

The Harpazō – A Summary

- “A door was opened” 4 times in Revelation
- John hears “a voice...a trumpet” see 1 Thessalonians 4: 16
- John is invited to “Come”
 - A real, material heaven Luke 24: 39 etc
 - The veil torn in two Luke 23: 45; Hebrews 10: 19-20
- Rapture – an English word derived from the translation of the Latin *rapiemur* which is the Vulgate translation of ‘caught up’ in 1 Thess. 4: 17
 - Key passages in the NT – 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-17; 1 Corinthians 15: 50
 - Also in the OT – Isaiah 26: 19-21; Zephaniah 2: 1-3; Psalm 27: 5
- Promise in John 14: 1-3 – preparing a place for you, coming again to receive you, that where I am you may be also
- Models of prophecy
 - Greek: prediction and fulfilment – a limited understanding
 - Jewish: pattern- wider understanding
 - Example of the Jewish Wedding – a pattern
 - The *Ketubah*, Betrothal
 - A binding agreement
 - Payment of the purchase price
 - Bride is set apart (sanctified) – see Isaiah 61: 10; Judges 14: 10-11; Jeremiah 2: 32; Isaiah 49: 18; and Psalm 45: 8-15
 - Bridegroom departs for his father’s house
 - Bridegroom prepares room addition
 - Bride prepares for his imminent return (not knowing when it was to be)
 - Surprise Gathering
 - See Jeremiah 7: 34; 16: 9; 25: 10; Psalm 45: 8-15; Matthew 25: 1-13
 - *Huppah* – Wedding ceremony
 - Seven Day Marriage Supper
 - Judges. 14: 12; Matthew 9: 15; 22: 11-14; John 2: 1
 - The Marriage Fulfilled
 - Covenant established 1 Corinthians 11: 25
 - Purchase price 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20
 - Bride set apart Ephesians 5: 25-27; 1 Corinthians 1: 2; 6: 11; Hebrews 10: 10; 13: 12
 - Reminded of the covenant 1 Corinthians 11: 25-26
 - Bridegroom has left for the Father’s house
 - Escort to accompany Him upon His return to gather His Bride 1 Thessalonians. 4: 16-17
- The Process of the *Harpazō*
 - Key scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15: 12-18; 50-56; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
 - Job alludes to the *Harpazō* Job 19: 25-27
 - Caught up (1 Thessalonians 4: 17) – *harpazō* means to seize, catch up, or snatch away
 - Flesh and blood cannot inherit 1 Corinthians. 15: 50

- Jesus resurrection body was physical – flesh & bone (Luke 24: 39) – and glorified(multi-dimensional)
- We shall be changed...in the twinkling of an eye...at the last trump
- Corruptible must put on incorruption 1 Corinthians. 15: 53
- Seven ‘raptures’ in scripture
 - Enoch Genesis 5: 42; Hebrews 11: 5
 - Elijah 2 Kings 2: 1-11
 - Jesus Mark 16: 19; Acts 1: 9-11; Revelation 12: 5*
 - Philip Acts 8: 39*
 - Paul 2 Corinthians. 12: 2-4*
 - Body of Christ 1 Thessalonians 4: 17*
 - John Revelation 4:1

* uses the word harpazō

 - nb: Revelation 12: 5 also prophetic of the Church (the body of Christ)
- The physics of immortality
 - Dimensionality – we shall be like Him 1 John 3: 2
 - *Oiketerion* – our ‘house’ from heaven (2 Corinthians 5: 2) – the word appears also in Jude 6 about angels who left their ‘first estate’ (*arkhay*) and their ‘own habitation’ (*oiketerion*)
- The Doctrine of Imminence
 - Imminent – next expectation
 - Believers are taught to expect the Saviour from heaven at any moment
Philippians 3: 20; Titus 2: 13; Hebrews 9: 20; 1 Thessalonians 1: 10; 4: 18; and Revelation 22: 20
 - Expresses hope and a warm spirit of expectancy 1 Thessalonians 1: 10
 - Expectancy should result in a victorious and purified life 1 John 3: 2-3
 - Paul seemed to include himself among those who looked for Christ’s return
1 Thessalonians 4: 15; 17: 2; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1
 - Timothy was admonished to “keep this commandment without spot, blameless, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Timothy 6: 14
 - Jewish converts were reminded that “yet a little while, and He that shall come will come and will not tarry” Hebrews 10: 37
 - The expectation of some was so strong that they had stopped work and had to be exhorted:
 - To return to their jobs 2 Thessalonians 3: 10-12
 - To have patience James 5: 8
- Scriptural passages of Jesus’ Return seem to fall into two groups
 - Jesus coming in power to take over the earth (The Second Coming)

Daniel 2: 44-45	Acts 1: 9-11
Daniel 7: 9-14	Acts 3: 19-21
Daniel 12: 1-3	1 Thessalonians 3: 13
Zechariah 14: 1-15	2 Thessalonians 1: 6-10
Matthew 13: 41	2 Thessalonians 2: 8
Matthew 24: 15-31	2 Peter 3: 1-14
Matthew 26: 64	Jude 14-15
Mark 13: 14-27	Revelation 1: 7
Mark 14: 62	Revelation 19: 11 – 20: 6
Luke 21: 25-28	Revelation 22: 7, 12 and 20

These passages talk of His coming openly in power

- Jesus coming in secret to meet His own in the air (The Rapture)

John 14: 1-3	2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3
Romans 8: 19	1 Timothy 6: 14
1 Corinthians 1: 7-8	2 Timothy 4: 1
1 Corinthians 15: 1-53	Titus 2: 13
1 Corinthians 16: 22	Hebrews 9: 28
Philippians 3: 20-21	James 5: 7-9
Colossians 3: 4	1 Peter 1: 7, 13
1 Thessalonians 1: 10	1 John 2: 28-32
1 Thessalonians 2: 19	Jude 21
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18	Revelation 2: 25
1 Thessalonians 5: 9	Revelation 3: 10
1 Thessalonians 5: 23	

- Jesus Coming Again - Two Events!
 - There seem to be two events which are quite different

<u>Rapture</u>	<u>2nd Coming</u>
Translation of believers	No translation involved
Translated saints go to heaven	Translated saints return to earth
Earth not judged	Earth Judged
Imminent, any moment...signless	Follows definite predicted signs
Not in the Old Testament	All through the Old Testament
Believers only	Affects all men on the earth
Before the day of wrath	Concludes the day of wrath
No reference to Satan	Satan bound
He comes <i>for</i> His own	He comes <i>with</i> His own
He comes <i>in the air</i>	He comes <i>to the earth</i>
He claims His bride	He comes with His bride
Only His own see Him	Every eye shall see Him
Great Tribulation begins	Millennium begins
Church believers only	OT Saved raised later?

Note

This Pre-Tribulation view of The Rapture is not one that is held by many respected and sincere Christian teachers and believers. Many have a view that The Rapture it happens in the middle of the seven year tribulation period (Mid Tribulation) and others that, less plausibly, that it occurs after the Great Tribulation (Post Tribulation).

Each of these views takes seriously the biblical teaching of an earthly millennial reign of Christ – and hence there is much common ground despite the differing views of the rapture.

It is therefore important to for those of each view to follow Paul’s injunction in Ephesians 4: 3 to do all one can to “keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”.

The mark of Christians should always be, above all, that they love one another (see the first letter of John) – it is love which is more important than doctrine (Revelation 2: 4)*.

* Not to say that sound doctrine is unimportant