



What Does the Bible Teach About “the Rapture”? (2023 Update)

1. What is The Rapture? Is there any such thing promised in the Bible?

- Yes, the Rapture is in the Bible, but it's not called “the rapture”. “Rapture” is a more modern English term that refers to the ancient Greek New Testament word “Harpazo” which according to Strong's Concordance G726 means to “seize by force; snatch up suddenly and decisively – like someone seizing bounty (spoil, a prize); to take by an open display of force...to catch up”. “Harpazo” refers to the “catching away” of Messiah's faithful bride, described in 1st Thessalonians 4:16-17: “Because the Lord Himself shall **come down from heaven with a shout, with the voice of a chief messenger (archangel)**, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Messiah (those faithful to Messiah at time of death) shall rise first. Then we, the living who are left over, shall **be caught away together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air** – and so we shall always be with the Lord.”
- The rapture, or catching-away, is the reward to all those who remained faithful, pure, and repentant before God and His Anointed One, Our Lord Yeshua (Jesus), resisting the daily influences of the world and maintaining faith during the trials and hardships common to man. The reward is 2-fold:
 - A: The faithful bride is spared by being taken up out of the world before hell, mass persecution, and the wrath of God is unleashed on the world in the last days. After describing the events of the end times in Luke 21, Yeshua instructed His followers to “Pray to be counted worthy to **escape** all of these things and to stand before the Son of Man” (~Luke 21:36). The rapture is a provision for us to be “kept from the hour of trial”, as Yeshua promised the Philadelphia assembly in Revelation 3:10: “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”
 - B: Those of us who are members of the faithful bride (assembly) receive the promised glorified bodies that cannot die or decay. This is described in 1st Corinthians 15:51-55: “See, I speak a secret to you: **We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal to put on immortality.** And when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall come to be the word that has been written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O She'ol (grave), where is your victory?”

2. What does the Bible tell us about the timing of the “catching-away”?

- An important distinction must be established before discussing the timing of the catching-away. Contrary to what is commonly taught, there are 2 different comings of Yeshua in the last days, that are described in the scriptures:
 - 1. The Glorious Appearing (Titus 2:13): **A sudden, surprise appearance** where Yeshua descends into our atmosphere with a shout and trumpet blast, enthroned on the clouds and every eye sees Him like lightening across the sky, surrounded by angels, who gather His people from the 4 corners of the earth to meet Him in the air (Mathew 24:30-31, Revelation 1:7)
 - 2. The Second Coming: Yeshua (Jesus) rides a white horse wearing garments stained by the blood of His enemies, with a double edge sword coming from His mouth, descending to the earth, specifically to the land of Israel (Jerusalem and Har Megiddo/Mount Megiddo (Armageddon) to judge & make war with the anti-Christ army that is already gathered there to do battle with Him **at an appointed time, 1260 days after the anti-Christ declares himself to be God in the 3rd Temple**. He will be coming to establish His Kingdom on the earth with His bride (Revelation 19)
- The Glorious Appearing and Catching-Away will happen on an **unknown DAY & HOUR**. Yeshua (Jesus) describes His appearing as a moment in which normal daily life is interrupted by the master of the house making a surprise appearance to check and reward the diligence and faithfulness of his servants. It doesn't sound like He appears to a world or way of life that's been mostly destroyed by 7 years of Tribulation at this point.
 - Matthew 24:36-47: **But when that day and hour will come, no one knows** — not the angels in heaven, not the Son, only the Father. 37 For the Son of Man's coming will be just as it was in the days of Noah. 38 Back then, before the Flood, **people went on eating and drinking, taking wives and becoming wives, right up till the day Noah entered the ark;** 39 and they didn't know what was happening until the Flood came and swept them all away. It will be just like that when the Son of Man comes. 40 **Then there will be two men in a field — one will be taken and the other left behind. 41 There will be two women grinding flour at the mill — one will be taken and the other left behind. 42 So stay alert, because you don't know on what day your Lord will come.** 43 But you do know this: had the owner of the house known when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 **Therefore you too must always be ready, for the Son of Man will come when you are not expecting him.** 45 “Who is the faithful and sensible servant whose master puts him in charge of the household staff, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will go well with that servant if he is found doing his job when his master comes. 47 Yes, I tell you that he will put him in charge of all he owns.”
 - Luke 17:28-32 “Likewise, as it was in the time of Lot — **people ate and drank, bought and sold, planted and built;** 29 but the day Lot left S'dom [Sodom], fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 That is how it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day, if someone is on the roof with his belongings in his house, he must not go down to take them away. Similarly, if someone is in the field, he must not turn back — 32 remember Lot's wife!”

- Though we don't know the **Day or Hour** of the "catching away", Yeshua has **given signs to KNOW the SEASON**. He describes some events that are "birth pains". These birth pains help us to discern that the time of the "catching away" is near and that the Tribulation is near.

- Matthew 24:4-8 "Yeshua replied: "Watch out! Don't let anyone fool you! 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. 6 You will hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off; see to it that you don't become frightened. Such things must happen, but the end is yet to come. 7 For peoples will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world; 8 **all this is but the beginning of the 'birth-pains.'**"

- Matthew 24:32-33 ""Now let the fig tree teach you its lesson: when its branches begin to sprout and leaves appear, you know that summer is approaching. 33 In the same way, when you see all these things, you are to know that the time is near, right at the door."

- 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4 says the glorious appearing and catching-away will not happen until AFTER these 2 things occur:

- (A) the Great Falling Away/Rebellion/Apostasy, which is when many who claimed to be followers of Yeshua, depart from sound Biblical doctrine, and abandon their faith in Yeshua. They follow after false, compromised teaching that deceives the global body of Messiah.

- (B) The Man of Sin (Antichrist) is revealed /The beginning of the anti-Christ reign. Scripture tells us the traits of the anti-Christ so that we recognize him. Daniel 9:27 says that he will confirm a covenant with many (10 world leaders based on Rev. 17:12) for 1 week (of years, or 7 years), he will be an atheist (oppose himself to everything that people call a god) and he will blaspheme God according to Daniel 11:36-37, 2nd Thess. 2:4 and Revelation 13:6. Also in 2nd Thess. 2:4, he is revealed when "he sets himself up in God's Temple and claims to be God". In 2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12 we read that he will perform demonic signs & wonders to imitate Messiah, even being resurrected from a fatal wound. The "birth pains" in Matthew 24:8 (plagues, famine, war, natural disasters in various parts of the world) create the global instability needed for the Man of Sin to come to power. In Matthew 24: 16-20, Yeshua warns about the revealing of the Man of Sin, the Abomination in the Holy Place, & instructs **the people of Judah** to immediately flee into the mountains when this happens.

- 1st Corinthians 15:52 also tells us that the catching-away happens AT "the **last** trumpet". Stated this way, it would be the last trumpet in a significant series of trumpets. "The Last Trumpet" may line up with the last trumpet blast of the 100 trumpet blasts blown on Feast of Trumpets (Rosh HaShana) aka Coronation Day. This blast is called Tekia Gadola, The Great Blast, and Rosh HaShana is also known as the **Unknown Day**, since it cannot be declared until the New Moon is sighted at the beginning of the Hebrew month of Tishri.

3. Do all who call themselves “Christian” automatically get raptured or taken up?

- Based on scripture, professing faith in Yeshua (Jesus), or coming from a believing family, or going to church doesn’t automatically qualify someone to be “caught-away”.
 - In **Matthew 24: 37-51**, Yeshua tells His assembly to always be prepared for His return and our being gathered up to Him. He warns against being distracted by the joys and comforts of daily life, and describes those worthy of the “catching-away” as faithful and diligent servants, who are distributing food portions to His household (teaching the Word of God) and maintaining His house in His absence.
 - **Ephesians 5: 1-5** says: “Become, then, imitators of God as beloved children. And walk in love, as Messiah also has loved us, and gave Himself for us, an offering to God for a sweet-smelling fragrance. But whoring (sexual sin) and all uncleanness, or greed of gain, let it not even be named among you, as is proper among set-apart (holy) ones – neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting (crude humor), which are not fitting, but rather thanksgiving. For this you know, that ***no one who whores, nor unclean one, nor one greedy of gain, who is an idolater (putting anything over God), has any inheritance in the reign (kingdom) of Messiah and God.***”
 - **Ephesians 5: 15-20** also instructs: “See then that you walk exactly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are wicked. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the desire of the LORD is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is loose behavior, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to each other in psalms and songs of praise and spiritual songs, singing and striking the strings in your heart to the LORD, giving thanks always for all to God the Father, in the Name of our Lord Yeshua Messiah”
 - **Ephesians 5: 25-27** goes on to describe the Lord Yeshua coming back to claim a flawless bride: “Husbands, love your wives, as ***Messiah also did love the assembly (church) and gave Himself for it, in order to set it apart and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, in order to present it to Himself a splendid assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any of this sort, but that it might be set-apart and blameless.***”

4. What Happens to the Faithful After They Are Caught-Away?

- **1st Thessalonians 4: 16-17** says that those in Messiah, the Holy Ones, will meet the Lord in the air, and from that point on, will ALWAYS be with the Lord. So that means that after we have been with Him for 7 years in Heaven, dwelling in the many rooms (mansions) that He went to prepare for us in His Father’s House (John 14:2-3), we will ***come back with HIM*** to establish His 1000-year Kingdom on Earth. This means we will come back to earth with Him as part of His heavenly armies for the final battle against the Beast and his global army. We will have perfected, immortal bodies & will be included in His army spoken of in **Joel 2:10-11**:
 - “The earth shall tremble before them, the heavens shall shake. Sun and moon shall be darkened, and the stars withdraw their brightness. And The Lord shall give forth His voice before His army, for His camp is very great, for mighty is the doer of His word. For the day of The Lord is great and very awesome, and who does bear it?”

○ This is also described in **Revelation 19: 11-14**: “And I saw the heaven opened, and there was a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Trustworthy and True, and in righteousness He judges and fights. And His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns, having a Name that had been written, which no one had perceived except Himself – and having been dressed in a robe dipped in blood – and His Name is called: The Word of The L-RD. ***And the armies in the heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.***”

- After we are with Yeshua, Our Commander and King, we will rule and reign with Him from Jerusalem in the kingdom He establishes on earth, after He has purified it, according to **Revelation 20:6**: “Blessed and set-apart is the one having part in the first resurrection. The second death possesses no authority over these, ***but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.***”

In Summary...

1. What is “The Rapture”? Is there any such thing promised in the Bible?

- It is the “catching away” of Messiah’s faithful bride to meet Him in the air, to escape the judgement that He’s going to unleash on the world

2. What does the Bible tell us about the timing of the “catching-away”?

- It will happen at an *unknown DAY & HOUR, but signs are given to KNOW the SEASON.*
- The catching-away will happen AFTER these 2 things occur:
 - (A) the Great Falling Away/Rebellion/Apostasy, when many who claimed to be followers of Yeshua, will depart from the faith.
 - (B) the Man of Sin (Antichrist) is revealed & begins to take power
- It occurs BEFORE God’s wrath and final judgement is poured out to destroy the rebellious world and its man-made systems.
- The catching-away happens AT “the ***last*** trumpet”, which could be the last of 100 trumpet blasts on Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets)
- The catching-away will happen AT the time of Yeshua’s Glorious Appearing

3. Do all who call themselves “Christian” automatically get raptured or taken up?

- Only those whose faith is in Yeshua (Jesus), who repent of sin, dedicate their lives to holiness (set-apartness, without “spot or wrinkle”), Godly service, sobriety, and forgive others from the heart will qualify.

4. What Happens to the Faithful After They Are Caught-Away?

- From that point on, we will ALWAYS be with the Lord. So we will come back to earth with Him as part of His heavenly army for the final battle against the Beast. Then, we will rule and reign with Him for 1000 years in the kingdom He establishes on earth, after He has purified it.