

Harpezo

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NLT We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.

- Love Story

- Picture perfect except

- Genesis 3:8 And they heard the [a]sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the [b]cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- What was the start of perfect union, was interrupted by sin

- Let us make man in our image
- God the father - Walked with each other / relationship
- Satan and 1/3 of angels rebelled against God, can't win, so they go to work trying to distort God's children,

- The same spirit that whispered doubt and encouraged temptation in the garden is at work today. The enemy's only purpose is to steal our identity as God's children, Kill our relationship with God and others, destroy God's creation, marr it, distort it. Make men made in the image of God to look like a beast.

- 2 Timothy 3 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

- Murder, rape, abortion, anarchy & rebellion taking over the streets, pedophilia, all kinds of sexual perversion. Sin has caused man to act like a beast and the devil loves it. It's his attack against God's rule and reign. It's the same demonic spirits that have ruled in the air for thousands of years.

- Always a plan

- Revelation 13:8 the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

- Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him (Jesus) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

- It's a love story, God's great plan to restore relationship

- As we near the end of the dispensation of Grace

- Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for [a]all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, [b]pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

- God still has a plan

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 - The word rapture is not in the bible, so obviously it's heresy, error
 - The word "rapture" comes from "caught up" The words "caught up" are translated from the Greek word harpazo, which means "to carry off," "snatch up," or "grasp hastily." The translation from harpazo to "rapture" involved two steps: first, harpazo became the Latin word raptus; second, raptus became the English word "rapture"
 - From greek to latin, latin to english
 - To carry off, snatch up, grab hastily,

- Rapture is rescue
 - This isn't the only place where we see God's plan to rescue his people
 - 1 corinthians 15:51-52 NLT But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.
 - Titus 2:13 Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
 - Luke 17:34-37 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left."
 - 1 Corinthians 15:52 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 shall be changed.
 - Times and Seasons / not appointed to wrath
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:9 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. **3** For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be ^asober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore ^bcomfort each other and ^cedify one another, just as you also are doing.
 - The church has seen persecution, The church has seen death, suffering but the wrath of God is different than anything the earth has seen.
 - Why would God send his son Jesus, save us and then leave us to suffer the wrath of God with those who rejected his son?

- Jesus Coming back

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 - When Jesus died, rose again, ascended to the father, the followers of Jesus were standing there watching as he ascended into heaven.
 - Acts 1:9-12 NLT After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”
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 - God’s heart / Love Story
 - All along Jesus was describing a marriage. Jewish Weddings are the key to understanding
 - The groom or husband to be would pay a gift to have their son joined with bride
 - Upon becoming engaged the groom would return to his father’s house, prepare a place for his bride
 - Mark 13:32 “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
 - John 14:1-3 NLT “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.
 - The process of preparing a place for the bride took a year or more, determined by father
 - The betrothal and the wedding celebrations were at two separate times
 - At the betrothal they were technically married even though groom leave, no wedding yet
 - The bride would not know the day or the hour of her husband to be’s return
 - The groom’s arrival was usually announced with a trumpet call and a shout
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 - The bride would join the groom’s father’s household
 - Before the ceremony of the wedding the bride would take part in ritual cleansing
 - The wedding feast would last 7 years
 - After the ceremony the bride/groom would attend a feast
 - Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’
- The Jewish Wedding illuminates the verses we’ve heard our whole lives

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 - Matthew 25 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom [a]is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.
 - 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour [b]in which the Son of Man is coming.
 - Song Of Solomon 5:2 I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, [a]my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew My [b]locks with the drops of the night." I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I [c]defile them? My beloved put his hand By the [d]latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him. I arose to open for my beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the lock. I opened for my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and was gone. My [e]heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.