returns in fire
1 Thessalonians. 4:16 – Yeshua descends with trumpet of God
1 Thessalonians. 4:16 – Yeshua shouts, voice of archangel
1 Thessalonians. 4:17 – Yeshua descends from heaven
1 Thessalonians. 4:17 – The believers are caught up

The Jewish Wedding Pattern

The Jewish Wedding Ceremony is full of significant rituals and is a perfect prophetic parallel of the coming of Yeshua to take his Church to be his Bride, a dress rehearsal for The Rapture. Several elements are present at every ceremony, including a ketubah [from kathab - H3791] – a written contract or marriage agreement, a mikveh [H4723] – the place of cleansing and preparation, a chuppah [H2646] – a covering or canopy, and an ôth [H226] – a visible, tangible expression of the love – the calling up of the bride.

The general progression starts at the house of the groom's father, goes to the house of the bride's father, and a proposal is made. The groom then goes back to his father's house, builds an addition for himself and his new bride, then goes to get the bride when the addition is ready. Once there they shut and lock the doors and stay within for seven days. After the seven days the bride is brought forth and shown to all. Let's examine these steps in detail:

The Voyage and Betrothal

John 6:51 – *“I am the living bread which came down from Heaven . . .”*

In a Jewish marriage, the husband-to-be (groom) would consult with his father regarding the woman he wished to take as a bride. If the father agreed to the groom's plan, then the groom would leave his father's home and travel to his betrothed's (bride) home and speak with her father. *Yeshua left his heavenly home, where his father dwells, and*

traveled to the Earth, the home of his betrothed, the Church, called the *Bride of Yeshua*.

The Proposal And The Ketubah

Matthew 26:27 – *“Yeshua took a cup and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you’ . . .”*

Once the groom reached the bride’s home, he would make the marriage proposal then establish and pay the purchase price for the bride, guaranteeing that he was serious about the marriage. **Yeshua paid the ultimate price by being crucified and shedding his blood.**

The groom would compose and verify a written marriage contract, the Ketubah, with the bride’s father, then offer the cup of covenant to his prospective bride, thereby pledging his life to and for his bride. If the bride accepted this promise, she would then drink of the cup confirming that she, too, would pledge her life to and for her betrothed. **Yeshua offers us the cup at every communion – you either accept his offer or reject it.**

The Return to the Father’s House

John 14:1-3 – *“Yeshua said, ‘Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in Yahweh, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am’ .”*

Once the proposal had been given and accepted, the groom would say to his bride, “*I go to prepare a place for you*” then go back to his father’s home. He would build an addition for himself and his bride and wait for his father’s approval. The new addition had to be exceptional, stocked with all the newlyweds would need for their seven days of honeymoon and life together. It was customary for the groom to be gone for a long time and for the bride to wait in anticipation of his return. At the end of the separation, the groom would show up unannounced to take his bride home, but only after his father had given him permission to do so. **Yeshua has returned to Heaven to prepare a place for his Bride and promises to return for her. Yeshua will show up when we do not expect him to do so, and only the Father in Heaven knows the date and time!**

The Mikveh, The Coming For The Bride, And The Ôth

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – “*Yeshua himself will descend from Heaven with a loud shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of Yahweh.*”

The bride now keeps herself pure while she waits for her husband-to-be to return, for she is now considered to be “set apart”, “consecrated”, and “bought with a price”. Her Mikveh is her father’s home. She expects her husband-to-be to come at midnight and surprise her! And what a noisy celebration that is. The groom’s party arrives with loud shouts, often accompanied by the blowing of a shofar or trumpet. When the groom gets to his bride’s home, he will wait outside for the bride to join him. **When Yeshua returns, he will shout, the archangel will shout,**

and Yahweh's voice will sound like a trumpet. Yeshua will not come all the way to the Earth, but will wait for us to join him in the clouds.

Once the groom and bride are together, the Bride is carried to the groom's new home, which is the addition to the same home as his father's, in full view of the onlookers. The groom doesn't just shout and expect his bride to instantly disappear from her home and show up at his home. People would know that a wedding was under way because of all the laughing and partying of the bridegroom and his friends as they carried the veiled bride through the streets to her new home. The bride is "lifted up" and carried to the new home - the ôth. **When the Bride of Yeshua is raptured, she meets Yeshua in the air, is covered by the clouds, and is taken to Heaven** (1 Thessalonians 4:7).

The Chuppah, The Reading of the Ketubah, And The Hiding

Matthew 25:10 – *“The bridesmaids who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.”*

The groom and bride go to his fathers house and the wedding ceremony takes place under the Chuppah (marriage canopy). The Chuppah is generally open on all sides, The reading of the ketubah text is given, outlining the groom's responsibilities – to provide his bride with her daily physical needs (daily bread) as well as her emotional needs. The couple is then concealed in the marital chamber. Once inside they shut and lock the doors and stay within for seven days.

In English thinking, we get the idea that you simply go into a bedroom

and shut the door. However, in Hebrew, the picture is one of concealment – the husband and wife go into the chamber and are hidden away from everyone and all earthly concerns. Matthew 25:10 tells us the door is “*closed and locked*”. Isaiah 26:19-21 gives us the image of those who come into their chambers, “*lock the doors, and hide for a little while . . .*”

This is repeated in Song of Songs 2:8 and 13:10 – “*My lover spoke and said to me, ‘Get up, my darling; let’s go away, my beautiful one’.*” These three patterns are perfect pictures of the concealment of the Bride of Yeshua in Heaven for seven years during the time of Yahweh/Yeshua’s indignation or wrath (i.e.; the tribulation period).

The Revealing And The Supper

Revelation 19:7-10 – “*Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Yahweh, for the marriage of Yeshua has come and his wife has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and pure . . . Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper . . .*”

At the end of the seven day period, after the concealment and the consummation of the marriage, the husband and wife exit for the marriage supper or celebration meal. **The husband brings forth his wife so that everyone can see her, and the marriage supper begins.**

While the tribulation period transpires on the Earth, the Bride’s works and deeds have been evaluated and rewarded at the Bema Seat of

Yeshua in Heaven. At the end of the tribulation period Yeshua will come with all his saints and every eye will see Heaven opened and his wife adorned in fine, pure, white linen! **After the supper is over, both will reign throughout the millennial kingdom.**

Conclusion

The Jewish Wedding Ceremony is indeed a dress rehearsal for The Rapture.

Yeshua came down from Heaven, gave his life as a ransom for his bride, offered her eternal life, returned to heaven to prepare a place for his bride and will return to take her home.

His return will be a noisy, celebratory event.

The bride will be concealed while he pours out his wrath, culminating in his return, the revealing of his wife, and their millennial reign.

The Wedding Pattern Midrash

John 14:1-3 – *“Yeshua said, ‘Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in Yahweh, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am’.”*

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. But this is not what the Jewish Wedding Ceremony pattern shows. Yeshua gives his bride many clues as to the time frame when her Rapture will happen. Famines, pestilences, earthquakes in diverse places, wars, ethnic tensions, and the budding of the fig tree, just to name a few.

Putting It All In Context

The wedding ceremony is the best guideline to the timing of the Rapture. 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
- 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.

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 Process Begins

1. The foundation of the new addition has been laid, and ready for the walls to be placed upon it. Next-Door Neighbor Nancy, who lives just across the street, has both eyes glued to the building of the new addition to the Father's house. At the laying of the foundation, Nancy heads to the watering well to inform her friends that the building of the groom's addition to the Father's house is now under way.

2. The walls are raised. Nancy now heads to the watering well to inform her friends that the walls are going up. Her friends, upon returning home, tell their husbands and families the news. For most of the townsfolk, the day of the wedding is still too far away to get overly excited.

3. The roof and guard rail are built. (Deuteronomy 22:8 – “*When you build a new house, you must build a low wall around your roof; otherwise someone may fall from it, and you will be responsible for his death.*”) Nancy again heads to the watering well to inform her friends that the walls are in place and the roof has been installed, along with the mandatory guard rails. Her friends, upon returning home, tell their husbands and families the news. The townsfolk take it all in stride. Still no need to get excited just yet.

4. The windows and door are hung. Nancy sets off to the watering well to inform her friends that windows and doors are now there. Her friends, upon returning home, tell their husbands and families the news. The townsfolk are starting to get excited as they see the signs of an forthcoming wedding. Time to buy gifts and clean the wedding outfits.

5. The Furniture is built or delivered. Nancy hastens to the watering well to inform her friends that the furniture has now arrived. Her friends, upon returning home, tell their husbands and families the news. The townsfolk are now really excited and their husbands start to query the groom: “*When are you going to get your bride?*” He answers: “*Don’t ask me, don’t ask mom or my siblings; ya’all will have to ask pops - only he knows the day and hour!*” Folks now know the wedding day is not far off.

6. The Chuppah is erected and transportation for the Bride is arraigned. Nancy runs to the watering well to inform her friends that the Chuppah

has been erected, and the horses providing the Bride's transportation has been arranged. Her friends rush home to tell their husbands and families the news. They now know time is short. The Wedding is imminent. Time to prepare to hear the shofar blow!

7. The food is prepared and set out. When the townsfolk saw the food arrive, they knew without any shadow of doubt that the Father had given the Groom permission to go get his bride, and that the Wedding would begin either that night or the following night. And the announcement, thanks to the next-door neighbor, went out. Nancy races as fast as she can to the watering well to inform her friends that the food has arrived. Did you hear? The food has arrived!!! Her friends rush home to tell their husbands and families the news. Panic has fully set in. The Wedding is ON. Stay alert, get ready, because the groom is ready, near, at the door!

The Day and Hour is at Hand

At the time of Yeshua, refrigeration did not exist. Food, especially up until just recently, spoiled quickly. So, 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 bridegroom's neighbors and bride's family are now very, very alert. 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, paying attention, or are you still asleep?

The Rapture of the Bride

A Jewish Wedding Ceremony is full of significant rituals and is a perfect prophetic parallel of the coming of Yeshua to take his church to be his Bride, a dress rehearsal for The Rapture. As the addition to the Father's home is being built, the townsfolk are paying attention to the many signs of how close the day of the Wedding approaches. That day was not a totally unknown event. Each new process completed gave a sign as to how much longer it would be. Every so often, one of the groom's buddies would ask him about the actual day, and he would reply "*Don't ask me, don't ask mom or my siblings; ya'all will have to ask pops - only he knows the day and hour!*"

When the disciples asked Yeshua about his day of return to take them to be with him, he answered and told them to be alert to the signs, and with a wink and a smile, said: "*Neither I nor the angels will make known or declare that day, only my father in Heaven will reveal or declare it.*" (Mark 13:32). Yeshua simply quoted the well known Hebrew phrase that all grooms would quote when asked about their Wedding Day. In other words, Yeshua wasn't telling them that the day was impossible to figure out, but that it could be accurately determined within just a day or two by being alert!

Conclusion

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

The house must be fully built, furniture installed, and the food must be ordered and delivered before the groom goes to go get his bride.

During the process of building the home, the next-door neighbors are watching every step.

When the food arrives, they rush to tell everyone: The Wedding is ON – the groom is going to bring his bride home either tonight or tomorrow!

Section Commentary

The Jewish Wedding Ceremony is indeed a dress rehearsal for The Rapture. Yeshua came down from Heaven, gave his life as a ransom for his Bride and offered her eternal life. He returned to Heaven to prepare a place for his Bride and will return to take her home at a time of which *“no one makes known the day or hour until the time is right.”* His return will be a noisy, celebratory event. His Bride will be concealed while he pours out his wrath upon those still living upon the Earth, culminating in his return, the revealing of his wife, the wedding supper, and their millennial reign.

The hé apostasia is The Rapture, a physical departure and relocation of the Bride of Yeshua from Earth to Heaven. The raptured people do not just disappear and leave a heap of clothing, jewels, and other personal items. The raptured people are fully witnessed as they are taken up to the clouds.

The Moedim of Yahweh, the Divine Appointments, give us a pattern of the timing of the rapture event. The Spring Moedim were fulfilled at Yeshua’s first coming and the Fall Moedim will ultimately be fulfilled at his second coming.

The next moed on Yahweh’s calendar is Yom Teruah. This moed is referred to as both “no one knows the day or hour” and “the last trump”, so we can know the season, if not the year in which it will

occur. Scripture has given us plenty of advance notice regarding this event.

The Jewish Wedding Ceremony is indeed a dress rehearsal for The Rapture. Yeshua came down from Heaven, gave his life as a ransom for his Bride and offered her eternal life. He returned to Heaven to prepare a place for his Bride and will return to take her home at a time of which “no one knows the day or hour”. His return will be a noisy, celebratory event. His Bride will be concealed while he pours out his wrath upon those still living upon the Earth, culminating in his return, the revealing of his wife, the wedding supper, and their millennial reign.

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.

The Third Interlude

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event

Apostasia can describe a physical departure of Yeshua's Bride from the Earth to Heaven, which may take place over time, not instantly.

The moedim establish the timetable for when events on Yahweh's calendar and daytimer will be fully completed. If we look at the Yom Teruah model, everyone knows within two days when this celebration will begin.

If we look at the Mount Sinai model, we see that weddings are par for the course. If we look at the Jewish Wedding model, everyone in town would know when completion was getting close, but not which day the father would tell his son to go get his bride. Hence, "*You do not know the day or the hour*", but you should not be caught unawares of the season.

We are ushered into Yeshua's presence. I cannot think of a more joyous event. No doubt the party in Heaven will be amazing! All these things sound like a joyous, heartwarming, glorious occasion to me.

What does it sound like to you?

*More
Scriptural
Evidence*

Twenty Reasons For A Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Older Covenant Scripture:

1. The tribulation is a time to bring forth a remnant from within Israel (Isaiah 1:9).
2. The tribulation is a time to destroy sinners and the unrighteous from the Earth (Isaiah 13:9).
3. The tribulation is a time of Jacob's trouble, not a time of judging the Church (Jeremiah 30:7).

These Older Covenant scriptures clearly state that the Tribulation is a time that affects Israel (or Jacob) and sinners. The Church, or Bride of Yeshua has already been declared without sin, so cannot be included in those who will be subject to the Tribulation and its judgments.

These statements are mirrored in the Newer Covenant as follows:

4. The tribulation is a time to judge the nations for their sins against Yahweh's chosen people. It is not a time to judge the saints, nor the Church, which is judged at the Bema Seat of Yeshua (Revelation 11:18)
5. The tribulation is a time to bring forth a remnant from within Israel not from within the Church/Bride of Yeshua (Revelation 12:17)

These Newer Covenant scriptures also clearly state that the Tribulation is a time that affects his chosen ones – Israel.

More Scripture:

6. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are with Yeshua and not affected by the fire (Daniel 3:13-ff)

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, also known as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 1:7) represent those who have placed their faith in Yahweh/Yeshua. In other words, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah represent the Church/Bride of Yeshua. They are unaffected by Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace, and so the Church/Bride of Yeshua will also be unaffected by the fiery judgments of the Tribulation.

7. Yahweh reserves his wrath for his enemies (Nahum 1& 2)

8. Yahweh has not appointed us to wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

9. Yahweh only shows his anger against those who suppress the truth (Romans 1:18)

10. Yahweh keeps the unrighteous for the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:9)

The Church/Bride of Yeshua is not an enemy of Yahweh, but are in fact called "friends" (John 15:15). It is only those who do not accept Yeshua as their Lord and Savior and who suppress the truth, that are judged unrighteous. The Church/Bride of Yeshua is judged righteous by the shed blood of the Lamb, Yeshua Ha'Mashiach.

11. We are to pray to escape all these things (Luke 21:36)

Yeshua does not desire for the Church/Bride of Yeshua to endure the tribulation, but does expect his Bride to be in prayer and to petition him that they will be raptured prior to the tribulation.

12. We are gathered together before the decree takes effect and Yahweh's wrath is unleashed (Zephaniah 2:1-2)

The Decree spoken of in this verse is the tribulation and the undesired nation is the Church/Bride of Yeshua. Zephaniah clearly states that the Church/Bride of Yeshua will be gathered together before the tribulation starts.

13. Yeshua will build his Church, and nothing will conquer it. The Gates of Hades will not be able to assail it. (Matthew 16:18)

14. The Son Of Perdition (Antichrist) cannot be revealed until he who restrains evil is removed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8)

See the "Absolute Proof Of A Pre-Tribulation Rapture" section below.

15. Yeshua will save us from Yahweh's wrath by his blood (Romans 5:9)

16. Yahweh will keep the Church from the hour of testing that will come upon all the Earth (Revelation 3:10)

Yeshua and Yahweh clearly protect the Church/Bride of Yeshua from enduring the tribulation. Therefore, one must conclude that Yeshua's Bride will be raptured prior to the tribulation.

17. Yeshua returns to take us to be where he is (John 5, 6, 14)

18. The Church is enrolled in Heaven (Hebrews 12:22-24)

The Church/Bride of Yeshua is clearly in Heaven with Yeshua, as Yeshua is also clearly in Heaven during the tribulation period.

19. The Church will have a time of Sabbath rest in Heaven (Hebrews 4:9)

20. Only the Bride of Yeshua can sing “*You have bought us with your blood . . .*” (Revelation 5:9-10)

The Church/Bride of Yeshua has been given its Sabbath rest as a result of Yeshua’s shed blood, and sings to confirm this fact while enjoying being in Heaven.

Conclusion

The Rapture is definitely Pre-Tribulation, and the above scriptures give us every reason to be, joyous, happy, cheerful, festive, and singing our hearts out!

Absolute Proof Of A Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Matthew 16:18 – *“I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will neither prevail against it, overcome it, nor conquer it.”*

In numerous scriptures a period of seven years of tribulation, trial, and judgment is described. It is during this period that the Antichrist is revealed and the saints are overcome, as described by the Prophets, Daniel, and Revelation. It is also during this period that scripture tells us that large numbers of people will accept Yeshua as their Messiah. These tribulation period saints, however, are not the Saints that currently make up the Church / Bride of Yeshua.

This period is called by various terms and titles throughout both Older and Newer Covenants:

- The Tribulation
- Daniel’s 70th Week
- Day Of Yahweh (The LORD)
- Day Of Mashiach (Christ)
- Day Of Wrath
- Day Of Indignation
- Days Of Vengeance
- The Hour of Trial
- Time Of Jacob’s Trouble
- Time Of The End
- The Lamb’s Wrath
- The Great And Terrible Day Of Yahweh (The LORD)

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 tells us that this seven year period will not come unless the departure, both spiritual and spatial, comes first, and then the Antichrist is revealed. Daniel, in chapters 7-11, tells us that the temple is rebuilt, the Antichrist will be the leader of ten nations, that he will enforce a seven year covenant with Israel, he will desecrate the rebuilt temple, and he will be the leader of a nation to the north of Israel. Paul also informs us that the true Church, the Bride of Yeshua, will not know who this Antichrist is since he will only be revealed at the start of the seven year period, after the Rapture.

Scripture tells us that no one will know the day and hour of Yeshua's next coming – the coming in the clouds to resurrect the dead and translate the living to immortality (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:52). This coming in the clouds by Yeshua can only refer to the pre-tribulation Resurrection/Rapture, as once the Antichrist has been revealed to the world (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8) when the covenant is confirmed at the start of the seven year period, the timing of Yeshua's second coming can be mathematically determined. – everyone will then know precisely the day of his return, if not the exact hour!

Proof that the timing of the Resurrection/Rapture is before the Tribulation period is stated in several scriptures, including Revelation 3:10 – *“the church will be kept from the hour of trial”*, and 1 Thessalonians 5:9 – *“the church is not appointed to wrath”*, even though “tribulation saints” will experience either part or all of the period. Isaiah also knew that he would be resurrected and would be

hidden during the time of the indignation (Isaiah 26:19-20).

Matthew 16:18 – *“I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”*

Absolute proof, however, that the Church is removed prior to the Tribulation period, is contained in the Matthew 16:18 verse above. In this verse, Yeshua clearly states that neither Lucifer, Satan, The Devil, the Antichrist, the fallen angels, nor all the powers of hell can overcome, prevail against, or conquer his Church, his Bride, his Redeemed.

Since we know through scripture that Satan is given power to overcome “the saints” during the seven year period, the Church/Bride of Yeshua, therefore cannot, I repeat, CANNOT, be present in the world – it has to be some other group of saints whom Satan is able to overcome. If the Church, the Bride of Yeshua, were still in the world when Satan is allowed to overcome, Yeshua would be a liar, and he cannot lie! Numerous scriptures attest to this fact.

Therefore, absolute proof that the Resurrection/Rapture of the Church, the Bride of Yeshua, occurs before the Tribulation is guaranteed by Yeshua’s statement in Matthew 16:18.

This does not in any way preclude others from accepting Yeshua during the Tribulation period, nor Satan’s ability to overcome those newly born “saints” at that time.

*A Party
Like
No Other*

Stark Naked on Parade

Is The Rapture going to be a quiet affair, or is this going to be the noisiest, most jubilant celebration Heaven has ever witnessed? If prior events are the pattern, then The Rapture is most likely going to be very noisy!

Definitions below are compiled from Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, New American Standard Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Thayer's Greek Definitions, and Rick Renner's *Sparkling Gems from the Greek*.

The Greek Scriptures – Colossians

Colossians 2:15 – “*Having spoiled principalities and powers, Yeshua triumphed over them and made a public spectacle of them.*”

Greek: apekduomai arché kai exousia parrésia deigmatizo thriambeuo thriambeuo.

Defining The Greek Words in Colossians

- apekduomai [G554] — to despoil, disarm, or wholly divest of all belongings
arché [G746] — principalities, powers
kai [G2532] — and
deigmatizo [G1165] — to display, to expose
parresia [G3954]: — openly, plainly, publicly, with boldness, confidence, and jubilant celebration
thriambeuo [G2358]: — to triumph, to triumph over, to lead in triumph (*used twice*)

The Greek Scriptures – Ephesians

Ephesians 4:8 – “*When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive.*”

Greek: anabaino eis hypsos aichmaloteuo aichmaloteuo aichmalosia

Defining The Greek Words in Ephesians

anabaino [G305]	— to ascend, to rise, to mount, to be borne up
eis [G1519]	— into, unto, to, towards
hypsos [G5311]	— height, as of heaven, rank or station
aichmaloteuo [G162]	— to make /take captive, to capture (<i>used twice</i>)
aichmalosia [G161]	— a captive, someone or something in captivity

Word Pictures from the Greek Words

Anabaino is the Greek word that describes travel from one place to another, often as in went up to Yerushalayim from the Jordan River.

Aichmalosia is the Greek word that simply describes a captive, or someone in captivity.

Aichmaloteuo is the Greek word that describes the action of an army or soldier taking full control over a captive. In this process, the soldier would take a captive from one location to another. This word is used twice in a row, indicating an exceptionally strong taking of control!!

Apekduomai is the Greek word that describes a complete spoiling, stripping, or disarming of an enemy, often leaving them naught but their birthday suits. In other words, the enemy soldier was left standing stark naked. Apekduomai was a complete plundering of the enemy’s possessions, lands, armor, treasures, trophies, weaponry, subjects and captives. Nothing was left for the enemy to gather together; nothing with which he might retaliate.

Deigmatizo is the Greek word used to denote the display of captives, weaponry, and trophies that were seized during war on foreign soil. Every item displayed was exposed for all to view and enjoy. This display was not done in private –it was done in public, open to all. This display also was designed to commemorate the victor and to humiliate the defeated enemy.

Parresia is the Greek word that was used of an openly, blatantly, publicly performed parade. It was a momentous, loud, full on celebration that was celebrated by both emperor and subjects. By using parresia in conjunction with deigmatizo, Paul doubly emphasizes the extent of the public display. This was no quiet celebration, attended by just a couple of the emperor’s closest friends! Oh, no, not at all – this was a well attended affair celebrated by the entire nation of people.

Thriambeuo is the Greek word that specifically means a triumphal parade. This parade celebrated the returning emperor’s, king’s, or general’s triumph, bringing the conquered enemy king, beaten and bound in chains, to be paraded before the people. This word, thriambeuo, is used twice in a row, indicating an exceptionally strong triumphal parade.

Conclusion

This spectacle was no quiet, private celebration. It was a full blown party-hearty affair, a noisy, loud, full on, joyous, heartwarming, momentous, glorious celebration – a picture of the noisy affair called The Rapture!

Angels Making Whoopee

The Angels Celebrate Over Lost Sinners Who Repent

Luke 15:4-7 – *“If a man has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he finds it, he carries it home on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he gets home, he calls his friends and neighbors, saying:, ‘Come and celebrate with me, for I found my lost sheep!’ Likewise, there is more joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.”*

Heaven celebrates every single time a sinner repents. Picture in your mind celebrations you have witnessed when someone has called together a group of friends – perhaps to celebrate the Super Bowl games or World Series. Are these quiet affairs? I think not!

A Father Celebrates Over A Lost Son Being Found

Luke 15:20-24 – *“He left and headed home to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his dad saw him, felt compassion for him, then ran, embraced him, and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Papa, I have sinned against Heaven and yourself; I am no longer worthy to be called your son’. But the father said to his employees, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let’s eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is now alive again; he was lost and has been found’. And they began to celebrate.”*

Was this celebration of the son being found a quiet affair? Not at all.

Luke 15:25 – *“Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.”*

In fact, the celebration was so noisy, so jubilant, so tremendous that the older son could hear its music and dancing even as he approached the house from out in the fields. Hearing this loud celebration made him come to investigate.

Other Celebrations

Scripture tells us of many other celebrations. Celebrations are held for the moedim, for being chosen, for dedications, for reading of Torah, for giving thanksgiving and praise, for victory in Yeshua, for the captives having been brought to a better, more wonderful captivity.

Conclusion

Angels celebrating over lost souls who have accepted Yeshua as their savior and Lord, fathers holding parties for sons who were thought lost but who have returned to the homestead, and a lot of feasting, thanking and praising.

These festivities and parties sound like a lot of joyous, noisy, exuberant celebrating to me, not at all like a lot of private, quiet affairs!

What do they sound like to you?

Noisy Affairs and Parties Like No Other

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. Satan, our adversary, has been fully stripped and no longer has any authority over all who accept Yeshua as their Lord. 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!!

And exactly where is the gathering place before we ascend to Heaven? In the air – in the realm of the Prince of the Power of the Air – in Satan's abode! Perhaps this is the final moment when the adversary, Satan, Lucifer, The Devil, is permanently removed from the heavens and thrown down to Earth, knowing that his time is short.

Celebrations of All Kinds: Many A Party Like No Other

This gathering is accompanied by Yeshua shouting, an Archangel speaking in a loud voice, and the trumpet (voice) of Yahweh. A quiet affair – not likely! **Undoubtedly a very glorious, noisy, joyful, heartwarming, stupendous witnessed affair!**

Section Commentary

Both Older and Newer Covenant scriptures are filled with many verses that point to the Rapture being a pre-tribulation event. The Older Covenant scriptures clearly state that the Tribulation is a time that affects Israel (or Jacob) and sinners. The Newer Covenant scriptures also clearly state that the Tribulation is a time that affects his chosen ones – Israel.

The Church, or Bride of Yeshua has already been declared without sin, so cannot be included in those who will be subject to the Tribulation and its judgments.

Both Older and Newer Covenant scriptures also point to events that are anything but quiet, subdued affairs. All of Heaven is involved in these events, giving praise for Yahweh and Yeshua's victories.

By now, I expect that you are looking forward to The Resurrection / Rapture with joy, with a living hope, and overwhelming gladness. 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!!

The Rapture is a glorious, noisy, joyful, heartwarming, witnessed event that culminates in a stupendous party celebration like no other.

The Fourth Interlude

The Rapture Is A Witnessed Event

The patterns have been established by two or more witnesses. The Rapture is a pre-tribulation event.

Celebrations in Heaven are noisy, joyous, heartwarming, glorious occasions. 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. And Yeshua's victory over Satan was fully, openly, and loudly celebrated in Heaven.

The Bride of Yeshua is raptured and ushered into Yeshua's presence before Yahweh and Yeshua's wrath is poured out. Not having to experience Yahweh and Yeshua's wrath and to be gathered together with Yahweh, Yeshua, the Ruach Ha'Kodesh, and all who have placed their trust in Yeshua as their Lord and Savior prior to the tribulation sounds like a joyous, heartwarming, glorious occasion to me.

What does it sound like to you?

In fact, all these things sound like joyous occasions to me. I cannot think of a more joyous event than The Rapture. No doubt the party in Heaven will be amazing!

How amazing do you think The Rapture Party will be?

*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.

Avoiding The Tribulation and Eternal Damnation

Exercise whatever time you have to repent and trust Yeshua for your eternal salvation. Do not test Yahweh's patience and wait too long.

Three immediate steps must be taken to insure that you do miss The Rapture, that blessed hope when Yeshua shouts (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18), or worse yet, spend eternity in the Lake of Fire experiencing eternal damnation for failing to accept him as your Lord and Savior:

- **Repent** – Admit that you have sinned and that you are indeed a sinner.
- **Pray** – Ask Yeshua to be your Lord and Savior.
- **Be Redeemed** – Allow yourself to be baptized in the name of the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit and accept the gift of Yeshua's salvation, redemption, blessing and comfort.

What's In Store

The Bride of Yeshua, his true Church, will some day be raptured to be with him in Heaven. At that time, life will get incrementally worse for all who have been left behind:

- All who then place their trust in Yeshua can expect to be martyred for their newfound trust in him.
- A peace treaty will be signed with Israel, once the Antichrist has been revealed, but the treaty will only last three and one-half years before the Antichrist breaks it.
- All out war will break out as Satan, through his Antichrist, attempts to

totally eliminate both the Jews and any new believers in Yeshua.

- A final battle will take place in Israel at which time Yeshua will return and personally end the conflict.
- All that survive the seven years of tribulation who have trusted Yeshua for salvation will be welcomed into his millennium reign. Those who have not will immediately die.
- A final judgment at the end of the Millennial Reign (thousand years) will occur at the Great White Throne, at which time all those who have rejected Yeshua will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

My Prayer For You

Revelation 6:9 – *“When Yeshua broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of Yeshua and for being faithful in their testimony.”*

It is my hope that you will finally place your trust in Yeshua and continue to look forward to our blessed hope. It is still possible to be taken out of the wrath to come, to minimize the possibility that you will be martyred. However, one can only be raptured through faith in Yeshua.

Those who fail to place their faith in Yeshua prior to The Rapture will suffer all or part of the tribulation period, and the souls of those new believers who are martyred during that seven year period will then be taken to Heaven. They will also receive new bodies in which to be servants to those who are born during Yeshua’s thousand year reign, the millennium.

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.

Yahweh's Parties

Yahweh's parties, the moedim, are the best parties in town. Nobody does them better! Enough meat to feed an army – lamb, beef – roasted, boiled, barbequed, as it were. Loaf upon loaf of breads, some baked with leaven, some without. And the wine – gallons and gallons of wine – the best wine in the world. Yahweh brings the best of the best to his parties, never second rate. And they hardly sound like quiet, unnoticed affairs.

Was Shavuot, for instance, a quiet affair? When Shavuot occurred in Yerushalayim, instituting the Age of Grace and the Church Age, the people hearing of this accused the disciples of being “full of sweet wine” (Acts 2-13).

Peter quickly corrects them saying “*It is only nine a.m. in the morning!*” Did being indwelt sound like a private, quiet celebration to you? I don’t think so.

Sounds like it was a very noisy, joyous, glorious occasion to me! Wouldn’t you be joyful if you had just been indwelt by the Ruach Ha’Kodesh in the same manner? I would.

And how about Yom Teruah. Was is a quiet affair? Trumpets and shofars blaring, wedding day of the Messiah, coronation of Messiah as King, resurrection of the righteous dead and the taking up of the living righteous. Does this sound like some private, quiet celebration to you? I don’t think so. Sounds like a noisy, joyous glorious occasion to me!

Other Parties

Weddings

In a Jewish wedding, the groom’s party arrives at the bride’s house with loud shouts, often accompanied by the blowing of a shofar or trumpet. The bride would first hear of her bridegrooms presence outside her home through the loud, noisy calling of the bridegroom’s friends – “*Your groom is on his way to lift you up and carry you to the new home; come out and join him so we can start the ceremony!*” Does this sound like some private, quiet celebration to you? I don’t think so. This sounds like a noisy, joyous, glorious occasion to me!

Parades

Paul tells us that armies would make a public display of captives, weaponry, and trophies that were seized during war on foreign soil (Colossians 2:15). Every item displayed was exposed to all to view and enjoy in an openly, blatantly, publicly performed parade. It was a momentous, loud, full on celebration that was celebrated by both emperor and subjects.

When Yeshua triumphed over Satan, he also held a parade (Ephesians 4:8). Does this sound like some private, quiet celebration to you? I don't think so. Once again we see the pattern of a noisy, loud, full on, joyous, heartwarming, momentous, glorious occasion.

Repentant Sinners

Heaven celebrates every single time a sinner repents (Luke 15:4-7). Picture in your mind celebrations you have witnessed when someone has called together a group of friends – perhaps to celebrate the Super Bowl games or World Series.

When the prodigal son returns home, the father sees him from afar, runs to meet him, then commands his servants to bring out the best robe, sandals, and his ring, to kill a fattened calf, roast it, and then celebrate. (Luke 15:20-24).

The celebration was so loud, in fact, that the older son could hear its noise even out in the fields, and came to investigate (Luke 15:25).

Do these events sound like some private, quiet celebrations to you? I don't think so. These sound like noisy, joyous, glorious occasions to me!

Other Celebrations

Scripture tells us of many other celebrations. Celebrations are held for the moedim, for feasting, for being chosen, for dedications, for reading of Torah, for giving thanksgiving and praise, for victory in Yeshua, for the captives having been brought to a better, more wonderful captivity.

We escape floods, famine, walls falling down, the tribulation. We are kept from the wrath about to engulf the Earth. We are invited to a wedding and hidden away when the door is shut. We are given festal clothing. Angels celebrating, fathers holding parties, and a lot of feasting, thanking and praising. This sounds like a lot of joyous, noisy, exuberant celebrating to me, not at all like a lot of private, quiet affairs!

What does it sound like to you?

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.

When Yeshua returns, he will shout, the archangel will shout, and Yahweh's voice will sound like a trumpet. Yeshua will not come all the way to the Earth, but will wait for us to join him in the clouds.

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!

Section Commentary

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.

When the Rapture occurs it may be that some of you will be simply caught up and some will have to be yanked out of here! 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 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!

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 he is your Redeemer, King, and High Priest.

Final Commentary

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!

Appendixes

Appendix A: Acknowledgments

Bible verses referenced in this book are compiled from the following translations or paraphrases:

Complete Jewish Bible, New American Standard Bible, New Revised Standard Version, New Century Version, King James Version, New International Version, Contemporary English Version, English Standard Version, Holman Christian Standard Bible, New Living Translation, and The Message.

Word definitions are compiled from one or more of the following concordances and/or dictionaries:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance, New American Standard Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Thayer's Greek Definitions, and Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions.

I could spend pages thanking all those whose works, books, videos, and teachings have influenced this book, but simply thank Yahweh, Yeshua, and the Ruach Ha'Kodesh for providing all that was needed for me to write this down.

All information in this book is a compilation from many sources in my own words.

Use of Copyrighted Material

Disclaimer

This book may inadvertently contain some copyrighted material that has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. In accordance with the fair dealing clauses of Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, this material is provided without profit to any who merely use it as a starting point to do their own research and study – Credit is provided via links or mention of author(s) when known.

This book is not to be sold in any format – paperback, hardback, or electronic. This book is supplied purely for informational reasons.

You may, however, freely give a copy to friends, family, pastors, or anyone interested in learning more about the witnessed resurrection and rapture.

***May Yahweh and Yeshua continue to
richly bless each and every one.***

Appendix B: Other Rapture Sources

Suggested Sources For Further Study and Instruction
Each source may include Books, DVDs, TV Programs

The Bible Scriptures

Complete Jewish Bible, New American Standard Bible, New Revised Standard Version, New Century Version, King James Version, New International Version, Contemporary English Version, English Standard Version, Holman Christian Standard Bible, New Living Translation, and The Message.

Online Sources for the Divine Appointments include:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>

<http://www.jewfaq.org>

<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org>

Rapture Students

David Jeremiah <https://www.davidjeremiah.org>

David Olander <https://tyndale.edu/product/the-greatness-of-the-rapture/>

David R. Reagan <https://christinprophecy.org/>

Gary Stearman <https://prophecywatchers.com>

Hal Lindsey <https://www.hallindsey.com/>

John Parsons <https://www.hebrew4christians.com/#loaded>

Kenneth Johnson <https://biblefacts.org>

LA Marzulli <https://lamarzulli.net/>

Mark Biltz <https://www.esm.us/>

Mondo Gonzales <https://prophecywatchers.com>

Perry Stone <https://perrystone.org/>

Tom Horn..... <https://www.skywatchtv.com>

Appendix C: Methods of Interpretation

Hermeneutics is the science and methodology of interpreting the texts of the Biblical scriptures, and explaining religious concepts, theories, and principles. The best scholars use many different lenses to interpret scripture.

One lens that is used to interpret scripture is the lens of "Grammatical Historical Narrative". Historical and secular parallels and patterns help us understand the direction history and nations are headed.

A second lens is called: "Circular History". History, to humans is linear. History to Yahweh/Yeshua is circular – He calls the end out of the beginning.

A third lens is the lens of PaRDeS, or four levels. This lens brings scripture to life, and allows every verse or chapter multiple applications and levels of meaning. The 4 levels of **PaRDeS** are:

- **Pashat: Plain Simple, Literal Meaning, Surface Meaning**

The pashat level of understanding is the plain, simple, literal meaning of the text; understanding scripture in its natural, normal sense using the customary meanings of the words being used.

- **Remez: Parable, Allegorical Meaning – The Hint**

The remez level of understanding is where another (implied) meaning is alluded to in the text, usually revealing a deeper meaning.

- **Darash: Deeper, Comparative Meaning Found Only By Intense Searching**

The darash level of understanding is called "search". Creativity is used to search the text in relation to the rest of the Scriptures, other literature, or life itself in order to develop an allegorical, typological or homiletical application of the text.

- **Sod: Secret, Unrevealed Meaning**

This level of understanding is the hidden, secret or mystic meaning of a text.

None of the last three levels can violate the pashat meaning of the text.

A fourth lens is the **ParTy** lens. This stands for **Parallels, Patterns, Pictures, and Types**. This lens brings scripture to life, and allows every verse or chapter multiple applications.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 – *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”*

Biblical parallels, tell us who Yeshua is, what his ministry is, and what the future holds.

These parallels, patterns, pictures, and types become very important when we try to determine if scripture and prophecy have anything to say to us today, especially since scripture informs us that patterns are cyclical.

Appendix D: The Names of The Patriarchs

Genesis 5:1-2 – *“When Adam was 130 years old he became the father of Seth. When Seth was 105 years old he became the father of Enosh. When Enosh was 90 years old he became the father of Kenan. When Kenan was 70 years old he became the father of Mahalaleel. When Mahalaleel was 65 years old he became the father of Jared. When Jared was 162 years old he became the father of Enoch. When Enoch was 65 years old he became the father of Methuselah. When Methuselah was 187 years old he became the father of Lamech. When Lamech was 182 years old he became the father of Noah.”*

The ten generations listed in Genesis Chapter Five give a detailed account of Yahweh’s plan of redemption. The ten names are: Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah. Together, they compose the statement:

Mankind is appointed to feeble, frail, mortality; a fixed dwelling place. God who is praised comes down to instruct as a man sent forth to be beaten, smitten and tortured; bringing rest, a quiet peace.

Another way of stating this is: *Man is appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.*

Revelation 7:4-8 – *“And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve*

thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.”

Likewise, the Hebrew meanings of the twelve generations mentioned in Revelation Chapter Seven tell the completion of the plan. The twelve names are: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Together, they compose the statement:

Praise God! Behold, a Son, whose fortune has come. They are happy and blessed after wrestling and striving, forgetting their past troubles, hearing and obeying, united as one. Their recompense for their labor is to dwell with God, and He will increase and add to them many sons of His right hand.

Another way of saying this is:

I will praise the Lord for he has looked on me and granted good fortune. Happy am I because my wrestling God is making me to forget. God hears me and is joined to me. He has purchased me a dwelling. God will add to me the Son of his right hand.

Now we understand why Dan and Ephraim are not mentioned. Dan means “judged”. All things are made new! Yeshua is the believer’s righteousness, and his righteousness is perfect. It does not receive judgment. There is no condemnation in Christ. Ephraim means being “fruitful in the land of my affliction”. We no longer belong to Egypt - the world. We have been transferred to the Kingdom of God! We are living in a new kingdom, and are under a new government!

Appendix E: Glossary

Hebrew, Greek, and Latin Terms Used

Aichmalosia.....	A Captive, Someone Or Something In Captivity
Aichmaloteuo	To Make Captive, To Take Captive
Ademoneo.....	To be in Great Distress or Anguish, To be Depressed
Anabaino.....	To Ascend, To Rise, Mount, Be Borne Up, Spring Up
Analempsis	Ascension
Apekduomai	To Despoil, Disarm, Or Wholly Divest Of
Apo / Apostasia.....	Motion Away From A Place Or Person, Departure
Avinu Malkenu	Our Father, Our King
Basileuo Chiloi Etos	Reign For A Thousand Years
Chag Ha'Aviv	Spring Festival or Festival of Our Liberation
Chag Ha'Cheirut.....	Festival of Freedom or Redemption
Chag Ha'Katzir.....	Festival of The Unleavened Bread
Chag Ha'Matzot	Unleavened Bread, Day of Yeshua's Burial
Chametz.....	Leavened Bread, Bread Baked with Yeast
Chebel, Chiyl, and Chuwl	A Pang Or Throe, Especially Of Childbirth
Chuppah.....	A Covering
Deigmatizo	To Display, To Expose
Eggus	Of Place Or Time Which Is At Hand, Near, Nigh, Ready
Eido.....	To Make Known

EisInto, Unto, To, Towards
 Ekthambo Thoroughly Terrified
 Elohim God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

Ginosko To Know (Absolutely)

Hallelujah Praise The Lord
 Harpazo To Be Raptured, Caught Up, Siezed
 Heos Thanatos At the Point of Death
 Hypsos Height, As Of Heaven, Rank Or Station

Ketubah..... A Written Contract or Marriage Agreement
 Kohen Ha'Gadol High Priest

Leyl Shimurim.....Night of Vigil

Malat To Escape, To Slip Away; To Release Or Rescue
 Maranatha Our Lord Cometh Or Will Come
 Matzah / Matzot (pl.) Unleavened Bread
 Mikveh..... A Pool, A Place of Water Used for Cleansing
 Mille Annis Millennium, 1000 Years
 Mitzvot Commands, Whether Human or Divine
 Miqra' Holy Convocation, Public Meeting, Assembly, Rehearsal
 Moed A Divine Appointment, A Fixed Time, Season or Festival

Natzal..... Resurrection, Rapture

Odin	A Pang Or Throe, Especially Of Childbirth
Qesheth Sha^Kak	Gathering Together
Parresia	Openly, Plainly, Publicly, Jubilant Celebration
Perilypos	Exceedingly Sorrowful
Pesach	Passover, Day of Yeshua's Crucifixion and Death
Poreuomai	To Traverse, That Is, To Travel, To Depart, Go Away
Rab QaHaL	The Great Assembly
Rapiemur, Rapturo, Raptus	To Be Raptured, To Catch Away,
Regnabunt Cum Illo Mille Annis	Reign For 1000 Years
Reishit Katzir	First Fruits, Day of Yeshua's Resurrection
Ruach Ha'Kodesh	The Holy Spirit, God, Elohim
Shalom	Peace, Wholeness
Shabua	A Period Of Seven Years
Shavuot	Feast Of Pentecost
Shevarim	Three Short Blasts Of The Shofar
Shofar	Horn, Ram's Horn
Stasia	A Standing Away, To Draw Out, Or To Separate.
Sukkah (pl. sukkot).....	Feast Of Tabernacles, Booths
Tefillah.....	Prayer
Tekiah	Single Blast Of The Shofar

Tekiah Ha'Gadol Greatest Shofar Blast, Last Trump, Trump Of God
 Teruah A Loud Noise, A Shout Or Blast Of War, Alarm, Or Joy
 Teshuvah..... To Do, or To Make Repentance
 Thriambeuo..... To Triumph, To Triumph Over, To Lead In Triumph
 Tzaddik A Righteous One
 Tzedekah..... Good Deeds

Yahweh The LORD, God, Elohim, The Father
 Yerushalayim Jerusalem
 Yeshua The LORD, Jesus, Elohim, The Son

Yom Day, A 24 Hour Period
 Yom Ha'Akedah Day Of Abraham's Offering of Isaac
 Yom Ha'Bikkurim Feast of First Fruits
 Yom Ha'Din The Day Of Judgment, Opening of the Books / Gates
 Yom Ha'Kesh The Hidden Day, Day Of Hiding/Concealment
 Yom Ha'Kiddushin / Nesu'im Wedding Day Of The Messiah
 Yom Ha'Melekh Day Of The Coronation Of The Messiah
 Yom Ha'Natzal Day Of The Resurrection Of The Righteous Dead,
 Yom Kippurim Day of Atonements
 Yom Teruah Feast Of Rosh Hashanah, Trumpets, New Moon,
 The Day Of: The Awakening Blast, Sounding Of The Shofar

Zeman Mattan Torateinu The Time of the Giving of our Torah

Appendix F: 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 – and Snippets – Oi Vey.

Appendix G: Notes

The Rapture is a Witnessed Event

Elijah – 2 Kings 2:7-12

– Elijah's rapture was witnessed by both Elisha and the prophets who stood at a distance.

Yeshua – Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9-11a

– Yeshua's rapture was intently watched by the disciples as he was carried up into heaven.

The Two Witnesses of Revelation – Revelation 11:12

– The two Witnesses's rapture is watched by their enemies as they ascended 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.

