

15 Topic: Harpazo: The Blessed Hope

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Tagline

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." | Revelation 22:17

Synopsis

In Greek, harpázō means to seize, catch away, catch up, pluck, pull, or take by force. In the King James, this word is translated in English several different phrases that in general could be summed up "taking by force." While modern civilization has settled into a world focused on scientific materialism, there are hints that there is something just out of perception, theories unprovable by the scientific method yet attempting to explain the universe.

As Christians that trust in the Bible as a reliable source of record for the things we cannot see, there are evidences of the world we are told exists in the prophetic fulfillment of so many scriptures tied to the historical record. These speak to a mind outside of time able to communicate with men from eternity what is to come with great precision. Prophets like Daniel and John are given visions of heaven and the future for our benefit and God's glory to demonstrate there is a reason we can put our trust in what we cannot see... yet.

There is a time coming when those who put their trust in Yeshua, their faith in God's designs and plans, will be changed in a moment as they transition, just as Yeshua did at His resurrection, into their incorruptible, eternal, celestial bodies. Only then will the veil be lifted and we will see Him as He is. We will be capable of existing in the presence of God in our new temples and we will be able to enter into the higher dimensions of heaven to be in God's presence. This is the blessed hope that all who believe wait for, when the injustice, pain, entropy, and corruption of this world fall away as those who believe are caught up from the bondage of this world and released into the eternal state.

The Bridegroom is coming to collect His bride who has made herself ready, being obedient by faith to live by the Spirit of God as His imagers on this earth until He returns. Clothed in righteousness, she anticipates the moment of His return, watching and waiting to open the door and go out to meet Him as soon as He arrives. This is the bride He is returning for, who loves Him for who He is and awaits excitedly for the time they finally meet in person.

Overview

- Introduction
- What is the harpazo?
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- Why is There a Catching Away?
 - Relationship and Marriage
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 - Tribulation and Wrath
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 - God's Wrath
- When is the catching away?
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 - The Views on Timing
- Conclusion

Details

- Introduction
 - Much of the studies so far have little to do with the Christian aside from gaining understanding of God's plans. This isn't because my focus is only on Israel, but because the prophetic narrative's focus is primarily on Israel. Recall that the 70 Weeks prophecy given to Daniel "are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city." We also saw in the Great Tribulation study how the focus of the unparalleled time of great tribulation is also focused on those in Judea, Jacob's trouble, when Michael, who stands for Daniel's people Israel, stands up.
 - But this doesn't mean the Christian is excluded from prophecy. Just like Israel, we are included in the warnings about false christs and aren't above deception if we fail to learn the Truth from God's Word first and foremost.
 - We are also not above persecution. Comfortable Western Christians tend to forget the privilege they have living in free countries, although that will continue to degrade over time to the end as we're seeing the beginnings of in Europe, Canada, and even within America as freedom is hijacked by compulsion more and more. Americans even more so take for granted the legally binding protection against encroachment on their religious beliefs, although we're seeing end run designs around that as well. But that is not so for the many Christians currently dying for their faith in Christ in China, Africa, Asia, and throughout the world where repressive governments have been trying to root out Christianity for some time now. Let us not forget to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ going through these hardships and let us not remain blind to the fact that their faith is typically stronger than our own as they are going through tribulation. We have a lot to learn about reliance on God from the persecuted church.
 - Through much of the New Testament, the focus is on understanding the kingdom of God and our place in it. Growing spiritually to understand the carnal vs. spiritual, the [Milk Before Meat](#). But the focus is always on loving God and each other, not striving with each other, but building each other up. These studies are my calling to build up the body of Christ in faith and understanding, trusting God's Word, and living in obedience to His commandments to love one another as He loves the church.
 - In two words, the whole message we are to learn and take to heart is "loving relationship." This is what God's purpose for us has been from before the beginning, a family that loves selflessly and builds each other up. This is what Yeshua is looking for when He returns, and this is what the church can have a very hard time with historically.
 - Overview Timeline
 - Probably the timeline most hotly debated among Christians is that of the timing of the gathering of the bride of Christ to Him at His coming. One of the reasons we've focused on topical definitions like the great tribulation is because of the lack of such definitions in many commentaries. Very often this term is tied to the entire seven years of the 70th week of Daniel, which I believe has been demonstrated scripturally to be inaccurate. As we go through this study, we will need to zoom in on the timeline to focus on the further detail as there is actually a surprising amount of detail regarding the timing of this event.
- What is the harpazo?
 - In Greek, harpázō means to seize, catch away, catch up, pluck, pull, or take by force. In the King James, this word is translated in English several different phrases that in general could be summed up "taking by force." It is found in 13 verses in the New Testament used in several interesting contexts.
 - Taking by force
 - **Matthew 11:12** - "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent **take[G726][G0] it by force.[G726]**"

God wanted him to be. This was not Philip's doing, but he was caught away to another location supernaturally.

- **2 Corinthians 12:2-4** - "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one **caught up[G726]** to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was **caught up[G726]** into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."
 - Here we have a catching away of either a body or spirit to heaven. This is clearly not a permanent state, but likely similar to what John experienced when called up to see what would happen.
 - **Revelation 4:1-2** - "After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither**, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And **immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven**, and [one] sat on the throne."
 - John's vision of heaven, and the revelation of Yeshua given by God for us to know what will happen, followed a catching away in the spirit.
- **Revelation 12:5** - "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was **caught up[G726]** unto God, and [to] his throne."
 - As covered in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#) study, we see the Christ the first fruits, after the resurrection and just before Shavuot (Pentecost), who ascended to the Father.
 - **Acts 1:9-11** - "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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."
 - **Mark 16:19** - "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."
 - It is interesting that Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection and was caught up to heaven, and we see this same combination of the first resurrection and catching away of the resurrected and living to heaven again when He returns in the same way He left.
 - What is also interesting is that the verse just after the child is caught up to God shows the woman fleeing into the wilderness, which is mirrored in verse 14 regarding the end.
 - **Revelation 12:6, 14** - "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days. ... And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."
 - As covered in the [First Resurrection](#) study, Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection of the just. Christ is the head and we are the body of Christ.
 - **Ephesians 5:23** - "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."
 - So it is almost like the child being caught up to God and the tying together of verses 6 and 14 represent the catching away of the child as covering the whole period of time from His departing to heaven at His first coming where He left the Holy Spirit as a gift to the church, His bride, and His arrival at His second coming when He will gather His bride to Himself around the same time He is protecting Israel as she escapes spiritual Egypt into the wilderness. This ties the

resurrection of the just, His first and second comings, and the protecting of Israel in the wilderness as a complete span of time over the last days leading to the war in heaven when the Dragon is cast out.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** - "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. **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: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up[G726] together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
 - This is the central scripture that uses the word in the Greek harpazo as related to the idea of the catching away of believers in Yeshua to meet Him in the air. This is not something seen by man for almost 2,000 years and in today's modern context of uniformitarian and materialistic science it seems a bizarre and preposterous concept. It goes against the laws of physics as we know them, and when it is paired with what was covered in the [First Resurrection](#) study, it is even more ridiculous, a mass resurrection of millennia-dead people to be caught up to the clouds to meet Yeshua.
 - But is it possible that we live in a universe with dimensions beyond what we can see or comprehend? The supernatural is thought of as myth and fantasy, but what if it is simply physical existence at a dimension or dimensions higher than our three and outside of space and time? Is that any less real of an existence than what we can perceive? Perhaps it is even more real than the existence we are aware of now.
 - Our understanding of the universe is elegantly defined by non-material concepts, mathematic equations that are the universal language describing the order of the universe. We discovered them and we can comprehend them, well some people can, yet they exist without us and outside the material world in the mind. It just may be possible that what seems insane is really nothing unusual when heaven invades earth and the God of creation reveals Himself in glory and every eye sees Him.
- Contextually Relevant Scriptures
 - It is clear that the idea of forcibly catching away is within scripture, used both in the context of our future catching away at Christ's coming, but also demonstrated in many other ways. The harpazo, or rapture, is a verb defining an action that will happen. However, there are other scriptures that don't use this word, yet speak of the same future event, the blessed hope and coming of our Lord.
 - **Titus 2:11-14** - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
 - **1 Corinthians 15:51-55** - "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. 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. O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?"
 - **Matthew 24:29-31** - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in

- heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
- **Luke 12:35-40** - "Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."
 - **Matthew 25:1-13** - "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
 - **Psalm 119:103-105** - "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. NUN. Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
 - **Ephesians 5:23, 25-27** - "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ... Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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."
 - **Matthew 7:20-23** - "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
 - **Joel 2:12-18** - "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye [even] to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he [is] gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth [if] he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; [even] a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? **Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.** Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where

[is] their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people."

- I believe this passage, and really all of Joel 2, is a depiction of the time of great tribulation and following. It begins with an unstoppable army from whom none can escape climbing the walls and entering the windows like a thief. Then the Lord utters His voice before His army and the day of the Lord is mentioned. A call for repentance is made and then, as covered in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#) study, a trumpet is blown in Zion and a solemn assembly. Then an interesting allusion is made for the bridegroom and bride coming out of their habitations followed by deliverance promised to His people. As covered in several studies to this point, this all falls in line with the sequence of events seen in several places such as Matthew 24:15-31, Revelation 6-8, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, etc. all tied to the [Day of the Lord](#) covered in a later study.
- Relationship and Marriage
 - Covenantal Marriage
 - Marriage is a covenant relationship agreed to by both parties to fulfill promises made to each other in building a family and life together. Spiritually the two become one as they put aside their own personal desires to elevate the common unified goal of a family. In this, two become one flesh.
 - Traditional Jewish Marriage
 - Tradition can change over time, this is understood. As we will see, the existing tradition of the Jewish marriage may still have original foreshadows hidden within it for the bride of Christ.
 - [Shiddukhin](#) - match-making or engagement
 - "A shidduch often begins with a recommendation from family members, friends, or others who see matchmaking as a mitzvah, or commandment."
 - "After the match has been proposed, the prospective partners meet a number of times to gain a sense of whether they are right for one another."
 - The ketubah is a marriage contract that outlines the rights and responsibilities of the groom, in relation to the bride. This was partially meant to ensure the promise made is upheld so as to prevent a man from entering lightly into marriage for carnal reasons only and also to provide for the wife in the event of divorce or death. So the husband would promise to provide for her security and protection.
 - [Erusin or kiddushin](#) - betrothal ceremony
 - "The erusin is preceded by a blessing over wine and then the bircat erusin (betrothal blessing). Originally, the blessings were recited by the groom, but today it is more common for someone else to recite them such as the wedding's Rabbi."
 - "Today, the custom is to perform the betrothal by giving the bride an object whose value is well known, and fairly constant: a gold ring without a stone."
 - "The groom takes the ring and says in Hebrew, *Behold, you are consecrated to me with this ring according to the laws of Moses and Israel.* The groom now places the ring on the bride's index finger."
 - "In order to separate the erusin and nissuin—the two parts of the wedding—the ketubah is read."
 - "In Hebrew and classical rabbinic literature, betrothal is frequently referred to as sanctification, on account of the bride becoming "sanctified" (dedicated) to the groom."
 - "Before the wedding ceremony, the groom agrees to be bound by the terms of the ketubah (marriage contract) in the presence of two witnesses, whereupon the witnesses sign the ketubah. Usually these two

witnesses are not closely related to the couple, but family and friends will be present for the signing."

- "Since the Middle Ages it is customary for the marriage to occur immediately after the betrothal, and to perform the betrothal during the marriage ceremony itself. Previously this was not the case, and there were often several months between the two events."
- Culturally, the son would remain on his father's estate, and once he was betrothed, he was responsible for making a home for his new family, which is where the separation in time between the betrothal and marriage took place. While the bridegroom prepared the home, the bride would prepare herself as she waited for him to come and collect her to their new home.
- [Nissuin](#) or [chupah](#) - marriage ceremony (fall moedim point to this)
 - When the son has completed preparations for his new family, the father of the bridegroom would approve his preparations at which time the bridegroom would go to collect his bride to bring her to their new home.
 - "Prior to the ceremony, Ashkenazi Jews have a custom for the groom to cover the face of the bride (usually with a veil), and a prayer is often said for her based on the words spoken to Rebecca in Genesis 24:60. The veiling ritual is known in Yiddish as *badeken*. Various reasons are given for the veil and the ceremony, a commonly accepted reason is that it reminds the Jewish people of how Jacob was tricked by Laban into marrying Leah before Rachel, as her face was covered by her veil. Another reasoning is that Rebecca is said to have veiled herself when approached by Isaac, who would become her husband. Sephardi Jews do not perform this ceremony. Additionally, the veil emphasizes that the groom is not solely interested in the bride's external beauty, which fades with time; but rather in her inner beauty which she will never lose. If the couple has chosen to spend time apart leading up to the wedding day, this is the first time that they have seen each other since then."
 - "In many Orthodox Jewish communities, the bride is escorted to the chuppah by both mothers, and the groom is escorted by both fathers, known by Ashkenazi Jews as *unterfirers* (Yiddish: "Ones who lead under"). In another custom, bride and groom are each escorted by their respective parents. However, the escorts may be any happily married couple, if parents are unavailable or undesired for some reason. There is a custom in some Ashkenazi communities for the escorts to hold candles as they process to the chuppah."
 - Often, the procession would come in the evening to collect his bride, hence the candles and the bride needing oil for her light.
 - "A traditional Jewish wedding ceremony takes place under a chuppah (wedding canopy). This structure is meant to represent the home of the new couple and is traditionally standing under an open sky." This is reminiscent of the Sukkot, or temporary coverings built for that appointed time.
 - "In Ashkenazi tradition, the bride traditionally walks around the groom three or seven times when she arrives at the chuppah. This may derive from **Jeremiah 31:22**, "A woman shall surround a man". The three circuits may represent the three virtues of marriage: righteousness, justice and loving kindness (see **Hosea 2:19**). Seven circuits derives from the Biblical concept that seven denotes perfection or completeness. This has also been linked to when Joshua circled the walls of Jericho seven times and they were destroyed. Sephardic Jews do not perform this ceremony."

- "In traditional weddings, two blessings are recited before the betrothal; a blessing over wine, and the betrothal blessing, which is specified in the Talmud. The wine is then tasted by the couple."
 - "Yichud (togetherness or seclusion) refers to the Ashkenazi practice of leaving the bride and groom alone for 8–20 minutes after the wedding ceremony, in which the couple retreat to a private room. The Yichud is not used to physically consummate the marriage. Instead, couples will often eat and relax together for this short period of time before the dancing and celebrations of nissuin begin. Since the wedding day is considered the bride and groom's personal Yom Kippur, they may choose to fast leading up to the wedding. The Yichud can be spent as a time for the couple to break their fast and have their first meal together."
 - Marriage supper
 - "After the wedding ceremony and the Yichud, the bride and groom will make a grand entrance into a room filled with friends and family to begin the celebrations. The wedding ceremony is considered a serious religious event, while the wedding feast is considered a fun, lively celebration for the couple. It is expected and required for the guests to bring joy and festivities to the couple on their wedding day. At the wedding feast, there is dancing, singing, eating, and drinking. This is broken up into two celebrations. Towards the beginning of the wedding feast, there is dancing and celebrations, but men and women are separated. After a couple of hours, a more lively celebration begins. Typically, this occurs after the older guests leave, and there is a mixing of men and women (not at orthodox weddings), and a dance is usually involved."
- Spiritual Covenantal Marriage
 - **Genesis 2:20-24** - "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."
 - It was the God, the Father of the first Adam, who arranged the marriage of Adam and Eve. It was likewise the tradition for the fathers to arrange marriages that were meant to join families together.
 - God's desire from the beginning was to have a relationship with His people and we saw in the [Daniel's 70 Weeks](#) study, the various covenants God made with humanity through time. The Mosaic Covenant was the one centered around the 12 tribes of Israel, or Jacob, which was a conditional covenant.
 - Religious covenants were cut through the killing of an animal and splitting the body and walking between the two parts. This symbolized the severity of the agreement being made. We saw this in the unconditional covenant God made with Abraham. **Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:14-17, Genesis 15:1-21, Romans 4:9-22**
 - Israel at Sinai
 - Israel was told of rewards of obedience in **Deuteronomy 11** and **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**, and consequences of disobedience in **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**.
 - **Exodus 24:3-8** - "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he

sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. **And Moses took half of the blood, and put [it] in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 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. 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."**

- This was the covenant between God and Israel made in the blood of animal sacrifice, and according to the statutes given Israel to perform throughout their generations, it was to be a perpetual sacrifice. Contrary to much of Christian belief about the sacrifices, it was not meant to take away sin, but was a temporary sanctification, or covering of sin, for the purpose of reminding of sin and sanctification of the people and priesthood to be able to come before God.
- **Jeremiah 3:11-15** - "And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; [and] I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I [am] merciful, saith the LORD, [and] I will not keep [anger] for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. **Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."**
- **Jeremiah 3:6-8** - "The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen [that] which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. And I said after she had done all these [things], Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw [it]. **And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also."**
- God considered Himself married to Israel in the covenant made at Sinai even though she committed adultery and fornication playing the harlot and going after other gods. The Northern Kingdom in her harlotry was given a bill of divorce, yet His anger was not against her forever. He still has plans for a remnant of Israel who will remain faithful to Him.
- **Hosea 2:14-20** - "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, [that] thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name. And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and [with] the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. **And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD."**
- **Hebrews 10:1-10** - "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and]

not the very image of the things, **can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But **in those [sacrifices there is] a remembrance again [made] of sins every year. For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and [offering] for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure [therein]; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all]."

- Christians the Crucifixion

- Just as Israel's covenant relationship with God was attested to by blood, so was the New Covenant, the New Testament, made with blood. However, it was not the blood of animals, but with the blood of the sinless Son of God.
- **Hebrews 9:16-28** - "For where a testament [is], there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament [is] of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. **Whereupon neither the first [testament] was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This [is] the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.** [It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: **Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;** For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but **now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

- Jewish Wedding Tradition and the New Covenant

- If you already know scripture, you may have already seen some parallels with the wedding traditions and some scriptures regarding the Christian relationship to Christ. But before these comparisons, I think there is a fascinating light through which to see our adoption into the family of God. We know that we are the seed of Abraham through grace by faith like Abraham.
- **Genesis 28:3-4** - "And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; And **give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.**"
- **Romans 4:16-18** - "Therefore [it is] of faith, that [it might be] by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written,

I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, [even] God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that **he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.**"

- But also in light of the idea of the bride of Christ, the two becoming one flesh, and the inheritance of those who accept Yeshua by that faith, there's an interesting correlation.
- **John 17:6-12** - "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received [them], and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: **I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.** And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we [are].** While I was with them in the world, **I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost,** but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."
- **John 6:38-40** - "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. **And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."
- The Father gave the Son His bride. Those who chose to love God and align with His Spirit, have been chosen to be the bride of His Son, to be joined into the family of Abraham as in a marriage where two families are joined, the natural olive tree and the branches of the wild olive trees, the family of Jacob to the Gentiles through Christ.
- **Galatians 3:26-29** - "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"
- **Galatians 4:3-7** - "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**"
- **Romans 8:14-17** - "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.**"
- Having believed in Christ in faith and obedience to God, we have entered into an arranged marriage according to the will of the Father for His Son, and have been sealed with His Spirit to the day of redemption. And looking back to the [First Resurrection](#) study, at Christ's coming to collect His bride, we are raised and changed incorruptible, putting on our new celestial body that is able to exist at the Father's residence in heaven. We are sanctified by the blood of the Lamb, incorruptible and in

the presence of God, in His house for eternity.

- Shiddukhin - match-making or engagement
 - "Often begins with a recommendation from family members, friends, or others who see matchmaking as a mitzvah, or commandment."
 - **Romans 10:12-15** - "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"
 - "After the match has been proposed, the prospective partners meet a number of times to gain a sense of whether they are right for one another."
 - As we grow in our faith, we either choose to align ourselves with the God of the Bible, with the Messiah and Spirit of God, or we choose to reject Him. From within the constraints of time, this is an ever-evolving relationship or lack thereof. From God's perspective outside time, He already knows who are His and of those He will lose none.
 - The ketubah is a marriage contract that outlines the rights and responsibilities of the groom, in relation to the bride, and the price paid to secure her future.
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**"
 - ◆ **Ephesians 1:10-14** - "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**"
 - ◆ Just as with the purchase of a house, the earnest is given as a pledge or downpayment that the full amount will subsequently be paid. In the wedding tradition, the ketubah is the covenant promise of the Groom to the bride of His sincerity in promising to provide for her and in the case of Christ, He sealed us with His Holy Spirit of promise as the pledge that when He returns for His bride, they will receive the full promise of eternal life in His presence forever in our incorruptible celestial temples that do not fade away as our bodies now do.
- Erusin or kiddushin - The betrothal ceremony can be symbolized in the spring modem fulfilled by Christ.
 - The betrothal ceremony is preceded by the groom giving a blessing over the wine.
 - **Matthew 26:26-28** - "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed [it], and brake [it], and gave [it] to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. **And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**"
 - Also part of Hebrew marriage customs and the drinking of wine signifying the sealing of the bride and groom before he leaves for the Father's house

- to prepare a place for his bride and himself.
- the custom is to perform the betrothal by giving the bride an object whose value is well known.
 - **John 14:16-18, 25-26** - "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. ... These things have I spoken unto you, being [yet] present with you. But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
 - **John 14:15-21** - "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."
 - "In order to separate the erusin and nissuin—the two parts of the wedding—the ketubah is read."
 - **John 3:16-17** - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
 - **John 13:34-35** - "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**"
 - **John 15:13-17** - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you**. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another."
 - Betrothal is frequently referred to as sanctification, as the bride becoming "sanctified" (dedicated) to the groom.
 - **Romans 15:14-16** - "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that **the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.**"
 - **1 Corinthians 6:9-12** - "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but **ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.** All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

- **Hebrews 2:9-13** - "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.** And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me."
- The bride is set apart for the bridegroom and remains pure for him while there were often several months between the betrothal and marriage ceremonies.
 - **Ephesians 5:25-32** - "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 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. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
 - **1 Corinthians 1:2** - "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"
 - **1 Corinthians 6:11** - "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."
 - **Hebrews 10:10** - "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all]."
 - **Hebrews 13:12** - "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."
 - **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.**"
- **Nissuin or chupah** - The marriage ceremony can be symbolized in the fall moedim yet to be fulfilled by Christ.
 - "Prior to the ceremony, Ashkenazi Jews have a custom for the groom to cover the face of the bride. If the couple has chosen to spend time apart leading up to the wedding day, this is the first time that they have seen each other since then."
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 13:12** - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am

known."

- When the son has completed preparations for his new family, the father of the bridegroom would approve his preparations at which time the bridegroom would send for his bride to bring her to their new home. She would expect traditionally to meet her groom after about a year but not know exact day or hour.
 - ◆ **Matthew 24:29-31, 36** - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ... **But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**"
 - ◆ **Matthew 25:13** - "**Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**"
 - ◆ **Luke 12:45-46** - "But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; **The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and at an hour when he is not aware,** and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."
- When the groom sent for his bride there was a great procession at night with joy, jubilation and shofar blasts. The bride would have heard shofar and go out to meet her groom. "The bride is escorted to the chuppah. There is a custom in some Ashkenazi communities for the escorts to hold candles as they process to the chuppah."
 - ◆ **Matthew 25:1-13** - 10 virgins are awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom to take them to the marriage.
 - ◇ 5 wise have oil of Holy Spirit signifying relationship with God
 - ◇ 5 foolish have no oil and the bridegroom doesn't know them
 - ◇ **Revelation 3:10** - Keeping the word of Christ's patience leads to being kept from the hour of temptation. Likewise, not doing so will lead to being thrust into it.
 - ◇ **Revelation 2:22** - Those committing fornication and adultery, which is spiritually idolatry and going after other gods, will be cast into great tribulation if they don't repent.
 - ◇ **Matthew 7:22-23** - "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
 - ◇ Relationship with God through the Holy Spirit and living by the Spirit showing forth the fruits of the Spirit are the most important thing you can cultivate in your walk with God.
 - ◇ This points to a split in the church of those who honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. Those left behind will enter into the hour of temptation where they will be put to proof as to whether they will give up their eternal inheritance for a bowl of soup as Esau did, and in so doing lose their eternal lives in saving their mortal lives. (REF: Phases of the Great Tribulation)

- Nissuin means to take from root word naso means to lift up. The bride will be lifted up.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** - "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. 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: 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.** Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
- "A traditional Jewish wedding ceremony takes place under a chuppah (wedding canopy). This structure is meant to represent the home of the new couple and is traditionally standing under an open sky." This is reminiscent of the Sukkot, or temporary coverings built for that appointed time.
 - **Revelation 7:9-17** - "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."
- "In traditional weddings, two blessings are recited before the betrothal; a blessing over wine, and the betrothal blessing. The wine is then tasted by the couple."
 - **Matthew 26:27-29** - "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. **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.**"
- Seclusion refers to the practice of leaving the bride and groom alone after the wedding ceremony, in which the couple retreat to a private room. Couples will often eat and relax together for this short period of time before the dancing and celebrations of nissuin begin.
 - **Revelation 2:17** - "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will **give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth [it].**"
 - This speaks to the intimacy of the relationship we will each have with our Savior, a personal audience with the Creator where we will be given a new name know only to God and you.

- The wedding feast will come after the marriage where the bride and groom are presented.
 - "After the wedding ceremony and the seclusion, the bride and groom will make a grand entrance into a room filled with friends and family to begin the celebrations. The wedding ceremony is considered a serious religious event, while the wedding feast is considered a fun, lively celebration for the couple."
 - This is a foreshadow of the marriage supper of the Lamb, when the bride will be presented to the guests of the marriage supper in His kingdom, a time of great joy.
 - **Revelation 19:9** - "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."
- **John 3:27-31** - "John [the baptist] answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, **I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.** He must increase, but I [must] decrease. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."
- **2 Corinthians 11:1-3** - "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in [my] folly: and indeed bear with me. 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.** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
- **Revelation 21:1-2, 9-10** - "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And **I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** ... And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, **I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**"
 - **Revelation 3:10-13** - "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. **Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:** and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
 - As we saw in the symbol of the harlot, Jerusalem, riding the beast, a city is identified by her inhabitants. In the case of Jerusalem at times of apostasy she was a harlot. Jeremiah 7:32-34, Jeremiah 16:5-13, Jeremiah 25:9-11
 - In other passages God refers to Jerusalem and her inhabitants in terms of being adorned as a bride. Isaiah 49:14-18, Isaiah 61:6-11, Isaiah 62:1-7, Jeremiah 33:10-11
- Yeshua is coming for His bride. Do you think those who do not live as though they desire a relationship with Him will become the bride? Yeshua is looking for a willing and waiting people who keep themselves pure from idolatry, flee from evil, and put God first. Most of all He is coming for those who want Him and show the fruits of that in their lives.

- *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters* by Carmen Joy Imes (audiobook in Emby and [free in Audible](#)) goes into detail about how the commandment not to take the name of the Lord in vain is really saying not to bear His name in vain, basically meaning we are sealed as His people and we are to act like it.
- Why is there a catching away?
 - **1 Corinthians 15:50-57** - "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. 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. O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory? The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law. But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17** - "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. 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: 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."
 - First it must be pointed out that what was covered in the [First Resurrection](#) study is intimately tied to this study on the catching away of the bride. The ultimate reason behind our catching away is that the time of God dealing with man, allowing him to rule himself, is over. God has made promises to His people of an eternity apart from sin and corruption and the time to deal with judgement and offer one last opportunity for man to choose God of his own free will must come.
 - The reason for the harpazo is to catch up the church, Christ's bride, (Ephesians 5:23) to the marriage that takes place while God's wrath is poured out on the children of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:1-20) This will be covered in greater detail in the [Day of the Lord](#) study. However, to be with God, we must be changed from corruption to incorruption. We must be changed into our new celestial bodies that are able to exist in heaven without death and the first resurrection is the first step in that process. The resurrected and alive are then caught up in order to fulfill the promise of escape.
 - As we saw in the Oliver discourse and elsewhere, the sixth seal, the coming of Christ, our gathering to Him, the sealing of the 144,000, and the wrath of God at the day of the Lord are all effectively the same short period of time, likely all taking place within the 10 days of awe, or repentance.
 - **Ephesians 5:1-7** - "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.** Be not ye therefore partakers with them."
 - The Lord is coming for a spotless bride who is filled with the Spirit of God, the oil for the lamp that lights their way through life. He has signed the ketubah, the New Covenant, in His blood and redeemed the bride who obeys Him and is coming to take her to the marriage of the Lamb.
 - Secondly, the catching away is a promise to not fall under the wrath of God during the second half of Daniel's 70th week.

- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - "And 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 5:1-11** - "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 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. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 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. **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."
 - Here we see the concept of the resurrection, whether we wake or sleep, tied with obtaining salvation and not being appointed to wrath. But how do we define that wrath? Whose wrath is it?
- **Luke 21:34-36** - "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 [of the Lord] come upon you unawares. **For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 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.**"
 - The purpose of our catching away at Christ's coming is therefore tied to our removal from the earth, upon which the wrath of God is coming upon all of, and instead escape to stand before the Son of man. This will be the marriage of the Lamb in heaven as we are taken to our Father's house that Yeshua has been preparing for us.
- John 14:1-4
- Isaiah 26:19-21
- Here we see our gathering at His coming in wrath where we enter into our many mansions, before the wrath, until the wrath is complete. In the traditional marriage the son would build onto his fathers house a place for his bride to live with him
- We see this order presented in several other places.
 - **Isaiah 63:1-6** - "Who [is] this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this [that is] glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore [art thou] red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people [there was] none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. **For the day of vengeance [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.** And I looked, and [there was] none to help; and I wondered that [there was] none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth."
 - We see the Lord returning to tread the winepress of the wrath of God alone. Notice that associated with the day of vengeance, the day of the Lord, is the year of His redeemed. Given that we are not appointed to wrath, the association of these two elements would indicate they're related, if not ordered.
 - **Revelation 14:14-20** - "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his

sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs."

- Where we do see an order is in John's vision of the reapers where the first reaper harvests the earth because it is ripe. A second angel comes out after and this time the grapes of the earth are fully ripe and they are cast into the great winepress of the wrath of God.
 - **Revelation 6:12-8:6** shows us a sequence as well where the signs of the sixth seal are recognized to be heralding the wrath of God, the sudden destruction that comes on the day of the Lord. Immediately after that, we see a vision of the destruction of God's wrath on the earth being held back until the 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel can be sealed and the multitude standing in heaven before the throne that was a sea of glass when John first arrived. Now it's full of people from everywhere on earth. Immediately after that the seventh seal is broken and the trumpet judgements begin.
 - **Joel 2:30-31** - "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."
 - This agrees with the order of Revelation 6-8 that the sign of the sixth seal will come before the day of the Lord and the sudden destruction it brings.
 - These all agree with the promises that we are not appointed to wrath and that we will escape the wrath.
- Tribulation and Wrath
 - There is some confusion in the church about tribulation in the end times. It seems to me to extend from a lack of full definition of what that means. There is a distinct difference between God's wrath and the dragon's wrath.
 - Dragon's Wrath
 - Some views tie the seven-year period of the 70th week of Daniel to the "tribulation," a general term with no temporal ties to events of the end times. This will typically be called "the seven year tribulation." However, Daniel 9:27 is the only mention of a period of seven years, and both Yeshua and Daniel place the abomination of desolation in the midst of that seven year period and specifically call it out as the beginning of great tribulation. (REF: Great Tribulation study)
 - **Revelation 12:13-17** - "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man [child]. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."
 - The dragon's wrath is most clearly named in these verses that portray the time period of unparalleled tribulation in Judea according to **Jeremiah 30:4-7**, **Daniel 12:1**, and **Matthew 24:15-22**. It begins at the abomination of desolation when the man of sin declares himself god in the temple.
 - In fact, we're told from the abomination of desolation the dragon will be given 3.5

years, 42 months, or 1,260 days of power.

- **Daniel 7:25** - "And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."
- **Daniel 12:7** - "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these [things] shall be finished."
- **Revelation 13:5-7** - "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."
- In speaking to His disciples, we're told we will suffer tribulation in this world, but it's not just His initial disciples who should expect tribulation.
 - **John 16:33** - "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
 - **Acts 14:22** - "Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
 - Indeed, throughout history and around the world to this very day Christians are dying for their faith in large numbers. Only through the prism of the blessings being born in the US do we forget the church is in tribulation this very day. Let us keep them in our prayers.
 - **Romans 5:1-5** - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."
- Indeed, it is a warning to the church in Thyatira that may be the warning to those five foolish virgins who will be shut out of the marriage and be cast into great tribulation, and not kept from the hour of temptation. Revelation 3:10
 - **Revelation 2:20-23** - "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."
- The 10 Virgins, the oil, and the light
 - **Matthew 25:1-13** - "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.** And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to

meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And **the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.** But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. **Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."**

- Oil
 - Old Testament menorah, always had to be lit continually
 - ◇ **Leviticus 24:1-4** - "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: [it shall be] a statute for ever in your generations. He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually."
 - Symbolism of the menorah in heaven, seven churches, seven Spirits
 - ◇ **Revelation 1:12-13, 20** - "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. ... The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."
 - Anointing oil
 - ◇ **Exodus 29:7** - "Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour [it] upon his head, and anoint him."
 - ◇ **Exodus 30:25-30** - "And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony, And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy. And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that [they] may minister unto me in the priest's office."
 - ◇ **1 Samuel 10:1** - "Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured [it] upon his head, and kissed him, and said, [Is it] not because the LORD hath anointed thee [to be] captain over his inheritance?"
 - ◇ **1 Samuel 16:13** - "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."
- Kings and Priests
 - **Revelation 1:4-6** - "John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of

the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And **hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father**; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

- **Revelation 5:9-10** - "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**"
- Light
 - **Psalms 119:103-105** - "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. NUN. Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
 - **Proverbs 6:23** - "For the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life:"
 - **Proverbs 21:20** - "[There is] treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up."
 - **Proverbs 10:8** - "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."
- Relationship with the Spirit of God
 - **Matthew 6:21-24** - "For **where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.** But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
 - **Hebrews 8:7-10** - "For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:"
 - **Acts 2:1-3** - "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."
- God's Wrath
 - The wrath of God has a distinct beginning point at the day of the Lord. That study will go into greater depth, but it's a very distinct time in history with very clear celestial signs and tied to the return of Christ in glory.
 - **Isaiah 26:19-21** - "Thy dead [men] shall live, [together with] my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [is as] the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. 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. 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."

- **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."
- **Zephaniah 2:3** - "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.**"
- **Psalms 27:4-6** - "One [thing] have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."
- When is the catching away?
 - The timing of this catching away of the bride of Christ to the marriage is a hotly debated topic. Before addressing the different views, I would like to present how I came to my view from scripture, attempting to walk logically through the words of Yeshua and the prophets regarding events taking place at the time of His coming.
 - Olivet Discourse
 - I think that Yeshua's layout of the events surrounding His coming lay the groundwork for determining the timing and when we look back at some of the topical studies already covered, I believe it is clarified where in the sequence of events the catching away lies.
 - **Matthew 24:14** - "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."
 - It is after this passage that the events of the end are depicted and it is telling where this leads us in the sequence of events. This should not be discounted or overlooked as this is the series of events Yeshua Himself depicts.
 - **Matthew 24:15, 21-22** - "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."
 - The abomination of desolation and the unparalleled time of great tribulation that follows it are the first things that happen when the end comes. As covered in the Great Tribulation study, this in combination with Revelation 12 show this being the first of two phases of great tribulation. The first unparalleled phase is focused on Israel in Judea and is cut short for their sake when
 - **Matthew 24:23, 27** - "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not. ... For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."
 - It is telling we are then warned about false christs and warned how Yeshua will actually arrive. Given what has been covered in the [Natural Israel & Spiritual Israel](#), [Visions of Daniel and John](#), and [Man of Sin: False Christ](#) studies, the abomination of desolation and the next 3.5 years are all about great deception of a man claiming to be God.
 - **Matthew 24:29-30** - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven,

and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

- That sign of the Son of man in heaven we are told to look for in regards to the True Christ is shown following the events of the sixth seal. This all takes place "immediately after the tribulation of those days." Understanding the nuance of the two phases of great tribulation, first in Judea and then in the world once faithful Israel is protected from the dragon in the wilderness, it is the unparalleled tribulation in Judea that this happens immediately after, not the end of the 3.5 years of the Dragon's rule on earth through the false christ and false prophet.
- **Matthew 24:31** - "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
- Here we have the event in question, the catching away and gathering of the elect from one end of heaven to the other. As was covered in the [Natural Israel & Spiritual Israel](#), the idea of elect being only Israel is not accurate as all of spiritual eternal Israel is the elect, Jew and Gentile. There is a difference in how they are handled at this time however.
- Seals & Trumpets
 - **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - "And 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 5:9** - "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"
 - As we've seen from scripture, those who are faithful to Christ are not appointed to His wrath. Even the people of the earth recognize God's wrath has arrived at the sixth seal. This will be covered in greater detail in the [Day of the Lord](#) study.
 - **Revelation 6:12-17** - "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. **And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"**
 - **Isaiah 2:10-12, 17-21** - "Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and **the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts [shall be] upon every [one that is] proud and lofty, and upon every [one that is] lifted up; and he shall be brought low:** ... And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. **And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.** In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made [each one] for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; **To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."**
 - This sixth seal will come before the day of the Lord comes, the day of the wrath of God. As we saw in the Olivet Discourse sequence of events, this is in agreement with what Yeshua said. The sixth seal is not the wrath, but the herald of it and everyone

knows it deep inside.

- **Joel 2:30-31** - "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."
- Recall that Israel is taken to the wilderness to a place prepared for her and is protected from the Dragon.
- **Revelation 12:14** - "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."
- **Revelation 7:1-4** - "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: **[and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**"
- Why would the coming storm of the wrath of God need to be held back until these are sealed? Because they are going to remain on the earth in the wilderness protected from the dragon for the remainder of the 70th week of Daniel and during the wrath of God. The wrath of God is held back in order that the 144,000 be sealed with the seal of God, which is also the only protection from the demon locusts stings of the 5th trumpet. These are clearly still on the earth, but under God's protection and they are clearly of the 12 tribes of Israel. This is faithful Israel taken on wings of an eagle into the wilderness.
- **Revelation 7:9-10** - "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."
- At the same time, we see those promised to escape God's wrath and stand before the throne of God in heaven and before the Lamb. These are both fulfilled in the space between the sixth and seventh seals.
- **Revelation 8:1-2** - "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."
- Note that the 7 angels are not given their trumpets until after the 7th seal. This distinguishes the seals from the trumpets as the seals not being the wrath of God, but Yeshua's control over the timing of the Dragon's plans and His arrival to save His redeemed.
- Day of the Lord
 - As we will see in the [Day of the Lord](#) study, this is the wrath of God and is that time we are not appointed to. We've seen the sequence of events Yeshua provided of the end. We've seen how the sixth seal to the seventh seal gives the vision of the two groups, the faithful 12 tribes of Israel in the wilderness and the innumerable multitude in heaven before the throne. This is actually part of the promise of escape.
 - **Luke 21:34-36** - "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. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 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."

- In addition, we are told the order of events that agrees with Yeshua by Joel. The signs of the sixth seal will come before the great and terrible day of the Lord.
- **Joel 2:30-31** - "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."
- It then follows that Yeshua states the sixth seal takes place before He comes, and when He comes His angels will gather the elect. The faithful Israel elect are gathered on wings of an eagle to the wilderness where the Lord will speak comfortably to her and bring her back to Him and the bride of Christ are gathered to heaven, to the Father's house with many mansions.
- **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."
- The Jewish wedding tradition would seem to mirror the betrothal ceremony at Christ's first coming, followed by a time where the bridegroom went away to prepare a place for His bride. Then we see the marriage ceremony heralded by the bridegroom coming back a second time to collect His bride, lift her up and take her to the marriage.
- **Isaiah 26:19-21** - "Thy dead [men] shall live, [together with] my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [is as] the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. 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. 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."
- In this same vein, we have Isaiah's prophecy of the dead being raised and God's people entering into their chambers until the wrath of God on the earth is past.
- The Day of Christ.
 - As if to echo this salvation before the wrath of God, we see the phrase day of Christ, or day of Jesus Christ, with a totally different frame of mind from the day of the Lord. Yeshua is Lord, and just as the day of the Lord is depicted as judgment and darkness and gloom, the day of Christ depicts the promise of completing the race without offense to that day, as if it is the finish line for the believer, the fulfillment of the promises.
 - **Philippians 1:10** - "That ye may approve things that are excellent; **that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;**"
 - **Philippians 2:16** - "Holding forth the word of life; **that I may rejoice in the day of Christ,** that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."
 - **1 Corinthians 1:8** - "Who shall also confirm you unto the end, **[that ye may be] blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"
 - Ephesians 4:30 - "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
 - **Philippians 1:6** - "Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:**"
 - This last one is also a precursor to another agreement in scripture as to the timing given by Yeshua for the time of the day of Christ. Note that the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him are tied together with the day of Christ being at hand.
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** - "Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.** Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day

shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

- The church was concerned they had missed the day of Christ and that they remained on earth, left behind. **Matthew 25:1-13** depicts half of the bride waiting for the bridegroom are shut out of the marriage and they were concerned that included them. In response to this they are told 2 things must happen first.
 - An apostasy comes first
 - The man of sin is revealed when he declares himself god in the temple.
- **1 John 3:1-3** - "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but **we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."
- So not only does this passage tie the Olivet Discourse to this day of Christ when Yeshua returns, but it also agrees with the sequence of events stating the abomination of desolation comes before Christ returns in glory. We will be changed into our incorruptible bodies and be like Him and see Him as He is when He shall appear. The only two depictions of His return in glory are after the sixth seal and before the wrath of God when He comes in the clouds and again at Armageddon to defeat the gathered armies followed by His wife in fine linen, white and clean after the marriage in heaven.
- It follows then that the day of Christ, the day of the Lord, the redemption and the wrath, are all tied to His coming after the sixth seal when Yeshua stated He would gather His elect and consistent with Revelation 6-8 depicting the sixth seal, the 144,000 on earth and the innumerable multitude in heaven before the wrath begins with the first trumpet.
- The Season
 - **Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6** - "In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial "**of blowing of trumpets**"(H8643 "teruah"), an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein"
 - In the study of the appointed times, there are several correlations that can be made with Yom Teruah and events surrounding the first resurrection and catching away.
 - We're not given much detail about this appointed time, but that might not be so surprising given that Yom Teruah is tied to the first of the month. This is the only appointed time on the first day of the month and because this is tied to sighting of the first light after a new moon, which can happen over two days, it is tied to the idiom that it's the day and hour no man knows.
 - In context, teruah denotes two seemingly opposing possibilities, shouts of joy, jubilee, or rejoicing, contrasted with a battle cry or alarm. As we've seen with the duality of the day of the Lord and the day of Christ, it really depends on the audience as to how the trump of God will be perceived.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16** - "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:"
 - **1 Corinthians 15:50-53** - "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality."

- **Matthew 24:31** - "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
 - The Lord descending from heaven is the return of Christ in glory and this is tied also to the resurrection of the dead and the catching away of the resurrected and the living at Christ's coming, which is after the sixth seal and before the wrath of God. As we will examine in greater detail in the [Framework of the End](#) study, this will all be taking place in a very short period of time between Yom Teruah and Yom Kippur, the days of repentance.
 - Biblically there is no description of how trumpets should be blown, shouts made, or alarms rung. Traditionally it consists of a series of shofar blasts culminating in the Tekiah Gedolah: (tuh-KEE-ah geh-DOLE-ah) One long tekiah gedolah (or "great tekiah") which is similar to, but much longer than, the standard tekiah. This would be the last trumpet blown at the end of the appointed time.
- So what does this all point to? The conclusion that I've come to based solely on taking scripture, the words of Yeshua and the prophets, seriously is that our catching away is tied to a time after the abomination of desolation, after the sixth seal or perhaps coincidental to it, and before the wrath of God begins on the day of the Lord with the blowing of the first trumpet. Christ's coming is the resurrection of the dead in Christ and catching away of them along with those who are alive to meet the Lord at His coming.
- **Revelation 8:1-2** - "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."
- The fact that the 7 trumpets are not even given to the 7 angels until after the 7th seal is opened places a distinct separation between the seals and trumpets.
- **Revelation 15:5-6** - "And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles."
- Likewise it isn't until after the 7th trumpet that the 7 angels with the 7 bowls go out of the temple to pour out the 7 last plagues of the wrath of God.
- This means that Christ's coming before and for the wrath to be carried out on the earth is both immediately after phase 1 of the great tribulation, and well before the end of the 70th week of Daniel in order that the 7 trumpets, 7 thunders, and 7 bowls can be carried out in the second half of the week.
- What is incredible, and will be covered in greater detail in the [Framework of the End](#), is that the series of exact-day prophecies from Daniel and John give a framework of the 70th week of Daniel that actually answers not just the order of events, but when all these events take place in relation to each other.
- The Views on Timing
 - Personally, I tried to approach my study of prophecy with more logical comparison of scripture with scripture than relying on the writings of those before. That's not to say I have not gleaned insights from others that helped form my understanding of this topic, but as with most things I don't agree with every aspect of a particular view and so I don't just transplant a whole single view as my own. Some may think that uneducated, but I believe that enough information is contained in scripture so that if someone who never knew a thing about what other people thought about what it meant, they could take it seriously and come to a logical coherent conclusion. I've also found myself early on disenchanted with the glossed over views that didn't seem to jive with what I was reading that led me down this path in the first place. This study is not to get into the weeds on debating views, there are other people doing that like Dr. Alan Kurschner with Eschatos Ministries, Chris White at Bible Prophecy Talk, and others.
 - I should also point out that many times people address a topic in a silo, and as we have seen

- when looking at the [Great Tribulation](#) study, no one even in Bible prophecy stands alone. Each event is tied together with the whole narrative and informs details about each other that when missed can lead to misunderstanding.
- I did want to touch on them though because I think the debates can get a bit heated and one thing I've learned is that there are some valid reasons why people hold different views and build narratives around them to make a point simpler to explain and think about. Digging into the detail can cause glossy-eyed syndrome, and if you've made it this far, congratulations!
 - Pre-tribulation harpazo
 - My literal interpretation of this view is we are caught up at some point before the abomination of desolation.
 - In this view "tribulation" is tied to the 70th week of Daniel becoming synonymous with that time. There is also sometimes a generalization that this whole week is the wrath of God and therefore it is assumed that the catching away could be at any time before that. Of course there are variations within the view, but this is one general concept held in agreement with pre-wrath, that the catching away comes before the wrath of God. What is therefore critical however, is to define everything we can about the wrath of God.
 - ◆ The pattern in the Jewish wedding tradition sees a multi-day marriage feast following the marriage, which was 7 days as seen in the context of Samson's wedding feast.
 - ◆ **Judges 14:12** - "And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find [it] out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments:"
 - Imminency typically a part of this view, accepting that there are no prophetic signs before the 70th week of Daniel and therefore there are no signs that precede His coming and it could be at any moment.
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:6-8** states that the revealing of the man of sin is restrained until the restrainer is taken out of the way. The Holy Spirit living in the church is the restraining force
 - When great tribulation is not fully defined, the 70th week of Daniel is not examined in detail, and personally interpretive ideas like the church age and God dealing with Israel not overlapping, one could believe in a pre-tribulation harpazo. This is the view I learned from Chuck Missler when I first started getting interested in Bible prophecy in 2005. His Learn the Bible in 24 Hours series was fascinating and I still recommend you see it if you have not. But as with any teacher out there, we likely won't agree with everything if we examine for ourselves and test the scriptures to see if this is so.
 - I try to get to the root of an idea as much as possible and grow from there. But so many frameworks have been built around terms that using them paints you into a corner you didn't know existed. For me, pre-tribulation means the catching away to Christ is before the tribulation starts, that's all it means. Now I try and find scripture that agrees.
 - I found that the more detail I learned and the more connected the various passages became as I learned them, there were too many inconsistencies. Attempts are made to explain these away by various personal interpretations I couldn't find a witness in scripture for and there were plenty of opposing scriptures that all bore witness to each other that conflicted with it.
 - Points against and counterpoints
 - ◆ I've found that a lot of the beliefs in a pre-trib view are based on generalized patterns as opposed to specific scriptural context. Associations like a 7-day marriage feast with the 7 years of the 70th week

is a generalized assumption used as evidence of a belief. However, plain reading of scripture contradicts this with clear distinction. In these cases, scripture should always win the debate without question.

- ◆ The idea of imminence is claimed to be taught in many places in the New Testament. However, none of these speak to imminence and are all general statements about the return of Christ, not a lack of any events prior to it.
 - ◇ **Philippians 3:20** - "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"
 - ◇ **Titus 2:13** - "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"
 - ◇ **Hebrews 9:28** - "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
 - ◇ **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - "And 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 4:18** - "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
 - ◇ **1 Thessalonians 5:6** - "Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober."
 - ◇ **Revelation 22:20** - "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
 - ◇ Just about any view of timing agrees with these and indeed scripture taken in context directly refutes this idea in many places.
 - ▶ **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** is very clearly stating two things come before the catching away, the apostasy and the revealing of the man of sin. The revealing is tied to the abomination of desolation, which also starts the great tribulation, and so negates the idea of a pre-tribulation catching away.
 - ▶ Tied to the identity of the restrainer of the revealing of the man of sin, a precursor to the coming of our Lord and our gathering to Him, 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 states the revealing of the man of sin happens when the restrainer is taken out of the way. One pre-trib idea is that the Holy Spirit is the restrainer, and so when the church is caught up, the restrainer is removed from the earth and the man of sin can be revealed. This contradicts scripture in verses 1-5, which provide the order: apostasy, revealing, catching away. If the Holy Spirit is the restrainer then verses 6-8 order is: restrainer removed, revealing. The restrainer is a precursor to the revealing and if that is the church then scripture contradicts itself.
 - ◇ **Matthew 24:15-27** depicts the unparalleled time of great tribulation and **Matthew 24:29-31** states that it is after that tribulation the signs of the sixth seal take place and the Son of man returns in great power and glory.
 - ◇ Each of these reasons from scripture provide signs that are declared to happen prior to the coming of our Lord and our gathering to Him. Imminency states there are no signs before His coming, which runs in contradiction to stated scripture.
 - ▶ Counter: Those scriptures aren't saying what they seem to say and so are not relevant to events prior to His coming.

- Pre-wrath harpazo
 - My literal interpretation of this view is we are caught up at the point when Christ arrives and before His wrath begins.
 - I prefer this name for the view because it is more directly tied to what defines the timing of the catching away, both redemption and escape prior to God's wrath. It is actually the conclusion I came to searching the scriptures presented in this study that seemed to fit with all the other elements of Bible prophecy covered in this series. I also felt it was the most accurate if you're going to label a view on timing of the catching away around an event.
 - In the Olivet Discourse we are told that the unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble spoken of in Matthew 24:15-22, Mark 13:14-20, Jeremiah 30:4-7, and Daniel 12:1 is a time for Israel in Judea that is cut short for the sake of the elect of Israel. We are also told in Revelation 12:14-17 that Israel is taken on wings of an eagle into the wilderness where they are protected from the Dragon for the same period of time as the false christ is given power over the saints. This divides the time of great tribulation into two phases, the short time of Jacob's trouble in Judea that is cut short, and the remaining time. It is immediately after this unparalleled time cut short that Yeshua's return is depicted after the sixth seal.
 - ◆ **Matthew 24:29-31** - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
 - In addition we are told that the signs of the sixth seal, which come after Jacob's trouble in Judea, comes before the day of the Lord.
 - ◆ **Joel 2:31** - "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."
 - One of the points that ties the return of Yeshua, and so our catching away to meet Him in the air, to the destruction of His judgement is seen in His statement in the Olivet Discourse and Paul's statement regarding the sudden nature of both Christ's coming and the day of the Lord and its destruction. We're told that no man knows the day or the hour when the master of the house returns and that we are to watch for that day. It is both the return of the master and the sudden destruction that we are promised escape from.
 - ◆ **Mark 13:32-37** - "But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."
 - ◆ **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** - "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 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. But ye, brethren, are

not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 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. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

- Timing around the tribulation doesn't actually narrow down that much because it isn't that definitively stated when our catching away is in relation to the tribulation, but it is very much stated in relationship to the coming wrath of God.
- Even more so, if we are going to meet Him in the air, then it would necessitate that He is coming at His Parousia, which denotes the idea of arrival and continued presence. As has been covered a little already and will be in greater detail in the Day of the Lord study, it is Yeshua Himself who will stain His vesture in blood as He treads the winepress of the wrath of God. We see this in Isaiah 63:1-4 and Revelation 19:11-16.
 - ◆ **Isaiah 63:1-6** - "I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come."
 - ◆ This ties the day of vengeance to the year of Yeshua's redeemed. Our redemption comes at the catching away when the dead in Christ are raised incorruptible and we are changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air before His wrath is poured out on the children of disobedience.
 - ◆ **Colossians 3:1-7** - "seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience"
 - ◆ **Ephesians 5:1-11** - "Walk in love as Christ did, stay away from fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."
- So if He's coming to tread the winepress of the wrath of God, we're promised we are not appointed to God's wrath but salvation, and we meet Him in the air, then the timing of that catching away seems most appropriately defined by the arrival of God's wrath on the whole earth, not the Dragon's wrath on God's people.
- Points against and counterpoints
 - ◆ This view means there is more than one coming of Christ. The scriptures overwhelmingly refer to the single coming of the Lord, it never uses the word comings plural. Hebrews 9:27-28 It can happen at any time in the final 3.5 years after the abomination of desolation. Yeshua raptures the believers and goes to heaven with them, then returns for Armageddon.
 - ◇ Counterpoint: I don't see anywhere in scripture that requires only

one coming of Christ to the earth. If scripture is speaking of a particular time, it will of course be singular in nature, it is speaking of one time. The fact is there are two distinct reasons for Christ to return that are mutually exclusive and whether He must move between heaven and earth in this period between them is irrelevant in stating whether these two reasons are valid or not.

- ◇ Christ's Parousia is a coming and continued presence. It is Yeshua who carries out the wrath of God. So His initial coming is three-fold, the redemption of His bride, the salvation of the faithful remnant of Israel from Judea into the wilderness, and the treading of the great winepress of the wrath of God alone. Isaiah 63:1-4 Even then, that's not to say Yeshua won't be doing this from earth or heaven? During this time, looking at Isaiah 26:19-21, the gathered bride awaits His return to heaven from their chambers in heaven, likely within the Father's house with many mansions, New Jerusalem. John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:2 So what is the purpose of this event? It is the promised day of both redemption and wrath for God's people and the world respectively. This is seen in how the "day of Christ" is used as opposed to the "day of the Lord" in scripture.
- ◇ When He has completed His wrath, He must return to heaven because He is depicted as returning from heaven to defeat the gathered armies that were gathered to Armageddon during the final stages of His wrath. In addition, He is followed by His wife clothed in fine linen white and clean. Revelation 19:7-21 This would seem to indicate that whether He is moving between heaven and earth during His time carrying out the wrath of God or not, His return to heaven is for the marriage and so He returns with His wife to establish the Messianic Kingdom prior to Israel coming out of the wilderness ending the 70th week of Daniel and come into the Promised Land and her inheritance under her God, King, and High Priest Yeshua the Messiah. This is the promised establishment of the Messianic Kingdom on earth. Note as opposed to the bride being caught up to the Lord, she is following Him from heaven, and this is depicted just after the marriage of the Lamb is described where they get the fine linen white and clean they are wearing at His return. He is not returning to save anyone at this point, He is coming to conquer the world gathered against Him with the Word of His mouth. Those He saved already are in the wilderness and following Him from heaven.
- ◇ If scripture describes two distinct purposes and accounts of Christ coming from heaven to earth that have elements unrelated to each other, why do we feel the need to require they be tied together and not just accept that there are two distinct events in view according to God's plan laid out in scripture for us?
- ◆ Yeshua must remain in heaven until Armageddon when His enemies are made His footstool and the restitution of all things. Acts 2:32-35, Acts 3:19-21
 - ◇ Counterpoint: These passages do not exist alone. Isaiah 63:1-4 depicts Yeshua being the one who treads the winepress of the wrath of God. In this way one might say that the wrath of God is part of the defeat of the enemies of God, not just the smaller, localized armies gathered when He returns from heaven, the wrath of God is global and so are the enemies of God.

- ◆ Yeshua sits on His throne of glory in Jerusalem when He comes in glory and all His angels with Him. Matthew 25:31-46 The pre-wrath perspective says when He comes back He turns around and goes back to heaven. Then He comes back from heaven and re-establishes the throne of David.
 - ◇ Counterpoint: The Son of man is said to come in glory just after the sixth seal and before the wrath of God is poured out.
 - ◇ Matthew 24:29-31 He sends his angels to gather the elect at that time, so clearly His angels came with Him.
 - ◇ If you look at the description of His coming at Armageddon, it is not described as coming in glory, although I'm sure it will be. If one merges the two depictions as being the same, it would be easy to overlay what is not present in Revelation 19:11-19 with that of Matthew 24:29-31, but it's not there. He is also followed this time by armies clothed in the same fine linen, white and clean given to the bride of Christ just 6 verses prior. Are these angels or the bride? Will angels be part of this? I don't know, the text doesn't explicitly say they will, but I wouldn't doubt they will.
 - ◇ Furthermore, it is after the seals, trumpets, and bowls have all been fully completed, meaning it is also not the coming of Christ in glory explicitly stated as such after the sign of the sixth seal because what comes after the sixth seal is the wrath of God. Therefore, by necessity there are two times the Lord returns separated by His wrath. This would mean that the statement of His coming with His angels would have to be prior to the wrath poured out in order to redeem His people from the earth before the wrath. It is then that He sits on His throne of glory.
 - ◇ But does that mean exactly at that time or just once He comes with His angels He will then later establish His throne of glory? Where is His throne of glory detailed? He currently sits at the right hand of the throne of God. As with many things, is there a throne of glory in heaven that is mirrored later on the earth? How much does time play into this statement if heaven is outside of time? Taking a couple verses as standing alone amongst a sea of Bible prophecy to define a viewpoint will lead to confusion. All perspectives must come together cohesively and as stated before, there seems to be a clear distinction in purpose, timing, and depiction of Christ coming from heaven to earth two times.
- ◆ We're told 3 times that the catching away happens at the last trumpet. It's difficult to say that after the last trumpet there are seven more trumpets.
 - ◇ Counterpoint: I believe associating the last trumpet with the 7 trumpets of God's judgment is a simple connection based on the word trumpet. Just because 7 trumpets are used as part of the symbolic depiction of God's judgements doesn't mean the last trump, or trumpet, is tied to those 7.
 - ◇ As covered in [The Moedim: Appointed Times](#) study, and will be tied in more extensively in the [Framework of the End](#) study, there is good indication that similar to the day and hour no man knows, the last trump may be an idiom pointing to the same moedim, Yom Teruah. Trumpets are a part of Hebrew celebration, warning, and call to battle, they are not just symbolically used for the wrath of God. It is possible that these idioms are meant to hint at the season in which we should expect the coming of Christ suddenly before the wrath of God is poured out. In this, what is the day of wrath for the

world in the day of the Lord, for the believer it is the day of redemption and translation to the kingdom of heaven on the day of Christ. All this in the fulfillment of the purposes of the 7 appointed times given to Israel as a foreshadow of the first and second coming of Christ.

- ◆ In Acts 1:9-11, Yeshua ascends to heaven and we are told in this exact same way He will return. Pre-wrath violates this by saying He comes back and then goes back to heaven
 - ◇ Counterpoint: This passage doesn't say what Christ will be doing when He comes back in the same way He left. It also says He will come in like manner as He was seen going to heaven. Does that mean just in the way He ascended He will again descend or does that include the unspecified detail that He will be returning specifically to the Mount of Olives?
 - ◇ Zechariah 14 would appear to depict Christ specifically returning to the Mount of Olives, which was covered in the [Great Tribulation](#) study as fitting with the depiction of Revelation 12:13-17 and the earth swallowing the water from the Dragon as Israel is escaping into the wilderness in the second Exodus. Instead of walls of water swallowing up Pharaoh's armies going after Israel, it is walls of earth that swallow the armies of the false christ going after Israel as she flees into the wilderness.
 - ◇ It's often assumed that Christ's coming before the wrath of God will not involve His coming to earth, but it may be that He personally intervenes against the armies of the Dragon to ensure Israel's safety from the Dragon as she flees to the place God has prepared for her in the wilderness where she is protected from the Dragon for the remainder of the 70th week. Indeed, it may be that Yeshua walks among His people there as He speaks comfortably to them and woos them back to Himself. Hosea 2:14-23
- ◆ Daniel 7:25 and Daniel 12:7 state that the saints will be persecuted for 3.5 years. If the saints are caught up, how are they persecuted?
 - ◇ Counterpoint: As will be covered in [Hour of Temptation: Left Behind](#), not all who are part of the eternal kingdom of God will arrive there before His coming and gathering of His bride to Himself. As Matthew 25:1-13 states, even half of those awaiting His coming will be shut out of the marriage and Revelation 2:22, speaking to the church of Thyatira warns that without repentance they will be cast into great tribulation. Just because not all saints are persecuted for 3.5 years doesn't mean the saints on the earth during that full time won't be.
- Mid-tribulation harpazo
 - My literal interpretation of this view is we are caught up at some point after the abomination of desolation, but before Armageddon
 - Apart from the timing again being tied to the tribulation, this would also fit my view because the tribulation is technically 42 months long, split into two parts and it is after the first part and before the second part that the catching away takes place. But again, this is not the most accurate definition of timing surrounding the event and so is left vague and wanting.
- Post-tribulation harpazo
 - My literal interpretation of this view is we are caught up at the end of the tribulation when Christ returns
 - Typically accepted due to rejection of the idea of either 2 comings of Christ or

- an extended presence
 - All passages not distinctly tied to timing about His return are lumped together with that tied to Armageddon
 - I understand the idea that Yeshua states it is "immediately after the tribulation of those days" when the angels gather the elect, and how that could be taken to mean after the great tribulation is over. We know the dragon comes and is given power for 42 months, or 3.5 years, the second half of the 70th week of Daniel. It is therefore logical that immediately after it would be at the end of the week when Yeshua returns to establish His Messianic Kingdom.
 - But there are more scriptures that say different that we've covered here. This is another place where definition of terminology is critical to not going on a tangent. What was "the tribulation of those days" that the gathering comes immediately after? There are 3 times in scripture where unparalleled tribulation on Israel in Judea are mentioned and in all 3 that time is cut short and they are saved out of it. As we saw in Revelation 12, there are two phases of the great tribulation, which still lasts 42 months, but not for those in Judea because they are taken to the wilderness and explicitly protected from the dragon for 1,260 days, or 3.5 years. It is therefore impossible that they are in great tribulation because they have been saved out of it and for them in Judea it was cut short for their protection in the wilderness.
 - So the combination of the Great Tribulation study and the clear scriptures about the timing of our catching away to meet the Lord in the air, among other things, has led me to a slightly modified view that could most succinctly and in detail be called a "post-Jacob's trouble, pre-wrath harpazo."
 - I feel it is founded on the most detail that so far appears to agree with the other topical studies presented in *HISTORY*, Our Future: Pearls for the Bride.
- Conclusion
 - Isaiah 63:4 - "For the day of vengeance [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come."
 - This passage sums up my view from scripture quite well. All the passages about watching, the parable of the 10 virgins awaiting the bridegroom, the church being the bride of Christ, the duality of vengeance and redemption at Christ's coming, the order of Revelation 6-8, and many other pieces covered in this series point to this being the case. Yeshua is returning at a time those watching will not expect and His plans will be carried out just as foretold in scripture.
 - Yeshua has gone to prepare a place for us at His Father's house and when He comes He will gather us to Himself. The wrath of God is coming, and we will enter into our chambers until the indignation is overpast and return with Christ after the marriage to witness Him defeat the gathered armies and utterly destroy them with the word of His mouth.
 - But just as the 5 wise foolish virgins were prepared with oil in their lamps, in relationship with God and living in the world but not of the world, there are 5 foolish virgins unprepared. These are all waiting for the return of the bridegroom to collect them to the marriage, yet the 5 foolish virgins are shut out of the marriage and find themselves cast into great tribulation. Popularized by the pre-tribulation view, there will be those left behind. Of course all those who hate God will remain on the earth, but the 5 foolish virgins are often overlooked as being among them. Not all who say they are Christians walk the walk and there is a promise to those who speak of God with their lips but their hearts are far from Him to enter into the [hour of temptation](#), a time of testing and putting to proof of the strength of faith even unto death. Are you in relationship with God or is your temple so pulled into this world that there is no place for His Spirit to dwell in you? Time is short, we are in the last seconds of the last day.

May God continue to bless you as you remain in Him.

Associated studies

- [Great Tribulation](#)
- [Hour of Temptation: Left Behind](#)

References

- [Seven Pretrib Problems and the Prewrath Rapture](#) (Video)
- [Bible Prophecy Talk](#) - Chris White
- [Bible Prophecy Text](#) - Chris White
- [Eschatos Ministries](#) - Dr. Alan Kurschner

Associated Dates

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Tags

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