

The Rapture Is Biblical, But When Does it Happen On The Prophetic Timeline?

Today we explore that time that scripture keeps telling us about. That blessed hope.

| Titus 2:13 (ESV)

| ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

It is the only time that scripture tells us to be anxious.

| Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

| ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Further reading contextualizes the rapture for us here.

| Hebrews 9:24–28 (ESV)

| ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

This passage explains that Jesus died once and for all. A reiteration of

Christ's last words, "It is finished".

Paul says, Hebrews 9:28 "so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**"

We can all agree that until this point, this is the rapture, but does this point us to when it happens? I believe it does.

So, what happens?

- appears a second time
- not to deal with sin (not in wrath or with wrath)
- To save us

| 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

How will the day of the Lord come?

- v2. Like a thief in the night
 - A thief comes when no one expects him
 - everyone is asleep

- v3a. peace and security
 - sudden destruction
 - false sense of peace and security
- v3b. Destruction will come upon **THEM**, as Labor Pains upon a pregnant woman
 - growth happens
 - pain increases
 - frequency and intensity increases
 - then the baby comes
- v4. But, you do not live in darkness
 - it will not be a surprise (implication is we will know, possibly day and hour)
 - it will not surprise us like a thief
- v5. we are of the light and day
 - not of night and darkness
- v6. let us not sleep, but stay awake
 - not lose sight of our returning King
 - be sober
- v7. do not get drunk with and like the world
 - as in the days of Noah and Lot
 - Do not be distracted by the world
- v8. Put on the armor of God, specifically
 - faith (crucified King)
 - love (crowned King)
 - hope (returning King)
- v9. We (Christ followers) are NOT destined for WRATH

- But instead, to BE SAVED from it
- NOT THOUGHT IT

Jesus is the first to introduce the rapture in the New Testament. And it is Pre-trib.

First, let's look at some of the idioms Jesus used when He made a reference to the church being the bride, Him being the bridegroom, and other traditional Galilean wedding language Jesus used, but in parallel, what actually constitutes an ancient Galilean Wedding and its traditions.

I'll read tradition, then read what Jesus said.

The Betrothal (engagement) Between the Young Bride and Groom

- **Tradition**

- During this time, a wedding was the biggest event in town for anyone. Everyone would rush to the betrothal at the main gate. Whether you were invited or not, everyone will participate. The Bride receives the covenant or proposal. After the covenant, gifts are exchanged. The Groom offers the Bride a "Cup of Joy". The Bride then has the power to accept or reject the offer of the Groom. The Bride needs to drink from the cup of wine for the betrothal to progress. Then the Groom seals with this: **"You are now consecrated to me by the laws of Moses and I will not drink from this cup again until I drink it with you in my father's house."**

- **Jesus**

- Matthew 26:27–29 "27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the **covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 **I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**"

The Groom Prepares a New Place

- **Tradition**

- In the Ancient Galilean Wedding tradition, the Groom will then leave the Bride and go to the Father's house. In the upcoming months, the Groom will then **add room to the Father's house. Preparing a place for the Bride.** New furniture, tables, stools, etc. He will prepare the wedding feast with oil, lamps, and rugs that will take place in the new home.

- **Jesus**

- John 14:3 "3 **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**"

THE DAY OF THE WEDDING

- **Tradition**

- Neither the Groom or Bride knew the day or the hour the wedding would take place! The Bride ALWAYS had to be ready. This may seem bizarre but it's part of the Ancient Galilean Wedding tradition. No one in the entire town knew when the wedding would take place, except for one person, the Father of the Bridegroom! Only Galilean weddings had these customs. To them, it was a surprise wedding. The Father makes the announcement the day and the hour, "Son, go get your Bride." The Father makes the final inspection if all is ready for the Bride. Only He knows the day or the hour.

- **Jesus**

- **Matthew 24:36** "36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."
- Here Jesus was speaking in His humanity. I believe Jesus knows now in His glorified state because he is God and God is all-knowing.
- I also believe not knowing was directed at the disciples as well.

The Groom Returns

- Tradition
 - In the Ancient Galilee Wedding tradition, scholars have found that the hour of the wedding would be in the middle of the night. That is why they needed oil in their lamps to be always be lit and the Bride and Bridesmaids are to be dressed and ready. Then the Groom would come for His bride in the night. The conditions for the Bride was to always be pure and to sleep in her wedding dress and her bridesmaids were there to help her out when the Groom comes unexpectedly, an hour they did not know. They were to always be ready.
 - Matthew 25:1–13 “1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those virgins rose 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, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”
 - Matthew 24:50 “50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know”
 - This is about being ready, not about NOT knowing
 - I think we all know, Jesus is coming quickly, and is at the door already
- Jesus
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:1–2 “1 Now concerning the times and the seasons,

brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

- I mentioned this at the beginning

THE BRIDE IS TO BE READY

- Tradition
 - In the Ancient Galilee Wedding, the Father makes the decision. He wakes up the groom and groomsmen and says, "Go get your Bride, now is the time." He blows the shofar/trumpet and blasts to wake up the whole village. This Bride and her bridesmaids wake up and execute their preparedness. Trumps wake up the Bride and town, but only those who are prepared will attend the wedding. After a year of waiting and preparing, the Bride and Groom are finally together, reunited, forever. The Bride is then carried in a litter to the Groom's house; **Lifted into the air, off the ground and born aloft, and escorted back to the Father's place.** All she has to do is be ready.
- Jesus
 - 1 Corinthians 15:52 "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."
 - This last trumpet is not the 7th trumpet of Revelation
 - In Revelation the Trumpet is blown by an angel
 - at the rapture, the trumpet is the voice of God
 - Revelation 1:10–11 "10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.""
 - Revelation 3:20–22 "20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will

come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' ""

- Revelation 4:1–2 "1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne."
- John 14:1–3 "1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."
- v1. do not worry
 - you believe what God says and does?
 - believe me in the same way
- v2. In my Father's house are many mansions
 - many rooms, dwellings, chambers
 - Why would I tell you this, unless it were true?
 - I will go and prepare a place for you to dwell
- v3. And when I go to prepare this place for you
 - I will come again
 - I will take you to myself
 - in other words, "I will receive you"
 - so that where I am, at the right hand of the Father, in His kingdom, you may also be

Did you know, Jesus is quoting here from the Old Testament?

| Isaiah 26:19–21 (ESV)

| ¹⁹ Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.

| You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

| For your dew is a dew of light,

| and the earth will give birth to the dead.

| ²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers,

| and shut your doors behind you;

| hide yourselves for a little while

| until the fury has passed by.

| ²¹ For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place

| to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity,

| and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it,

| and will no more cover its slain.

v19. your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.

- you who dwell in the dust, rise
- the earth gives birth to the dead
- This sounds like a resurrection of the dead just before the rapture
- 1 Corinthians 15:52 “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.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13–15 “13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that

we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

v20. Come, my people

- enter your chambers
- and shut your doors behind you
- hide yourselves for a little while
- UNTIL the FURY (the WRATH, the INDIGNATION) has passed
 - Revelation 3:10 “10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”
- In other words, until the end of Jacob’s Trouble, The Tribulation
- A time like the world has never seen
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 “16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**”
- **PAUL DID NOT SAY**, “do not worry, you have not missed the rapture. In fact, the worst the world has ever seen is still to come. Encourage one another with these words.”

V21. For behold, the LORD is coming out from His place

- to punish
- the inhabitants of the earth
- for their iniquity
- that missed the rapture and still rejected Him
 - Micah 1:3 “3 For behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.”

The FEAST

- Conclusion
 - The paradox of the return of the Groom in the Ancient Galilean Wedding is the same way Jesus returns for His Bride, unexpectedly and the Bride to be ready. Some may be left behind because they were not ready. The same way as the Bride is escorted to the Father's house in the Ancient Galilean Wedding, the same way the Church will be lifted up and escorted to the Father's house. All we must do is be pure and ready for the return of our Groom.
 - The Father's house in the Ancient Galilean Wedding is where the marriage supper takes place with all that have heard and beckoned to the call in the darkness of night. Many will be left behind and the door will shut them out of the feast. If you were locked out, there was no getting in.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

- Everything on Earth is a foreshadow of what is to come. We are chosen as the Bride of Jesus Christ, and we are meant to dwell with Him for eternity. The Father's house in the Galilean wedding is the perfect picture of heaven. The Groom gathers His Bride, brings her to the Father's house for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Married forever. Many will be left behind in the rapture and will be shut out of the marriage supper and destined to God's wrath on the world. Therefore, take heed, be pure and be ready for the coming of our Lord.

THEREFORE, REPENT, BELIEVE AND BE SAVED

MARANATHA!! COME QUICKLY LORD JESUS!!

| Revelation 22:7 (ESV)

| ⁷ "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

| Revelation 22:12–13 (ESV)

| ¹² "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay

each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Revelation 22:20 (ESV)

²⁰ “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!