

# The Rapture, the Tribulation and the Restoration of Israel. (Revised)

## Introduction

In this document we will investigate the biblical basis for the Rapture, the Tribulation and the Restoration of Israel and what the timing and relationship of these events are.

## The Rapture

### Introduction

One of the universal perspectives of “The Rapture” is a singular event at which Jesus will come and collect all the ones that gave their hearts to Him, just before global world calamity starts. His children are then taken to heaven forever, lie on clouds and play harps with no worries further. The Church/Ecclesia can therefore live in wealth and fatness because they will be removed to Heaven before any calamity befalls them.

Although the above view is not entirely correct, there are some true biblical foundations on which it is based.

Before we continue with our study we need to briefly take a look at the origins of the word “Rapture” and what it actually means.

### Origins and Meaning of the Word “Rapture”

It is often argued that the word “Rapture” is not present in the Bible and can be ignored. Although it is true for English Bibles, the word *Raptus*, *Raptum* and *Rapimur* is often used in the Latin Bible. For that matter the word “Bible” is also not present in our Bibles and it does not mean that we can now ignore the Bible.

*2 Corinthians 12:2 KJV:* 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 a one **caught up** to the third heaven.

In the above verse and many others the words "caught up" is translated from the word *Harpazo* in Greek or the word *Raptum* in Latin. *Harpazo* or *Raptum* means "to snatch away", "to catch up", "abduct" or "to carry off". The English word Rapture originates from the French word *Rapt* which has its root in the Latin word *Raptus* and it is not too difficult to see the association.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word Rapture as: *the transporting of a person from one place to another, especially to Heaven.*

So for clarification throughout the remainder of this document, let us define the word "rapture" as the removal or moving of a person with force or haste, particularly to Heaven.

We now have to ask, is there historical examples of raptures taking place in the scriptures?

## **Raptures in Biblical History**

The very first account of a person taken up by YHWH (God) is Enoch in Genesis 5:

*Genesis 5:22-24 KJV:* And Enoch walked with God after he begot Methuselah three hundred years, and begot sons and daughters: <sup>23</sup>And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: <sup>24</sup>And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God **took** him.

By all Biblical references Enoch was taken to heaven by YHWH (God) and did not die (Hebrews 11:5). The word "took" used above is the word *laqach* or **לקח** in Hebrew which means "to carry away", "seize", "take away" or "take up" and has the same meaning as *harpazo* or *raptus*. There would be no problem then to say that Enoch was raptured to heaven.

Another well know account is Elijah raptured to heaven in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:11-12)

When we start to investigate the New Testament we see there is an account of the apostle Philip raptured from one location to another (Acts 8:26-40). In verse 26 the angel of YHWH commanded Philip to take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza. On the way Philip met a eunuch from Ethiopia reading Isaiah 54. The eunuch did not understand what he was reading and Philip started to teach the Gospel of Yahushua (Jesus) to the eunuch. When they arrived at water the eunuch requested to be baptised. When the eunuch came out of the water the Spirit of YHWH took Philip in an instant to the city Azotus.

*Acts 8:39-40 KJV:* <sup>39</sup> And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **caught away** Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

The "caught away" above is once again the Greek word *harpazo* used to describe the event where Philip was raptured to Azotus.

Even Yahushua (Jesus) is also described as being raptured to Heaven in Revelation 12:5:

*Revelation 12:5 KJV:* And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was **caught up (*harpazo*)** unto God, and to his throne.

The account of this event is given in Acts 1 by the Apostles:

*Acts 1:9-11 KJV:* And when he [Yahushua] had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up**; and a cloud received him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; <sup>11</sup> 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.

From the given scripture it is clear that there have been a few raptures in biblical history. It would be hard to refute the validity of these events and the fact that there have already been various biblical raptures.

We have now briefly looked at historic raptures described in the scriptures. To continue our study we need to determine if there are any prophetic accounts of such raptures taking place in the future.

## **Raptures in the Future**

In the book of Revelation there is a prophetic account of two prophets (called the two witnesses) that will be killed by the Beast (the Antichrist) and their dead bodies will be on display for three and a half days. After the three and a half days the two witnesses will be resurrected and raptured to heaven.

*Revelation 11:7-12 KJV:* 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And **they ascended up to heaven in a cloud**; and their enemies beheld them.

## **The Rapture of True Believers (Saints)**

The next set of prophecies is the prophecies given by Paul describing the rapture of true believers, both those who have died and those still alive:

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 KJV:* <sup>15</sup> 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 precede them which are asleep. <sup>16</sup> 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: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up [harpazo]** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The concept of resurrection is a common occurrence throughout the Scriptures:

*Isaiah 26:19 KJV:* 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.

*Daniel 12:13 KJV:* But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 above however gives a clearer picture that the dead in Christ will be raised first. Then the ones still alive in Christ will be taken with the risen to meet Yahushua our Messiah in the clouds. This is echoed in 1 Corinthians 15:52 and Philippians 3:20-31:

*1 Corinthians 15:51-52 KJV:* <sup>51</sup> Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> 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.

*Philippians 3:20-21 KJV:* <sup>20</sup> For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>21</sup> Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

We will be investigating the timing and circumstances of this rapture a little bit further when we have investigated the biblical bases for the Tribulation and its nature.

## The Tribulation

### Introduction

Throughout the scriptures there is a time depicted of great calamity befalling the entire Earth, vividly sketched for us by several of the Prophets and even Yahushua himself:

*Matthew 24:21 KJV:* For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Let us briefly look at some of the verses describing the Tribulation and symbologies used:

#### A Time of YHWH's Wrath and the "Day of the Lord (YHWH)"

*Isaiah 26:21 KJV:* 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.

*Zephaniah 1:14-18 KJV:* The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. 15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. 17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

*Isaiah 13:6-11 KJV:* Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: 8 And they shall be afraid: **pangs** and sorrows shall take hold of them; **they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth**: they

shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. 9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. 11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

### Time of Jacob's Trouble

*Jeremiah 30:3-7 KJV:* For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. <sup>4</sup> And these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah. <sup>5</sup> For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. <sup>6</sup> Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth **travail with child**? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a **woman in travail**, and all faces are turned into paleness? <sup>7</sup> Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

### Birth Pangs

In the verses above the Tribulation Period is described as birth pangs. Paul, too, uses this description of the Tribulation in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 saying, "While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come upon them suddenly, as labor pains of a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."

Even the words of Yahushua reiterate this concept:

*Matthew 24:7-8 KJV:* For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows [odin].

The word "sorrows" come from the word *odin* in Greek which literally means birth pangs.

Other Verses referring to the Tribulation

Joel 1:15, Joel 2: Amos 5:18, Daniel 9:27, Daniel 12:1, Isaiah 24:1-4, Isaiah 24:20-21, Revelation 3:10, Mathew 24, Luke 21.

### **When does the Tribulation occur?**

The Tribulation is always referred to as occurring at the End of Time or the Last Days.

*Matthew 24:3,24 KJV:* <sup>3</sup> And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the **sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** ... <sup>24</sup> For **then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Revelation 6-19 deals primarily with the events during the Tribulation, as the time of trouble prior to the 1000 year reign of Yahushua as King.

Daniel 7 depicts 4 earthly kingdoms on the earth. Daniel 7:23 indicate that the 4<sup>th</sup> and last earthly kingdom mentioned, will devour the whole earth, tread it down and consume it. (compare Daniel 7 & 9 to Revelation 6:2-9, Revelation 12:7-17, Revelation 13, Revelation 17:12-18)

### **How long will the Tribulation last?**

*Daniel 9:27 KJV:* And he [the prince of this last kingdom – The Antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.



The Antichrist will rule for a period of 7 years (one week with each day as a year) during which the Tribulation events will take place. The coming of the Antichrist during this Tribulation is part of YHWH's plan for the Tribulation:

*Revelation 17:17 KJV:* For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast [the Antichrist], until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The book of Revelation also gives the time of the Tribulation to be 7 years – two periods of 1260 days (Revelation 11:3 and 12:6). The 1260 days amounts to 3½ prophetic years, each year consisting of 360 days.

### **How will the Tribulation End?**

From the verses covered so far the Tribulation is the time of YHWH wrath which will conclude in the day when he will descend and pass judgment on the Earth:

*Isaiah 26:21 KJV:* 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.

*Jude 1:14-15 KJV:* And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, **Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,** 15 To **execute judgment** upon all, and to convince all that are **ungodly** among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

After the Day of the Lord the Kingdom of YHWH will be established on earth under the authority of Yahushua and under Him, the Saints.

The coming kingdom after the 4<sup>th</sup> earthly Kingdom is described in Daniel 7:

*Daniel 7:13-14,22,27 KJV:* I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man [Yahushua]** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. <sup>14</sup> And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and

languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. ...<sup>22</sup> Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. ...<sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him [Yahushua].

The same final judgment and coming kingdom is described in Revelation 19:

*Revelation 19:11-16 KJV:* <sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Zephaniah also declares that after YHWH has poured out His anger upon the nations, He will dwell amidst Israel and they will not behold evil anymore. The rest of Zephaniah 3 describes Israel's ingathering, prosperity, peace and joy.

*Zephaniah 3:8,15 KJV:* <sup>8</sup> Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. ...<sup>14</sup> Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

## What is the purpose of the Tribulation?

The purpose of the Tribulation is three fold: it will be a refinement for Israel and those that accept Yahushua as Messiah during the Tribulation; for those who do not accept Yahushua it will bring wrath and final judgment.

### *The Refinement of Israel*

*Zechariah 13:9 KJV:* And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

The Tribulation is a time where YHWH will reprove His people to return to Him with their whole heart, similar to the Babylonian captivity - Jeremiah 24:6.

*Isaiah 26:17-18 KJV:* Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. <sup>18</sup> We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen [neither have we accomplished anything].

Throughout history man has been seeking deliverance and redemption from his fallen sinful nature. As prophesied Yahushua, the only true redemption, was born of the Jewish people but they rejected Him. Just as the rest of mankind was seeking their redemption through pagan practices, Israel was seeking their own ways of salvation and did not accept the ways of YHWH. The Jews will eventually rebuild the Temple and ultimately choose the Antichrist as their Messiah, all in their quest for redemption. This is reflected in the words of Yahushua:

*John 5:43 KJV:* I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

In the middle of the Tribulation, after the Antichrist has ruled the world and Israel for 3½ years, he will enter the rebuilt Jewish Temple and set up the abomination that makes desolate (Daniel 9:27, Mathew 24:15, Revelation 12:5-17) and claim

that he is the only God and that all nations should worship him. The Jewish Nation will now realise that they chose the false messiah and will reject the Antichrist.

The Antichrist will be furious and he together with the nations will start to hunt and persecute Israel - Revelation 12:5-17. The majority of Israel will flee to the mountains in the wilderness (Mathew 14:16, Revelation 12:6) Half of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity (Zech 14:2) and the nations of the world will come to destroy Israel (Psalm 83:2-5). At this moment Israel will cry that everything they have done amounted to nothing as depicted in Isaiah 26:17-18 and Lamentations 4:19-21 and then will they finally cry out "Blessed is He who come in the Name of YHWH" – Mathew 23:39, Joel 2:17-18. At the moment of this hopeless outcry Yahushua will return and save Israel by firstly destroying the nations moving to destroy Israel (Zechariah 14:3, Zechariah 12:9, Joel 3:1-11) and then finally revealing Himself to His people:

*Zechariah 12:10-12 KJV:* And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. <sup>11</sup> In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. <sup>12</sup> And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

*Zechariah 13:6 KJV:* And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

The whole of Israel will mourn. Redemption and restoration will finally come as they accept Yahushua as their Messiah:

*Zechariah 13:1-2 KJV:* In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. 2 And

it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

### *Refinement of believers*

Prior to any wrath coming on the earth 144,000 Jewish male virgins will be sealed with the name of YHWH in their foreheads (Revelation 7:1-8, Revelation 14:1-5). They will comprise of 12,000 men of 12 tribes of Israel and will be called to carry the everlasting gospel of Yahushua to the ends of the worlds – to all nations and languages during the first half of the Tribulation.

The gospel preached by the 144,000 will lead to great revival and many will come to accept Yahushua as Savior. Directly after John saw the 144,000 in Revelation 7 he sees a great multitude of all nations and languages that came to salvation of Yahushua during the Tribulation and they all received white robes:

*Revelation 7:9-14 KJV:* <sup>9</sup> 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; ... <sup>13</sup> And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? <sup>14</sup> 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.

This great multitude will however have to pay a heavy price for their salvation, they will have to pay with their lives.

*Revelation 6:9-11 KJV:* And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? <sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their

fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 clearly states that the Antichrist will make war with the Saints, those having the testimony of Yahushua, and will overcome them during the Tribulation (that means all of them).

*Revelation 12:17 LITV:* And the dragon was enraged over the woman [after she escaped], and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, those keeping the commandments of God, and having the testimony of Jesus Christ.

*Revelation 13:7-8 KJV:* And it was given unto him [ the Antichrist] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. <sup>8</sup> And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

*Daniel 7:21 KJV:* I beheld, and the same horn [ the Antichrist] made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

### *Wrath on the World*

As already shown, for the rest of the world who do not accept YHWH it will be a time of wrath and judgment.

*Isaiah 24:21 KJV:* And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

*Revelation 16:9-14 KJV:* 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. 12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof

was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

## Has YHWH appointed all to go through His wrath?

Let us examine the Scriptures to see if YHWH has destined all to go through the Tribulation. We will take a look at different biblical views on the topic and see if they align.

### **The view of Yahushua:**

In Luke 21 Yahushua gives an account of the Tribulation similar to the account in Matthew 24 where the disciples ask Him regarding the signs of His return and His coming kingdom. After He discussed the Tribulation He warns us to Watch and pray that we might be counted worthy to escape the Tribulation and stand before Him:

*Luke 21:34-36 KJV:* 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. <sup>35</sup> For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> 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.

So from the above passage we see that if we diligently seek Him and walk in His Statutes, we shall escape the coming wrath.

We need to investigate further to see if this aligns with the rest of the words of Yahushua:

*Luke 17:26-30 KJV:* And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. <sup>27</sup> They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; <sup>29</sup> But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

We once again see that Yahushua gives a pictures of His coming, where there will be sudden destruction coming on the world as was the case in the time of Noah and Lot when YHWH poured out His wrath. In both examples the righteous was removed prior to the wrath being poured out.

It can be argued that Yahushua was only pointing out the unexpectedness of the coming wrath, however in the Mathew version of this account it becomes evident that it also makes mention of some that will be taken and some left - a separation.

*Matthew 24:37-42 KJV:* But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, <sup>39</sup> And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. <sup>40</sup> Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. <sup>42</sup> Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

The Sheb Tob's Hebrew version of Mathew gives verse 40 as follows and reiterates that the taking and leaving is linked to righteousness.

*Matthew 24:40:* Then if there shall be two ploughing in a field; one righteous and the other evil, the one shall be taken and the other left.



To summarize from the word of Yahushua we can deduce there will be a removal of true believers for the duration of the Tribulation, similar to Noah being removed (safely hidden in the ark) from the wrath being poured out.

After the wrath (flood), Noah was allowed to come out of his place of hiding namely the ark and he was spared.

### **The View of the Prophets of Old:**

In Zephaniah 1 YHWH again describes the coming Tribulation that will befall the entire earth. Zephaniah 2 states that we must seek YHWH, before the wrath comes in meekness and righteousness that we may be hid in the day of His anger or wrath:

*Zephaniah 2:1-3 KJV:* Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; 2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. 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.**

In Isaiah 26 we get the same picture of hiding in a chamber during the Tribulation:

*Isaiah 26:19-21 KJV:* 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.** <sup>21</sup> 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.

The literal version of verse 21 is as follows:

Come nation, enter into the chamber, shut the door about thee and hid for a little while, until the wrath be overpast.

Please note the sequence of events in the above passages: First Resurrection and then Hiding until the Tribulation has passed.

### **The view of the Apostles:**

We have already looked at 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 where Paul discusses that we will be caught up with those who are currently asleep in Christ, to meet Yahushua in the air:

*1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 KJV:* <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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: <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Immediately after this Paul start discussing the coming Tribulation in 1 Thessalonians 5:3:

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 KJV:* But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. <sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> 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.

Paul then goes on to comfort the believers that we are not in darkness, that YHWH has not appointed us to wrath and that we are not destined for the coming Tribulation:

*1 Thessalonians 5:4-10 KJV:* But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. <sup>8</sup> But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Take note that Paul, similar to Isaiah 24, also describes a resurrection prior to the coming Tribulation. Paul additionally describes those true believers who are still alive, joining them who were asleep and also being rescued from the coming Tribulation.

*1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 NKJV* ... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

*1 Corinthians 11:32 KJV:* But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

*Titus 2:13 KJV:* Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

## Conclusion

From the above verses it is evident that there will be a rapture to those who are true followers of Yahushua before the coming time of wrath called the Tribulation. As already mention there are various accounts of raptures in the Bible. To clarify let us call this specific rapture the Rapture of the Saints.

## The Rapture of the Saints

### Introduction

We have now established that there is a Rapture of the Saints prior to the Tribulation. We need to investigate if this concept of the Rapture of the Saints is in line with the rest of the scriptures.

### Bride and Bridegroom

Throughout the New Testament there is a picture of Yahushua coming to Earth as a bridegroom and His followers being His bride. Here are some scripture that highlight this.

When the people ask John the Baptist regarding who he was and he replied:

*John 3:29 KJV:* 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.

These words John spoke regarding Yahushua who was the bridegroom.

Even Yahushua identified Himself as the bridegroom:

*Matthew 9:15 KJV:* And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

*Mark 2:20 KJV:* But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

And in Revelation the Saints are depicted as being the bride dressed in white robes, their righteousness.

*Revelation 19:7-9 KJVA* Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write,

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

To fully understand the picture of this Bride and Bridegroom we need to understand the context in which it is used. Our modern wedding customs are different to the ancient Jewish wedding customs. We need to understand the ancient Jewish wedding customs to fully understand the imagery Yahushua's words are portraying. You must keep in mind that as a Jew Yahushua did not have to explain the Jewish customs to his Jewish audience. They already knew it.

The ancient Jewish wedding consists of a few steps over a period of one to two years prior to the final consummation of the marriage and marriage supper taking place. Let us briefly look at some of the major steps of the wedding custom:

### 1. The Selection of the Bride

The bride is usually chosen by the father of the bridegroom and the father would send his trusted servant, the agent of the father, to search for a bride.

In Genesis 24 Abraham sends his servant Eliezer to look for a bride for Isaac.

Similarly Yahushua said:

*John 6:65 KJV:* And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

*John 17:11 KJV:* 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.

The Ruach HaQodesh (Holy Spirit) plays the role of the servant that firstly convicts us of sin and leads us to Yahushua the salvation and bridegroom.

*John 15:26 KJV:* But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

## 2. A Bride Price is established

A price had to be paid for the bride which was called the *mohar* in Hebrew. Yahushua had to pay this *mohar* price with His life to redeem His bride.

*1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV:* 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

## 3. The bride gives her consent

To complete the first part of the marriage the husband drinks from a silver cup filled with grape juice in public. He then presents the cup to the bride who also drinks from the cup if she accepts the wedding contract or *ketubah*.

Although the bride and groom are at this stage only betrothed they are now legally bound as in marriage.

The betrothal part of the wedding is called the *kiddushin*.

*Matthew 26:27-29 KJV:* And he [Yahushua] took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; <sup>28</sup> For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. <sup>29</sup> 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.

## 4. The Bridegroom depart to build a bridal chamber

The bridegroom now leaves his bride and goes to prepare a bridal chamber for him and his bride on to the house of his father. The father will regularly inspect the bridal chamber. Only when the father is satisfied with the bridal chamber does he release his son to go and get his bride. The building of the bridal chamber normally took 1 year, but no longer than 2 years.

*Matthew 24:36 KJV:* But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

*John 14:2-3 KJV:* 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

#### 5. The Bride sets herself apart and prepares

As the bride was now betrothed she set herself apart. She was not available to any other bachelor looking for a bride. As preparation the bride purifies and cleanses herself. As a final act of purification the bride takes a *mikvah* or ceremonial purification bath where she fully immerse herself in a pool of water.

*Matthew 28:19-20 KJV:* Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

She is now fully cleansed and ready for her bridegroom and now eagerly awaits him to snatch her to the wedding chamber.

#### 6. The bridegroom abducts the Bride

The father usually releases his son to fetch his bride in the middle of the night. She therefore needs to be ready at all times.

As the son approaches his bride he will blow on the shofar and shout to give her only enough time to collect her belongings. He will then abduct her to the wedding chamber called the *chadar* in Hebrew. Only now can the marriage be consummated and they will stay in the wedding chamber for 7 days.

The family of the bride only realises that she had been taken by the groom the following day. They now prepare to meet the bride and groom when they come out of the wedding chamber.

## 7. The marriage supper

After the bride and groom were in the chamber for seven days, they come out to present themselves to family and friends. Only now does the marriage supper take place and the bridegroom and bride is seen as King and Queen during this day.

### **The Wedding of Yahushua and His Bride**

As shown above Yahushua has indicated that He is preparing a place for us on the Father's House and that he will come and take us where He is namely Heaven.

The imminent coming of the Bridegroom:

As in the Jewish wedding custom the bridegroom can appear at any stage and the bride needs to be ready at all times. This imminency of Yahushua's return was given in several of His parables:

*Matthew 25:1-13 KJV:* Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: <sup>4</sup> But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. <sup>6</sup> And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.



*Mark 13:32-37 KJV:* But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. <sup>33</sup> Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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: <sup>36</sup> Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch.**

### The Snatching Away of the Bride

Yahushua the bridegroom will snatch away His bride to the wedding chamber in Heaven. We have already mentioned that the wedding chamber is called the *chadar* in Hebrew.

Let us again observe the verses where the chosen of YHWH will be hidden during the tribulation:

*Zephaniah 2:1-3 KJV:* Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; <sup>2</sup> Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. <sup>3</sup> 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.**

Please note there is a gathering of a nation not desired. This word nation in the above verse is the word *Goyim* in Hebrew which means Gentile nation. This is interesting because the true believers of Yahushua is called from all nations and is described as "a nation not desired" in the words of Paul and Hosea:

*Romans 9:24-27 KJV:* Even us, whom he [Yahushua] hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? <sup>25</sup> As he saith also in Hosea, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and **her** beloved, which was not beloved. <sup>26</sup> And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye

are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. <sup>27</sup>  
 Isaiah also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel  
 be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

*Hosea 2:23 KJV:* And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy  
 upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not  
 my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

If we look at the words of Isaiah we see that this nation is gathered to enter into  
 the chamber to be hidden from the wrath to come.

*Isaiah 26:19-21* Come nation, enter into the chamber, shut the door about thee  
 and hid for a little while, until the wrath be overpast.

The word chamber in this verse is once again the word *chadar* used for the  
 wedding chamber.

*2 Thessalonians 2:1 KJV:* 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of  
 our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

Our gathering unto Christ is also a theme representing the rapture as all true  
 believers will be gathered unto Him and will meet Him in the air. The same  
 theme is seen in the verses above where this nation of believers are called and  
 gathered to enter into the *chadar* or wedding chamber.

We now get a clear picture where Yahushua will come to snatch or rapture His  
 Bride, the true believer out of every nation, prior to the coming Tribulation. The  
 Bride will be taken to the *chadar* or wedding chamber in heaven and will stay  
 there for 7 days - the 7 years of Tribulation - until the Tribulation overpass.

We know that the Bridegroom will gather His Bride with a shout and the blow of  
 the shofar or trumpet.

*1 Corinthians 15:52 KJV:* In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last  
 trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,  
 and we shall be changed.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV:* 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: <sup>17</sup> 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.

We also get the same rapture picture in Revelation 4:1, after Yahushua spoke to the 7 Churches and prior to the start of Tribulation in Revelation 6.

*Revelation 4:1 KJV:* 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 show thee things which must be hereafter. <sup>2</sup> And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Here we get the imagery of the calling with a loud voice, sounding like a trumpet saying "Come up hither". These same words are called from heaven with the rapture of the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11:12. Also note that there is an open door.

*Isaiah 26:19-21* Come nation, enter into the chamber, shut the door about thee and hid for a little while, until the wrath be overpast.

If the Bride is to hide herself in the heavenly chamber and shut the door, the door must be opened first for her to enter as given in Revelation 4:1.

It makes perfectly sense that the chamber must be in heaven because scriptures makes it clear that the Tribulation befalls the entire earth - Jeremiah 10:10, Isaiah 13:13, Zephaniah 3:8. Only heaven will be isolated from the wrath.

During John's vision in Revelation 4:1, he sees the crowning ceremony of Yahushua as King of Kings, described in Revelation 5. The same crowning ceremony is described in Daniel 7:

*Daniel 7:13-14 KJV:* I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

What stands out in the Daniel account is that Yahushua, the Son of man, is described to come with the clouds prior to receiving His Kingdom. The clouds are a metaphor of the multitude of saints dressed in white. We know that the saints will meet Him in the clouds and here we get the same picture as in Revelation 4 & 5 where Yahushua raptures them and takes them to the throne room prior to the Tribulation starting in Revelation 6.

### The Marriage supper

In Revelation 19 we see the Bride and Groom coming forth from the chamber (heaven) and they are seen as King and Queen. The Marriage Supper can now commence.

Please remember that since Revelation 4, seven years of Tribulation has passed and that the Bride and Groom was in their *chadar* or chamber for 7 days.

They now have to publicly present themselves, as they are now fully wed as King and Queen.

*Revelation 19:7-8 KJV:* Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Please note that there is no reference to the Bride anymore, but to His Wife. The consummation of the marriage 7 days in the *chadar* is complete. They are now coming out for the marriage supper.

*Revelation 19:9 KJV:* 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.

Yahushua is now also described as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Please note that heaven is once again opened, for the Bride and Groom to exit from their chamber. This is the first time Heaven is seen opened after Revelation 4:1.

*Revelation 19:11-17 KJV:* <sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ... <sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. <sup>17</sup> And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Yahushua now comes to make war with the armies of the world to take His possession, His kingdom on earth. The birds of the air are called to eat of the meat of the slain during the marriage supper. His wife, the Saints comes with Him.

*Jude 1:14-15 KJV:* And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, <sup>15</sup> To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

*Psalms 149:7-9 KJV:* To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; <sup>8</sup> To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; <sup>9</sup> To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

## Another view by Paul in II Thessalonians 2

*2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 GNB* <sup>3</sup> Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until the final Rebellion takes place and the Wicked One appears, who is destined to hell. <sup>4</sup> He will oppose every so-called god or object of worship and will put himself above them all. He will even go in and sit down in God's Temple and claim to be God. <sup>5</sup> Don't you remember? I told you all this while I was with you. <sup>6</sup> Yet there is someone that keeps this from happening now, and you know who it is. At the proper time, then, the Wicked One will appear. <sup>7</sup> The Mysterious Wickedness is already at work, **but what is going to happen will not happen until the one who holds it back is taken out of the way.** <sup>8</sup> Then the Wicked One will be revealed, but when the Lord Jesus comes, he will kill him with the breath from his mouth and destroy him with his dazzling presence. <sup>9</sup> The Wicked One will come with the power of Satan and perform all kinds of false miracles and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and use every kind of wicked deceit on those who will perish. They will perish because they did not welcome and love the truth so as to be saved.

The above verse talks about someone holding the Antichrist back, that He may not be revealed. This someone has to be in conflict with the Antichrist to oppress him from being revealed.

There are two mutual scenarios of who this someone might be:

1. The Ruach HaQodesh (The Holy Spirit)
2. The Bride (The true believers indwelt with the Ruach HaQodesh)

In both cases the Ruach HaQodesh is the Spirit of Truth against which the Antichrist can not stand. The Ruach HaQodesh indwells in the true believers and they in turn oppose the Antichrist. The true believers are sealed by the Ruach HaQodesh and the Spirit will never leave them (Ephesians 4:13). If the Ruach HaQodesh is removed the Bride or true believers must be removed with Him to allow the Antichrist to be revealed.

We know the Antichrist will be revealed during the Tribulation as described in Daniel and Revelation. The Bride will therefore be taken or removed before this time of the Antichrist and the Rapture of the Saints is the perfect scenario how this will take place.

### **A view of an Early Church Father**

Epraem of Nisibis, one of the most important and prolific of the Syrian church fathers, was well known for his poetry, exegetical and theological writings and many of the hymns of the early Byzantine church. Epraem of Nisibis is a witness to early Christianity on the fringes of the Roman Empire.

From a 4<sup>th</sup> Century sermon of Epraem of Nisibis called "The Last Times, the Antichrist and the End of the World" the following were translated:

"For all the Saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of their sin"

From the above excerpt it is clear that the early Church also believed that the Saints will be taken to the Lord prior to the coming Tribulation.

### **The Confusion of "left behind" and "taken"...**

The terms "left behind" and "taken" is very often used in connection with the Rapture of the Saints, referring to those who have been taken with the rapture and those left behind.

This however creates some confusion with some verses in the scriptures.

Let us examine some of these scriptures:

*Matthew 24:37-39 KJV:* But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, <sup>39</sup> And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

From the above verse it is clear that all the evil ones was "taken" and Noah and His family, the good ones, "left behind".

At first sight this seems to be in contrast with the teaching that the saints will be "taken" and that the rest will be "left behind". One has to remember that the rapture is only a hiding from the wrath, as was the hiding of Noah in the ark from the Flood. After the wrath has overpass on the earth, the saints will return to earth and they all will be "left behind", while all the evil ones not accepting Yahushua will have been "taken".

Let us look at some other verses:

*Luke 17:26-30 KJV:* And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. <sup>27</sup> They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; <sup>29</sup> But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

In these verses the story of Noah and Lot is likened unto the coming of the Son of man. When the angels of the YHWH came to Lot in Sodom they took him and his family out of Sodom, so in this initial case Lot and his family was "taken" prior to the wrath. Now after Lot and his family were "Taken" and the wrath befell Sodom they were "left behind" and the rest of Sodom was "taken".

So we need to look at the "taken" of Mathew 24:39 in context of after the complete event has taken place. In the case of the wrath of YHWH the evil ones will always be the ones taken. But YHWH never pours His wrath on the righteous and the unrighteous. He always removes or takes the righteous out of harms way prior to pouring out his wrath.



## Conclusion

Many verses where Yahushua Himself, the Apostles and even the Prophets of Old shows how there is an escape of the righteous prior to the wrath befalling the Earth.

Each verse gives a bit more detail and depth. If we view these scriptures together as a single image, we get a vivid picture of the Rapture of the Saints to Heaven by Yahushua himself before the Tribulation or judgment starts . This is our blessed hope:

*Titus 2:13 KJV:* Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

This is also how early church fathers interpreted and understood the scriptures.

Since this Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Saints plays an important role with respect to the End Time and Tribulation events and is seen by many as the next major event on the prophetic timeline, much emphasis is put on it. This catching away is therefore generally referred to as "The Rapture" or "The Pre-Tribulation Rapture".

## Restoration of Israel

### Introduction

One of the major prophetic themes throughout the Scriptures is the theme of the regathering of Israel in the latter days and the repossession of the Land of Israel.

*Jeremiah 29:14 KJV:* And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

*Ezekiel 11:15-17 KJV:* Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession. <sup>16</sup> Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. <sup>17</sup> Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

The fulfillment of this prophecy started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when Jews started to return to the land of Israel and in 1948 Israel became a nation again.

When we investigate the prophecies regarding Israel, we clearly see that the regathered Israel is not yet prophetic fully fulfilled. Let us investigate one such prophecy:

*Isaiah 2:2-4 KJV:* And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. <sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Few nations of the world acknowledge and believe in YHWH the God of Israel. Although many individuals go up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, we are not seeing nations flowing unto Jerusalem to praise YHWH yet. The "house of God" which normally refers to the Temple does not currently exist and most nations around Israel are at war with Israel.

Many similar prophecies sketch a wealthy, powerful Israel at peace with all the nations of the world and all the nations going up to Israel to praise the God of Israel namely YHWH. As these prophecies are in stark contrast with the modern Israel, many believe that these prophecies are not applicable to the modern Israel and try to apply the prophecies to the Church or other groups.

To get a clear picture we need to fully investigate prophecy regarding the return of Israel to their land. Let us start by looking at the Prophecy of Ezekiel 37, which is one of the famous prophecies regarding the return of the Jews to Israel.

*Ezekiel 37:1-14 KJV:* The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, <sup>2</sup> And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. <sup>4</sup> Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. <sup>8</sup> And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: **but there was no breath in them.** <sup>9</sup> Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your

graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, <sup>14</sup> And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

From this Ezekiel prophecy it is clear that YHWH is speaking of Israel being regathered and specifically to their own land. These prophecies can not be applied to any another group or Ecclesia.

From the above prophecy it is also clear that the regathering of Israel will occur in stages or steps and not in one single event as many would think.

The prophecy given in Ezekiel 36 also follows these same steps as given above.

*Ezekiel 36:24-28 KJV:* For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. <sup>28</sup> And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Let us take a close examination of each of these stages to see what has been fulfilled and what still needs to be fulfilled.

The main stages of the restoration of Israel given are:

- Physical Restoration - Regathering to their Land
- Spiritual Restoration
- Restoration of Kingdom

## Physical Restoration

*Amos 9:14-15 KJV:* And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. <sup>15</sup> And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

The Physical restoration of the Land of Israel also occurred in prophetic steps outlined in Ezekiel 37's valley of bones:

### 1. The Noise

*Ezekiel 37:7* So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise ...

In 1882 the book "Auto-Emancipation" by Leon Pinsker started to circulate. This advocated the Jews to return to the land of Israel, buy property and begin settlements and to seek world governments to support and encourage this process. This idea sparked the beginning of the Zionist movement.

This "noise" starting in the 1880's was further enhanced by the widely disseminated book "The Jewish State" by Theodore Herzl released in 1896. It urged the creation of a Jewish State under its own government.

On August 27, 1897 the first "Zionist" congress was held in Basle, Switzerland attended by 200 delegates from around the world. They adopted Zionism as the program to create the Jewish State of Israel. This was the first of a series of what became known as the World Zionist Congress and the noise started to increase.

On November 29, 1947 - fifty years after the First Zionist Congress - the General Assembly of the United Nations voted in favor of the creation of a Jewish state.

## 2. The Shaking

*Ezekiel 37:7* So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking ...

While persecutions had plagued the Jews for many centuries, those which occurred in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century and the first part of the Twentieth had a profound effect. In Russia where hundreds of thousands of Jews had settled, fierce pogroms, organized massacres and violent persecutions, commenced in 1882. Again in 1887 and in the 1890s and in 1905, the programs continued.

Over 25,000 Jews a year left Russia with many going to America and a few to Israel.

*Jeremiah 16:14-17 KJV:* Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; <sup>15</sup> But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. <sup>16</sup> Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. <sup>17</sup> For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

## 3. Bones Came Together, Bone to His Bone

*Ezekiel 37:7* So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

The first Aliyah, literally, an "ascent," the migration of Jews to Israel, began about 1882. They would continue through 1918. There were about 100,000 Jews in Israel when it became a British mandate.

Bones came together, people of all walks of life and backgrounds over the decades, each capable of finding a niche in a society, which would evolve into a whole nation. At first mostly farmers came, then tradesmen, teachers, professionals, people with a dream. The Zionists Congresses held regularly greatly encouraged the "bones" to come together. In 1922 the City of Tel Aviv, an all Jewish city, was founded.

On November 2, 1917, during this period, a policy statement contained in a letter from Lord Balfour, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain to Lord Rothschild, one of the mega-rich Jewish bankers of England and Europe, was issued. This statement is known as the Balfour Declaration which became an announced policy of the British Empire to establish the land of Israel for the Jewish people.

By 1947 there were 600,000 Jews in Israel, "bones had connected with bones."

#### 4. Sinews and Flesh

*Ezekiel 37:8* And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

A Solidity, an infrastructure had been developing in earlier years that finally showed itself strong and powerful when Israel became a fully fledged nation in May of 1948.

Sinews normally speak of muscle and strength. Shortly after the State of Israel was declared by the United Nation, its Arab neighbours launched a surprise attack on Israel. In the war of Independence of 1948 Israel proved themselves independent and powerful when they successfully defended themselves against an army of 100 million Arabs with only 600,000 Jews.

#### 5. Skin Covered Them

And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

The skin is the border and protection of the body. By 1950 the partitioned borders were relatively secure, but in 1967 during the six day war Israel gained control of all the territory west of the Jordan River, which constituted the lands of the ancient tribes of Israel, land held now for twenty-five years in spite of internal and external pressures.

## 6. Breath of Life

And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

Israel has now become a nation again. There will be a short interval before the next phase of YHWH continues. This is depicted in Ezekiel 37:8 above where Ezekiel sees that despite the fact that Israel is a nation again, there will not be breath in them yet.

This breath is the next major step in the restoration of Israel and will be their spiritual restoration which is discussed in the next section.

## Spiritual Restoration

*Romans 11:26-27 KJV:* And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: <sup>27</sup> For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

*Ezekiel 37:14 KJV:* And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

## Cleansing

Throughout the scriptures spiritual cleansing is characterised by repentance and returning to YHWH. As already mentioned the Tribulation will be the event that will bring about this repentance of His people.



YHWH will gather His people with a mighty hand but also with fury poured out, this fury is the Tribulation that will bring about the repentance and acceptance of Yahushua as their Messiah.

*Ezekiel 20:34 KJV:* And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

In Ezekiel 22 and Zechariah 13 the same picture is given where YHWH is likened as a metallurgist purifying His people similar to refining metal by burning away all impurities.

*Ezekiel 22:15-22 KJV:* And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee. <sup>16</sup> And thou shalt take thine inheritance in thyself in the sight of the heathen, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. <sup>17</sup> And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, <sup>18</sup> Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver. <sup>19</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore **I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.** <sup>20</sup> As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you. <sup>21</sup> Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. <sup>22</sup> As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.

*Zechariah 13:9 KJV:* And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

### Coming of the Deliverer and Redeemer

At the end of the Tribulation many nations will move up to Israel and seek to destroy Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12:8-14, Revelation 16:14-17, Joel 3:9-17)

Only then will the whole of Israel cry out to YHWH for salvation. YHWH will hear their cries and the Day of the Lord will then come. Yahushua will descend with the Saints from Heaven to save Israel and execute judgment on the nations; this judgment is generally called Armageddon. This picture is vividly sketched by many prophets.

Let us examine the image given by Joel 2:

These first set of verses sketches the mood as the Day of the Lord breaks:

*Joel 2:1-32 KJV:* Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; <sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. ...

Next we get the image of the mighty army of Yahushua that will destroy the nations:

<sup>11</sup> And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

In the next verses YHWH calls his people to repentance on this Day, for He will have mercy on them. We see the whole assembly of Israel will be called to repentance as they cry to YHWH for salvation:

<sup>12</sup> Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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? <sup>18</sup> Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

As already mentioned Yahushua will answer their prayers and return to rescue them. He will now dwell amongst His people as King and they will not be oppressed or ashamed any more:

<sup>27</sup> And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Only now after they have accepted Yahushua as savior will Israel be filled by the spirit and a fountain of restoration is opened:

<sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: <sup>29</sup> And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. ... <sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

This is again reflected in Zechariah:

*Zechariah 12:8-12, 13:1-2 KJV:* In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be

as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. <sup>9</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> **And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me [Yahushua] whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son,** and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. <sup>11</sup> In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. <sup>12</sup> And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; <sup>13</sup> In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. <sup>14</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

We clearly see that the final spiritual restoration of Israel can only occur when Yahushua the Messiah physically returns. Many other verses sketch the same picture:

*Psalms 102:8-22 NKJV:* My enemies reproach me all day long, Those who deride me swear an oath against me. <sup>9</sup> For I have eaten ashes like bread, And mingled my drink with weeping, ... <sup>12</sup> But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations. <sup>13</sup> You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come. <sup>14</sup> For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust. <sup>15</sup> So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. <sup>16</sup> For the LORD shall build up Zion; **He shall appear in His glory.** <sup>17</sup> He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer. <sup>18</sup> This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD. <sup>19</sup> For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth, <sup>20</sup> To hear the

groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death, <sup>21</sup> To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem, <sup>22</sup> When the peoples are gathered together, And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

*Jeremiah 23:3-8 KJV:* And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. <sup>4</sup> And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King [Messiah Yahushua] shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. **6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely:** and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; <sup>8</sup> But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

The same image of a spiritually restored Israel with the return of Yahushua as their King can be read in Micah 5:1-15, Ezekiel 37:22-28, Daniel 9:24-27.

Let us list what will be restored in Israel during the spiritual restoration phase:

- Their iniquity shall be removed (Zephaniah 3:13)
- All sin and uncleanness shall be removed (Zechariah 13:1)
- Witchcraft will be cut off (Micah 5:12, Zechariah 13:2, Zephaniah 3:13)
- Soothsayers and false prophets will be cut off (Micah 5:12, Zechariah 13:2-3, Zephaniah 3:13)
- All Idols will be destroyed (Micah 5:13, Zechariah 13:2)
- Israel's enemies will be destroyed (Micah 5:9, Zechariah 12:9, Revelation 16:14, Joel 3:11-17)
- The language of the people shall be purified: The true Name of YHWH will be restored and the names of the pagan gods will be removed from their mouths (Zechariah 14:9, Hosea 2:16-20, Zephaniah 3:9)

Many restoration movements are currently trying to establish the Kingdom and restore the true Name of YHWH. Most of these movements are however driven by people with their own personal interpretations or agendas. This restoration and establishment of the Kingdom and the true Name will be done by YHWH himself as revealed by the scriptures: Zechariah 14:9, Ezekiel 37:19, Hosea 2:16-20, Zephaniah 3:9, Ezekiel 37:21-23. Although we as humans do observe these restoration events, no human can intervene, hasten or even bring about YHWH's Kingdom, as it is brought about by YHWH himself. This Kingdom will only come about as prophesied by the prophets.

Many restoration movements also focus on the restoration of the true Name of YHWH. Many of these movements do carry a lot of truth regarding the true Name of YHWH and is well worth investigating. Most of these movements however propagate that salvation is only attainable by using the true Name.

*John 14:6 KJV:* Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

*John 10:7-9 KJV:* Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. ... <sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

From the above passages it is clear that salvation is only attainable through Yahushua as our Messiah.

From the scriptures: Zechariah 14:9, Hosea 2:16-20, Zephaniah 3:9, and the context in which it is written, it is clear that this restoration of the True names will only be brought about by YHWH Himself as part of the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth with the returning of Yahushua the Messiah as King.

This however does not prohibit us from already removing the paganism from our speech and lives. We are also free to use the true Names in the dignity and respect it deserves, but we are not to force these views on other believers who are not yet strong in the faith and spiritual understanding yet (Romans 14:1-14, Romans 15:1-7)

## Restoration of the Kingdom

*Hosea 3:4-5 KJV:* For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: <sup>5</sup> Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

One of the key elements of a Kingdom is that it must have a King. Israel will be a Kingdom again once Yahushua returns and takes his position as King of the Earth.

*Psalms 89:18 KJV:* For the LORD is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

*Ezekiel 37:22 KJV:* And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: ...

*Zechariah 14:9 KJV:* And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

The Millennial Kingdom:

This new Kingdom will be established for 1,000 years and generally called the Millennial Reign.

*Revelation 20:4 KJV:* And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

After the Millennial Reign the Heavens and the Earth will be renewed to even greater glory as revealed in Revelation 21:

*Revelation 21:1 KJV:* 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.

Restoration of the Tribes:

With the coming of the new King the tribes will be re-united under Yahushua:

*Ezekiel 37:19-23 KJV:* Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. <sup>20</sup> And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. <sup>21</sup> And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: <sup>22</sup> And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; **and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations**, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: <sup>23</sup> Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

The same prophecy is given in Isaiah:

*Isaiah 11:11-13 KJV:* And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. <sup>13</sup> The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.



The whole land promised to Abraham will be restored to Israel:

*Genesis 15:18 KJV:* In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

On the Day of the Lord, when Yahushua will return to save Israel, he will repossess the Promised Land:

*Isaiah 27:12-13 NKJV:* And it shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will **thresh**, From the channel of the River [the Euphrates] to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

The land will be fully restored, well watered and fruitful again:

The Land of Israel will become like the garden of Eden again:

*Ezekiel 36:35-38 KJV:* And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. <sup>36</sup> Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. <sup>37</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. <sup>38</sup> As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Living waters shall flow from Jerusalem to both the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea:

*Zechariah 14:4-8 KJV:* And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall

cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. ... <sup>8</sup> And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

The land shall be filled with wheat, wine, oil and flocks. But even more filled will be the people's souls which will be like well watered gardens:

*Jeremiah 31:10-14 KJV:* Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. <sup>11</sup> For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. <sup>12</sup> Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. <sup>14</sup> And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

The whole land will be flowing with wine, water and milk and Israel will be restored to the Land of milk and honey:

*Joel 3:16-21 KJV:* The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. <sup>17</sup> So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. <sup>18</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim. ... <sup>20</sup> But Judah shall dwell

forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. <sup>27</sup> For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

Israel will be so blessed that the soil will be ready for the new crop while the current harvest is still on the land.

*Amos 9:11-15 KJV:* In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: ... Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. <sup>14</sup> And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. <sup>15</sup> And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

Only now will Israel, with Yahushua as their King, be the utopia that many are seeking and trying to establish at the moment as they read prophecies about a wonderfully blessed Israel and world.

## Summary

From this article it should be clear that there is a soon coming global calamity befalling the whole Earth called the Tribulation. This Tribulation event is crucial in YHWH's plan for Israel's repentance and acceptance of Yahushua as their Messiah.

Prior to the Tribulation starting there will be a Rapture of the Bride of Yahushua, called the Saints, which lived in the ordinances and statutes of Yahushua. This Rapture will be a temporary removal of the Saints from the wrath that will befall the whole earth.

At the end of the Tribulation period Israel will cry out to YHWH in desperation for salvation. Then Yahushua together with the Saints will return to the rescue of Israel. On this day the whole remnant of Israel will be physically saved and as they accept Yahushua as Messiah, they will be spiritually restored.

Yahushua will now be established as King over the whole Earth and Israel will be restored in all things. Nations will now flow to and from Jerusalem to praise Yahushua and YHWH. And the seed of Abraham - Israel will be a blessing to all the Nations of the World.

---

This article has only outlined the Rapture, the Tribulation and the Restoration of Israel. There are a lot more information available on each of the topics of this article, but could not be covered due to the scope of the article. We would however like to invite you to visit [www.ltradio.org](http://www.ltradio.org) where in-depth studies on individual topics covered in this article and other interesting and related topics are available.

Hope to see you soon.

Maranata "The King is coming!"