

The Jewish Wedding & Revealing the Rapture

Rapture – The Idea

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

V. 17 – “Caught Up”

harpazo (har-pad'-zo); to seize (in various applications): KJV-- catch (away, up), pluck, pull, and take (by force).

airo (ah'-ee-ro);

a primary root; to lift up; by implication, to take up or away; figuratively, to raise (the voice), KJV—away with, bear (up), carry, lift up, loose, make to doubt, put away, remove, take (away, up).

Many scholars and theologians do not deny the possibility of Rapture. Often the debate comes with: Who will be taken in the rapture and when will this take place? However there are many who simply deny the possibility of a rapture explaining the scripture found in Matthew 27 as what took place when Jesus died on the cross.

Matt 27:50-54

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. (KJV)

And yes there are many who simply deny the possibility of Rapture with no reasoning, just the belief that everything will eventually get better over a period of time.

- For most people who declare that the rapture will actually take place during mid-trib. or post-trib, often fail to research the customs and rituals of the Ancient Jewish Wedding.
- It is the Ancient Jewish Wedding that points directly to a pre-tribulation rapture.

Rev 19:7-8

- There is no denying that there will be a marriage supper of the Lamb in which the Saints will be present.
- Before we can understand the Jewish Wedding & the revelations of the rapture, we must first look deeper into whom the people or nation of Israel are described in the Bible and then this will help us understand why.

God Marries Israel

According to the Bible, when Abraham said yes to God and the covenant between the two was being made, God said that He would be married to this Nation and the People.

Israel – is known as the Bride
God – is known as the Bridge-groom

Isaiah 54:5-6

Isaiah 62:5

- The Hellenistic Jews consider the Song of Solomon to allude to God's love for Israel according to the Mishnah.
- According to Jewish scholars that fact that the Bible mentions Israel as a Bride 10 times, this is due to the 10 Commandments and the 10 garments of the Priest handed to the people of Israel.

Old Testament Wedding

There are two stages of an Old Testament Wedding according to Jewish Rabbi's:

1. Betrothal (Katooba) – written contract
2. Consummation (Hoopa)

#1 The Betrothal stage:

We can find in the Old Testament that God married Israel through a "Betrothal" contact with God. God gave the people of Israel a written contract known as the first five books of the Bible – The Torah, God's martial contract.

Exodus 19:5

Exodus 19:7-8

Here we see that Israel accepts the contract from God. After receiving the contract notice that they had to be sanctified, also known as separated. They did this by the washing of water.

Exodus 19:7-8

And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. (KJV)

2 The Consummation Stage:

Later we find that Moses went up on the mountain with God and the cloud of God filled the mountain with his presence.

The Consummation was known as the "Hoopa". Many Jewish Scholars consider the cloud that was on the mountain as the Hoopa, because the Hoop is to be considered a canopy where the bride and groom would meet in public for the announcement of their union and the beginning of their ceremony.

Deuteronomy 33:2

What is interesting to note is that the children of Israel were lead by a cloud by day and a pillar of Fire by night? The cloud was the canopy or otherwise their Hoopa. When the bride was escorted to the groom the two met under the Hoopa.

Exodus 19:18

This really gets interesting...the bride was accompanied with torches and oil lamps in a march. Pay very close attention to the fact that there was oil and fire.

- Now...when God made his covenant with Abraham he built an altar of wood and God went between the pieces and a burning lamp or torch was seen between the pieces. The covenant was a martial contract with Abraham.

The Olive Tree

There are two kinds of Olive Trees:

1. Natural – Jews
2. Wild – Gentiles

God the Father is married to the natural seed of Abraham. (The Natural Olive Tree)

Remember that the people or nation had a covenant and a martial contract.

Isaiah 54:5-6**Isaiah 62:5**

The problem with the relationship was the commitment of the people of Nation to God. God simply said that he would marry this nation and have a contract with blessings and anointing only if there would serve him.

Isaiah 50:1

Here we find a very important part of history...God actually gave a bill of divorcement to the people of Israel because of their unbelief.

Later God said that one day he would cancel the bill and take back the people when they returned to their ways...or we have heard before, their first love.

Isaiah 62:4-5**Ephesians 1:9-10**

Notice what the scriptures are saying to you and I...When the dispensation of Grace ends with the rapture of the Church...Israel will be brought back to God, with the Restoring of the marital contract. You and I must realize the most important fact about the Tribulation period...it is for the people of Israel due to their divorcement through unbelief, but more importantly their restoration back to God.

Marital Process**Exodus 24:7-11**

1. Moses writes the covenant - **Exodus 24:7** And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. (KJV)
2. The People are sprinkle with blood - **Exodus 24:8** And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words. (KJV)
3. Moses went up - **Exodus 24:9** Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: (KJV)
4. God was walking on Sapphire - **Exodus 24:10** And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. (KJV)
5. Moses ate with God - **Exodus 24:11** And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink. (KJV)

The Parallel of the Old and the New:

1. The New testament is the New Covenant
2. There has been a sprinkling of blood
3. There will be a time to go up to the throne and see God
4. The Throne room according to Revelation is like Sapphire
5. Then you and I will eat with God...the marriage supper of the lamb.

The Old Testament is concealed, but the New Testament is revealed.

- Interesting note: the cloud that was with the children of Israel ceased when they entered the Promise Land, their inheritance, because they did not need a covering anymore.

Understanding the Ancient Jewish Wedding

1. God is married to Israel through the Old Covenant
2. Therefore that makes the church married to Christ through the New Covenant.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (KJV)

Romans 7:4

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. (KJV)

Matthew 22:1-14

Notice that the thing that rejected the man from entering the wedding was his garment. In a Jewish wedding it was required that the entire party had to wear a certain garment to participate.

The Hebrew people fell to unbelief, rejected God's people, stoned and killed the prophets. Jesus spoke of these things in [Matthew 21](#) and [Matthew 23](#).

The church was birthed because God's chosen rejected the prophets and God.

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (KJV)

We are a Nation within a Nation!

1. The Betrothal – This happened while Christ was on Earth
 2. The Hoopa – This will happen during the rapture and completed in Heaven.
Remember that the Hoopa is known as the Consummation stage (receiving or bringing of the bride).
- For the Jews of Old and today, Marriage is considered “A Taking”.

Deuteronomy 24:1

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. (KJV)

Three things about the marriage:

1. There is a taking – Jesus Redeemed us
2. There is a receiving - **John 14:1-3** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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. (KJV)
3. There is a Bringing – There will be a bringing to: **Rev 19:7-10**
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. 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. 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. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (KJV)