

The Rapture of The Church

a timely reminder...

The Rapture of The Church

- Controversial Doctrine?
- or
- Our Blessed Hope?

The Rapture of The Church

- Why bother?
- What does 'rapture' mean?
- Does the word 'rapture' occur in the Bible?
- Does the Bible teach that the Church will be Raptured?
- If so, Why?
- When?

The Rapture of The Church

- A Jewish wedding
- Lessons from Jeremiah
- Our response

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National Blindness

- Jesus' Declaration

41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in **this thy day**, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Luke 19:41-44

- Israel held accountable for not knowing

National Blindness

- Jesus' Declaration

43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Luke 19:41-44

Signs of The Times

- 1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.
- 2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.
- 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Matthew 16:1-3

Yesterday, Today, Forever

- God is the same yesterday, today, forever – Heb 13:8
- Israel were held accountable for understanding the prophetic scriptures
- So will the Church be!

Ready & Waiting

- “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren” - 1 Thess 4:13
- “a crown of righteousness” “unto all them also that love his appearing” - 2 Tim 4:8
- “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” - 1 Thess 5:4

Ready & Waiting

- “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass” - [Rev 1:1](#)
- “and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time” - [Heb 9:28](#)

Job's Quandary

¹ Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, Why do those who know Him see not His days?

Job 24:1

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'Rapture'

- Being physically taking from earth to heaven without dying
- Examples from Scripture...

Enoch

²² And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

²³ And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

²⁴ And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Genesis 5:22-24

Elijah

¹¹ And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more:

2 Kings 2:11-12

Two Witnesses

¹¹ And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

¹² And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Revelation 11:11-12

Jesus

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up;** and a cloud received him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come **in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11

'Rapture'

What does 'rapture' mean?

- Being physically taking from earth to heaven without dying
- There are clear examples of this in scripture

Conclusion

- The concept of 'rapture' is Biblical

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Harpazo

- 1 Thes 4:17 – “Caught up”
- Translated from the Greek word ‘*harpazo*’
 - to snatch away, to lift, transport, pluck, carry away or rapture.
- In the Latin Vulgate translation, ‘*harpazo*’ is actually translated as ‘*rapturus*’,
 - from which we derive the word ‘rapture’
- So whilst the word ‘rapture’ is not found in English translations, it is in the Bible

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Will The Church Be Raptured?

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Will The Church Be Raptured?

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 **Wherefore comfort one another with these words**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Rapture of The Church

- The Church will be Raptured at some point in the future
- We can be as sure of this as we can of Christ's resurrection
- This should be a great comfort to the Church
- We will be united with our loved ones (who have died in the faith)
- Paul elaborates in Corinthians...

The Rapture of The Church

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

The Rapture of The Church

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

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The Purpose of The Rapture

- Flesh & Blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God
- We all must be changed and receive resurrection bodies

Resurrection of the Just

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Resurrection of the Just

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:28-29

The Purpose of The Rapture

- #1 to receive resurrection bodies fit for eternity
- #2 to fulfil the promise that Christ made in John 14

The Purpose of The Rapture

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:2-3

The Purpose of The Rapture

- Where did Jesus go to?
- 'His Father's house'
- Heaven
 - Acts 1:11 / Eph 6:9 / Phil 3:20 / 1 Thes 1:10 / 1 Peter 3:22
- Jesus' promise was to take us back to His Father's house
- To reward us for our labours

The Purpose of The Rapture

5 For the hope which is laid up for you **in heaven,** whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Colossians 1:5

20 But lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven,** where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:20-21

The Purpose of The Rapture

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

The Purpose of The Rapture

- #1 to receive resurrection bodies fit for eternity
- #2 to fulfil the promise that Christ made in John 14
- #3 to deliver us from the Wrath to come

The Purpose of The Rapture

¹⁰ to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

The Purpose of The Rapture

- ¹ But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
- ² For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- ³ For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

The Purpose of The Rapture

- 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
- 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
- 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

The Purpose of The Rapture

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

- Note: Wrath is not persecution
- The 'Wrath' is 'The day of the Lord' v2

The Purpose of The Rapture

³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to **escape all these things** that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:36

- ‘These things’:
- All nations in distress
- Global turmoil
- ‘The day of the Lord’ ‘Tribulation’

The day of the LORD

⁶ Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

⁷ Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

⁸ And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

Isaiah 13:6-11

The day of the Lord

⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall **destroy the sinners thereof out of it.**

¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isaiah 13:6-11

The day of the Lord

¹¹ And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

¹² I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

The day of the Lord

- It is a time of God's wrath
- It is God's judgment on a wicked, unbelieving and Christ-rejecting world

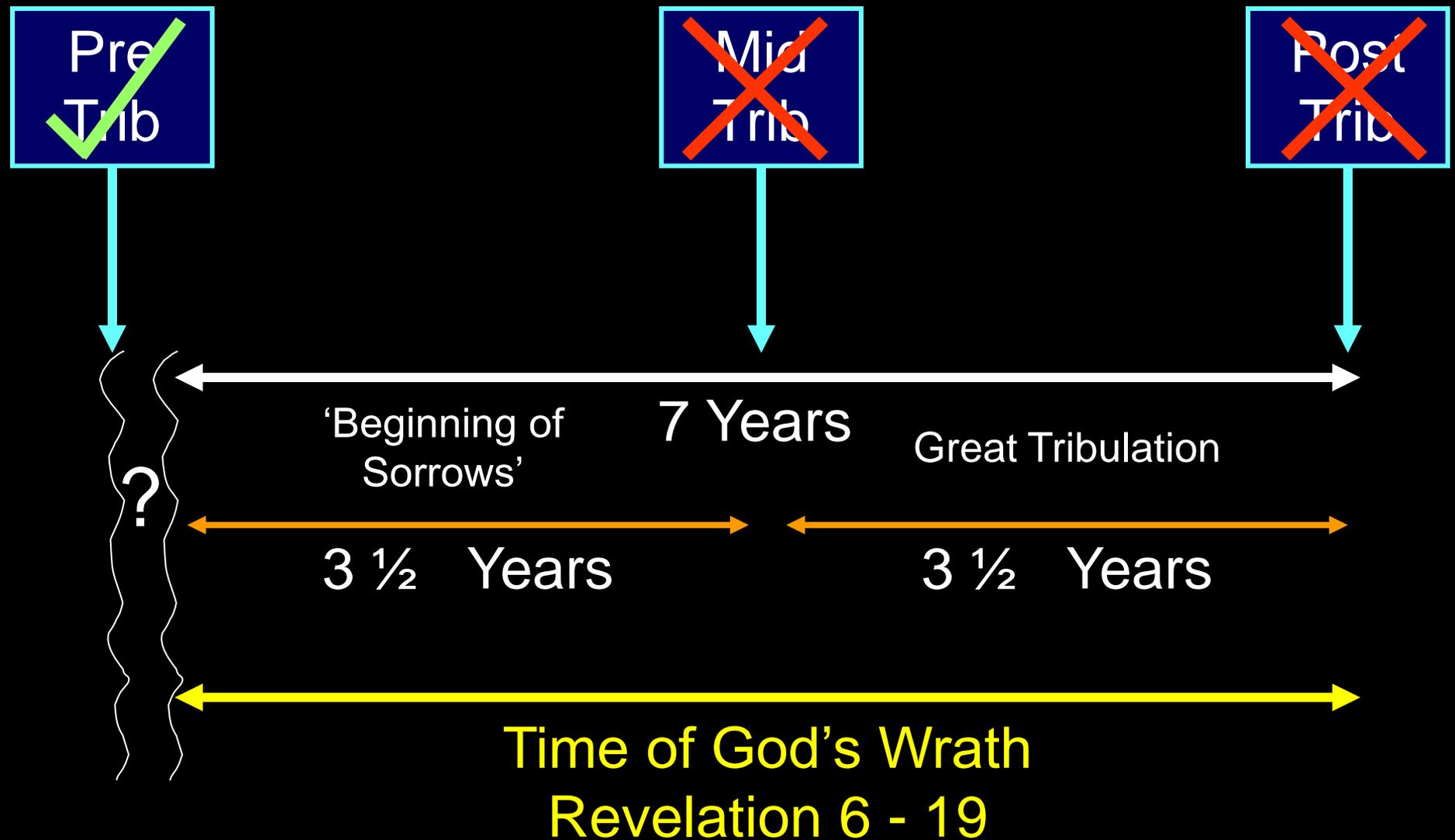
The Purpose of The Rapture

- #1 to receive resurrection bodies fit for eternity
- #2 to fulfil the promise that Christ made in John 14 – taking us back to Heaven
- #3 to deliver us from the Wrath to come
- #4 to take us to the marriage supper

The Rapture of The Church

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The Tribulation



Mid Trib. ('Pre Wrath')

- It denies the doctrine of imminence
 - that Christ could return at any time
- It agrees that the Church must be raptured before God's wrath...
- But ignores the fact that the whole tribulation period is a time of wrath

(Rev 6)

Post Trib. (2nd Coming)

- At the 2nd Coming Jesus puts His feet on the earth and stays to establish His kingdom (Rev 19 / Matt 24/5)
- At the Rapture He meets the Church in the air and takes her back to heaven (John 14 / 1 Thes 1)

Post Trib. (2nd Coming)

- At the 2nd Coming Jesus comes with His saints (Rev 19 / Jude)
- At the Rapture Jesus comes for His saints (John 14 / 1 Thes 4)

Post Trib. (2nd Coming)

- At the 2nd Coming Jesus comes to intercede on behalf of Israel at the battle of Armageddon (Hos 5:15/Zech 14)
- At the Rapture Jesus comes to take the Church back to Heaven
(John 14 / 1 Thes 4)

Post Trib. (2nd Coming)

- At the 2nd Coming every eye will see Him (Rev 19 / Matt 24)
- At the Rapture only the resurrected believers see Him (Acts 1 / 1 Thes 4)

Post Trib. (2nd Coming)

- At the 2nd Coming Jesus will judge the nations (Matt 25)
- At the Rapture Jesus will judge (reward) the Church (1 Cor 3 / Ps 50)
- The Judgement seat of Christ takes place in heaven and we are rewarded with crowns that Jesus wears at His Second Coming. (2 Cor 5 / Rev 19)

Post Trib. (2nd Coming)

- The book of Revelation clearly shows the Church in heaven before the throne before the Tribulation begins (Rev 4/5)
- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place in Heaven before the 2nd Coming (Eph 5 / Rev 19)

The Biggest Problem?

- Was the death of Christ sufficient to pay for all our sin?
- ‘Tetelastai’ – ‘Paid in full’ (John 19:30)
- Then Jesus took the wrath of God upon Himself for us (Isaiah 53:10 / 2 Cor 5:21)
- If the Church remains for a moment of God’s wrath, it is a denial of the completed work of Christ

The Judge of all the earth

²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

The Righteous Hidden

20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Isaiah 26:20-21

The Righteous Hidden

³ Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

Zephaniah 2:3

The Days of Noah

26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luke 17:26

The Days of Noah

- 3 Groups of people
- Those who perished in the flood
 - The wicked
- Those who were preserved through
 - The ones God has 'sealed' (144,000)
- Those who were removed prior
 - Enoch – who was raptured
- Enoch, just one person?
- So is the Body of Christ!

The Rapture of The Church

Conclusion:

- A Jewish wedding
- Lessons from Jeremiah
- Our response

The Jewish Wedding

'Kiddushin'

- Jewish word for 'Marriage'
- Meaning 'Sanctification'
- In **1 Thes 4:3**, God's Will for us, is our sanctification – and abstaining from fornication

The Jewish Wedding

'Ketubah' (Betrothal)

- Similar to our engagement, but far more serious

The Ketubah is a marriage contract between the groom and his bride. In the contract, the groom undertakes to give all that he has in order to provide for every need of his bride, not only while he is alive, but also in the event of his death.

The Jewish Wedding

'Ketubah' (Betrothal)

- Similar to our engagement, but far more serious

To mark this contract, the groom and bride drink from a cup of wine.

The Jewish Wedding

'Ketubah' (Betrothal)

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Matthew 26:27-29

The Jewish Wedding

Interval

- between the Ketubah and Huppah

It is customary for the Chatan (groom) and Kallah (bride) to remain apart for the time leading up to the wedding day. During this time the groom will return to his father's house to prepare a room for his bride.

The Jewish Wedding

Interval

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:2-3

The Jewish Wedding

Interval

- **Cleansing of the bride**

Meanwhile, the bride will go to the 'Mikveh' (bath) to cleanse herself spiritually and enter marriage in a state of complete purity – 'without spot or blemish'. One part of the ritual includes removing all manmade things (such as jewellery and nail polish etc) and then being fully immersed in water. She is supervised and assisted during the ritual to ensure it is done correctly.

The Jewish Wedding

Interval

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:25-32

The Jewish Wedding

Interval

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:25-32

- Our helper is the Holy Spirit
- *'He shall be with you and in you'* (John 14:17)

The Jewish Wedding

The 'Huppah'

- The Wedding

At the appointed time the groom will return with a shout and the blast of a rams horn, to claim his bride and take her back to his father's house, to the place he has prepared

The Jewish Wedding

The 'Huppah'

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Jewish Wedding

'Marriage Supper'

- Seven Day Feast

After the marriage ceremony, the marriage supper begins which will last for seven days

The Jewish Wedding

'Sheva Brachot'

- The Wedding Blessing

After the seven day feast, the wedding blessing is pronounced

After 7 years, the wedding blessing is pronounced for Christ and His Bride

The Jewish Wedding

'Sheva Brachot'

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Revelation 19:6-9

The Jewish Wedding

'Sheva Brachot'

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 19:6-9

The Jewish Wedding

Incredible Model

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Matthew 22:2

- God is the Father
- Jesus is the heavenly Bridegroom
- The Church is His Bride

The Rapture of The Church

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The Model In Jeremiah

- Israel were heading for judgment
- The priests had rejected God's word
- False prophets were promising peace
- They denied judgment was coming
- They were burning incense & embracing Idolatry
- But God promised the faithful that if they left their homes and went to the place He had prepared, they would be spared the judgment to come
- Eventually they came back to inherit the land

Can you hear...?

¹⁷ Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.

Jeremiah 6:17

“When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus quickly switched the conversation to evangelism. He said in essence. “The details of my return are none of your business.”

Jesus actually said:

*“**Take heed** that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”*

Matthew 24:5

*“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. **Behold, I have told you before.**”*

Matthew 24:25-26

Jesus actually said:

Now **learn** a parable of the fig tree... Matthew 24:32

So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things,
know that it is near Matthew 24:33

Therefore be ye also ready..... Matthew 24:47

Jesus actually said:

Watch therefore.....

Matthew 25:13

Take heed lest any man deceive you: Mark 13:5

But **when ye shall see** the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (**let him that reads understand,**)

Mark 13:14

Jesus actually said:

*For false Christs and false prophets **shall** rise, and **shall** show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. **But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things***

Mark 13:22-23

***Take ye heed, watch and pray:** for ye know not when the time is.*

Mark 13:33

***Watch therefore**.....*

Matthew 13:35

Jesus actually said:

*And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch***

Mark 13:37

***Take heed** that ye be not deceived*

Luke 21:8

*And when these things begin to come to pass,
then **look up**, and lift up your heads; for your
redemption draweth nigh*

Luke 21:28

The Rapture of The Church

34 And **take heed** to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 **Watch ye therefore**, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:34-36

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Our Response

- 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
- 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:11-13

Our Response

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-114



calvary
chapel
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