

The Not So Instant Rapture

I am about to **rattle some cages**, **upset some carts**, and **ruffle some feathers**, so fasten your seatbelts.

Instantly Instantaneous

We use many words to define the word instant, including: abrupt, fast, immediate, instantaneous, prompt, quick, rapid, sudden, and unexpected. Scripture, likewise, uses many different words translated as instant or instantly.

Instant Defined in the Older Covenant

In the Older Covenant raga [H7280 רָגַע] and rega [H7281 רָגַע from H7280] which both mean: *a very short space of time – as in a wink of the eyes*, are two words that Jeremiah uses frequently (see **Jeremiah 4:20; 18:7; 18:9; 49:19; 50:44; Isaiah 47:9; Lamentations 4:6**). Isaiah also uses the word pith'owm [H6597 פִּיתְאוּם from petha עֵתָּה H6621] which both mean: *in a wink, i.e. moment (Isaiah 29:5; 30:13)*. We need to understand that a wink is not a blink, but is just a very short space of time, as in quickly. Wink and Blink are not equal in length.

Instant Defined in the Newer Covenant

In the Newer Covenant, Matthew, Mark, and John prefer euthus [G2117 εὐθύς] or eutheos [G2112 εὐθέως from G2117] which both mean: *directly, i.e. at once or soon* (see **Matthew 20:34; Mark 1:42; 5:29; 9:24; 10:52; John 6:21; 18:27; Revelation 4:2**). Luke uses two different words, but seems to prefer parachrema [G3916 παραχρημα] which means: *at the thing itself, forthwith, presently, straightway, soon* (see **Luke 8:44; 8:47; 18:43; 22:60; Acts 3:7; 5:10**). Only once does Luke use stigmatē [G4743 στιγμή] which means: *a point of time, i.e. a moment (Luke 4:5)*. Again, we see the image of something that takes place soon, in a very short time, as in quickly, but this does not equate to an indivisible moment of time.

In **1 Corinthians 15:52** Paul introduces us to the words atomos [G823 ἄτομος] and rhipe [G4493 ῥίπῃ] which together mean: *in the instantaneous, indivisible blink of an eye*, which today we define as a split-second or nanosecond of time. Only in this singular verse do we find the concept of an event that takes place in an indivisible moment of time.

Instant Defined Today

Today we have all kinds of instant food items: instant coffee, instant noodles, instant potatoes, instant rice, and instant milk. These items are considered instant if they can be prepared in less than one minute. However, even using a microwave oven it often takes at least one minute to boil the water for the coffee, noodles, potatoes, or rice, and much longer to cool the water for the milk! **I don't see any split-second or nanosecond of instant occurrence here – do you?**

We have instant communications, but again, it takes time to dial the number, time for the dialed number to ring, and more time for the person to answer the phone that is ringing. **I don't see any split-second or nanosecond of instant occurrence here – do you?**

The same can be said for lightning. We say lightning flashes instantly but a single flash is formed by a series of about four lightning strokes. Each stroke lasts for about 30 microseconds so a flash of lightning can take up to 120 microseconds, substantially longer than a split-second or nanosecond. **I don't see any split-second or nanosecond of instant occurrence here, either – do you?**

And yet we generally apply the atomos rhipe definition of *an indivisible, instant blink of the eye* to our understanding of instant. In other words, we apply an in a split-second or nanosecond of time definition to most items we consider instant.

Me thinks our definition of instant needs a little fixin' – what do you say?

The Resurrection Is Real

There are many who believe that the resurrection is not a real phenomenon. Primary in this thinking were the Sadducees. The Pharisees and Apostle Paul, however, took a totally opposite stance, and said there is indeed a resurrection and it is very real. Scripture also says the resurrection is real and gives us several examples.

No Resurrection Say the Sadducees

Acts 23:6 – “Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial’.”

During much of Paul’s ministry he categorically refuted the false teaching of the Sadducees which stated that “*there is no resurrection of the dead*” (**Matthew 22:23, Mark 12:18, Luke 20:27, Acts 23:8**). Yeshua also refuted that false teaching (**Matthew 22:23-34, Mark 12:18-27, Luke 20:27-37, Luke 14:14, John 5:29, 11:25**), as did Peter and John (**Acts 4:1-3, Acts 4:33**).

Paul addresses the resurrection in Romans Chapter 6, saying: Just as “*the Messiah was raised from the dead, likewise we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will also be united with him in a resurrection like his*” (**Romans 6:4-5**). We see Paul refuting the Sadducees’ false teaching when speaking to philosophers in Athens (**Acts 17:18, Acts 17:31**). Just before the Roman soldiers rescued him from the crowd and took him to their barracks, we once again find Paul engaging in that same argument over whether there is a resurrection or not (**Acts 23:6-10**) which he later explains to Felix, the Governor (**Acts 24:15, Acts 24:21; Acts 26:6**).

1 Corinthians Chapter 15

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – “*Not all of us will die! But we will all be changed! It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.*”

Paul’s PhD dissertation, his doctoral Thesis (if you will), is found in Chapter 15 of First Corinthians. He starts his thesis saying Yeshua was resurrected, seen by Peter, then the twelve, and then by over 500 (v **4-6**). Continuing on, he says last of all he himself saw the resurrected Yeshua (v **8**). In verse **12** he proclaims if Yeshua has been raised then how dare you continue to teach a lie saying there is no resurrection! But, he continues, the fact is that Yeshua has been raised from the dead (v **20**). Verse **29** has Paul being a bit sarcastic and asking why people bother being immersed (baptized) for those who are dead if there is no resurrection.

When asked “*In what manner are the dead raised? What sort of body do they have?*” Paul acerbically replies “*Stupid! When you sow a seed, it doesn’t come alive unless it first dies*” (v **35**). And then goes on to describe the overall process, culminating in his most quoted and memorable summation in verses **51-52**.

Paul succinctly refutes the Sadducees false teaching that “*there is no resurrection*”. He says, in essence: “*Not only is there a resurrection, here’s how it happens [in the twinkling of an eye], and here’s when it happens [at the Last Trump].*”

It is verses 51-52 that introduce us to the words atomos [G823 ἄτομος] and rhipe [G4493 ῥιπή] which together mean: in the instantaneous, indivisible blink of an eye, which today we define as a split-second or nanosecond of time. Our bodies will instantly become immortal and incorruptible, or as some put it: *Glorified*.

Resurrections and The Rapture

You have heard it said that the rapture is an instantaneous event that happens at the same time as the resurrection of the dead. But I say scripture presents an entirely different scenario. For instance we have the bodily resurrections of the following people that do not culminate in a rapture of any kind, much less an instant disappearing rapture:

The Nine

The son of the Shunammite woman, also known as the widow from Zarephath in Sidon

1 Kings 17: 22 – “*The child’s soul came back into him, and he revived.*”

Luke 4:26 – “*Elijah was sent to none of them but only to a widow of Zarephath, a city of Sidon.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **1 Kings 17:21-22**, and **2 Kings 4:31-35**

The dead man placed into the tomb of Elisha

2 Kings 13:21 – “*When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the dead man came to life and stood on his feet.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **2 Kings 13:20-21**

The prophet Jonah

Jonah 2:6 – “*Yahweh brought me up alive from the pit.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **Jonah 2:1-10**

The daughter who is only “asleep”, also known as the daughter of Jairus

Luke 8:54-55 – “*But he took her by the hand, called out, ‘**Little girl, get up!**’ and her spirit returned.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **Matthew 9:23-25** ; **Mark 5:22, 5:35-42**; and **Luke 8:41, 8:52-55**

The only son of a widow from the town of Nain

Luke 7:14-15 – “*Yeshua said, ‘**Young man, I say to you: get up!**’ The dead man sat up and began to speak.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **Luke 7:11-15**

Lazarus

John 11:43-44 – “*Having said this, Yeshua shouted, ‘**Lazarus, come out!**’ The man who had been dead came out.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **John 11:11-44**

Dorcas/Tabitha

Acts 9:40 – “*Peter said, ‘**Tavita! Get up!**’ She opened her eyes; and on seeing Peter, sat up.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **Acts 9:37-42**

Eutychus

Acts 20:10 – “*Paul said, ‘Do not be distressed, for he is still alive!’*”

The full narrative can be found in: **Acts 20:9-10**

And possibly, the Apostle Paul

Acts 14:19 – “*They presumed Paul to be dead . . . but he got up and went back into the city.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **Acts 14:19-20**

Wait: None of Them Just Disappeared or Got Glorified Bodies!

The above statement is absolutely true: **Not one** of these nine resurrected people instantly disappeared when they came back to life. Just the opposite. **ALL** were seen alive by many after their resurrection. **Not one** of these nine resurrected people mentioned above received a glorified, incorruptible, immortal body. Most, we assume, later died and were buried, as is the case of Paul. **I don’t see any split-second or nanosecond instant disappearance of these nine people – do you?**

The Three

The Holy Ones in Jerusalem

Matthew 27:50-53 – “The graves were opened, and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life; and after Yeshua rose, they came out of the graves and went into the holy city, where many people saw them.”

Those who were already in the grave were resurrected at the moment Yeshua died and later were seen by many as they witnessed in the city of Jerusalem. I don't see any split-second or nanosecond instant disappearance these Holy Ones – do you?

Yeshua

Matthew 28:7 – “He has been raised from the dead, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you.”

Mark 16:9 – “When Yeshua rose early on Sunday, he appeared first to Miryam of Magdala.”

John 20:17 – “*Stop holding onto me,*” Yeshua said to her, “*because I have not yet ascended to the Father.*”

When Yeshua rose early on Sunday, he appeared first to Miriam of Magdala and commanded her not to cling to him as he had “*not yet ascended to his Father*”, saying he would meet them in Galilee. I don't see any split-second or nanosecond instant disappearance of Yeshua in these verses – do you?

The Two Witnesses of Revelation

Revelation 11:11-12 – “But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here!’ And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.”

The two witnesses are resurrected, stand on their feet, were called to come up, finally were raptured. I don't see any split-second or nanosecond instant disappearance of these two individuals, either – do you?

As was the case of The Nine, **neither** the Holy Ones, nor Yeshua, nor the Two Witnesses **instantly disappear** after their resurrection. **Just the opposite**. **ALL** were seen alive by many after their resurrection.

A Future Resurrection:

The Dead and Living in Yeshua

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – “Not all of us will die! But we will all be changed! It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.”

If two scriptural patterns indicate that neither Yeshua nor the Holy Ones instantly disappeared but spent time witnessing for up to forty days, then the Bride may also spend some time witnessing before being raptured. I don't see any reason to assume the Bride of Yeshua will experience a split-second or nanosecond instant disappearance – do you?

Me thinks our thinking about the resurrection needs a little fixin' – **what do you say?**

The Resurrection Is Not The Rapture

Again I will **rattle some cages, upset some carts, and ruffle some feathers, so keep your seatbelts fastened.**

1 Corinthians Is Not About The (Pre-Tribulation) Rapture

The words used in the Newer Covenant describing a seizing, snatching, or carrying away are:

- **G726** ἀρπάζω harpazo – to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away, to claim for one's self eagerly
- **G305** ἀναβαίνω anabaino – to ascend, to go up, to rise, mount, be borne up, spring up
- **G359** ἀνάλυσις analisis – a dissolving (into separate parts), a departure (as a ship from its moorings)
- **G867** ἄφιξις aphixis – (properly) arrival, (by implication) departure
- **G1841** ἔξοδος exodos – to exit, depart (from life), one's final fate, to become deceased
- **G4872** συναναβαίνω sunanabaino – to ascend at the same time, come up together with to a higher place

Not one single word used to describe the Rapture [seizing, snatching, or carrying away] can be found in the *entire chapter* of 1 Corinthians 15. Neither are they found in the *entire book* of First Corinthians. The word harpazo is the single word of these six words Paul uses but it is found **only** in Second Corinthians.

The words used in the Newer Covenant describing a disappearing, becoming invisible, or vanishing:

- **G853** ἀφανίζω aphanizo – to snatch out of sight, to put out of view, to make unseen, to cause to vanish away
- **G854** ἀφανισμός aphanismos – to disappear, to vanish
- **G855** ἄφαντος aphantos – taken out of sight, to become invisible, vanished

Not one single word used to describe someone or something disappearing, becoming invisible, or vanishing can be found in the *entire chapter* of 1 Corinthians 15. Neither are they found in the entire books of First or Second Corinthians.

No matter how fully you deny it, no matter how rattled, upset, or ruffled you have become, Paul's dissertation in First Corinthians Chapter 15 does not address the Rapture – it only addresses the Resurrection and Glorification of our bodies, both of which **do** take place before the Rapture and also take place before the Tribulation Period.

The Resurrection is NOT the (Pre-Tribulation) Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 – *“We who remain alive when Yeshua comes will certainly not take precedence over those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with Yahweh's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise; then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air; and thus we will always be with him.”*

Paul starts his teaching reminding everyone that if Yeshua has been raised, then so will the dead (vv **13-14**). He states in verse **15**: *“we who are alive, who are left until the coming of Yeshua, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep”* and repeats it differently in verse **16**, stating: *“the dead in Yeshua will rise first.”* The living do not get raptured before the dead are resurrected.

In other words, when Yeshua returns, the first thing that takes place is the change of body type to Glorified Body for both the living and the dead, and the resurrection of the dead in that same moment. These are the only two events that take place simultaneously. **The living do not need to be resurrected**, only changed from mortal to immortal, corrupted to incorruptible! Once the dead have risen, then and only then do both the previously dead and the still living in their glorified bodies ascend **together** to meet Yeshua in the clouds (v **17**).

Paul clearly states there is a sequence: **first** – the change to Glorified Body for both the dead and living members of the Bride of Yeshua accompanied by a simultaneous resurrection of the dead members, **second** – the gathering together and then the rapture, all three of which **do** take place before the Tribulation Period. **The Resurrection / Change to Glorified Body and The Rapture are not the same event.**

Me thinks our thinking about the resurrection being the rapture needs a little fixin' too – what do you say?

The Harpazo

I am about to **rattle some cages**, **upset some carts**, and **ruffle some feathers**, so **hang onto your hats**.

HARPAZO – Not Necessarily in a Split-second or Nanosecond

The split-second, nanosecond, twinkling of an eye definition is also applied to the Rapture, which is puzzling. The most commonly applied definition of the word translated rapture, or caught up, harpazō [G726 ἁρπάζω], is: *to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away*. I prefer the third definition: *to claim for one's self eagerly*. Irregardless of which definition one uses, the imposition of a split-second or nanosecond event simply does not conform to the many instances of the word harpazo describing an ongoing process that is anything but instantaneous. For example, **Jude 1:23** tells us to “*Rescue any who need to be saved, as you would rescue someone from a fire*” which may or not be an action that occurs in an instant. Any firefighter can tell you that a rescue of this kind can take quite a bit of time.

But, what about Philip, you ask?

Acts 8:39-40 – “*When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Ashdod, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.*”

Seriously, you really think this is a split-second or nanosecond occurrence. **Do you have children? Ever taken them to the store? Humph.** Let me translate the above scripture for you using a more modern, family approach: “*When you were studying the nutrition label on a product, the Spirit of the Lord snatched the child away and you saw not where they went. But the child found them-self in the shoe aisle as they passed through the movie aisle and the toy aisle until they came to the candy aisle.*” Now, you may not have been as joyful as the eunuch, but the child’s disappearance did not take place in a split-second or nanosecond – the child was not instantly transported to the candy aisle.

I find no grounds for imposing an instant transportation reading on the disappearance of Philip – the Spirit did not beam him away ala Star Trek technology. The spirit simply required Philip to depart immediately without saying goodbye to the eunuch and the eunuch was so filled with rejoicing that he simply went on his way. Neither he nor Philip saw each other again. **I don’t see any split-second or nanosecond of instant occurrence here, either – do you?**

HARPAZO – Taken By Force

Taken by force, snatched, and carried off are the words used most often by scripture in numerous places to translate the Greek word harpazo [G726 ἁρπάζω], which means: *to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away*. If we compare the Newer Covenant word harpazo with the Older Covenant Hebrew word laqach [H3947 לקח] we find that laqach also means: *to take, seize, send for, fetch, carry away*. Here are some examples of those words:

Violent men “**take the kingdom of heaven by force**” (Matthew 11:12). This process has been ongoing for roughly 6000 years! **Not even close to a split-second or nanosecond of instant occurrence!**

Robbers come to plunder and steal and to **carry off** the goodies they have found (Matthew 12:29). This usually takes a bit of time. When the SWAT team shows up at the door to seize the criminal and **carry them off by force**, rarely does the SWAT team instantly remove someone – how many times have we seen on TV the hours long standoffs. **Rarely do criminal activities and the arrest of those same criminal happen in a split-second or nanosecond.**

The evil one “**snatches away the words of Yahweh if that person fails to understand their meaning**” (Matthew 13:19). This process usually happens over a period of time – we call this a falling away or an apostasy. **Not even close to a split-second or nanosecond of instant occurrence!**

Yeshua knew that people wanted to **take him by force** so he departed to the mountains (John 6:15). Yet another example of a harpazo that did not occur in a split-second or nanosecond of time.

The centurions were afraid the crowd would kill Paul so they **took him by force** and brought him to the barracks (Acts 23:10). This removal from the public arena to the barracks did not happen in a split-second or nanosecond.

Elijah was “taken” (2 Kings 2:3, 5, 9), as was Enoch (Genesis 5:24) but again, neither disappeared in a split-second or nanosecond.

It is not necessary to impose a time dependant connotation upon the word Harpazo or its definitions: taken by force, snatched, and carried off. None of these definitions is a time-sensitive definition, but a definition of the amount of energy or force applied to engender a specific action.

Me thinks our thinking about the word Harpazo needs a little fixin’ eh – **what do you say?**

The Very Important Witnessed Rapture

I am about to even more fully rattle some cages, upset some carts, and ruffle some feathers, so make sure you are hanging tightly onto your hats.

Why is it important that the rapture be witnessed? The witnessed rapture brings glory to Yahweh whereas an instant disappearing rapture allows Satan to steal glory that only belongs to Yahweh / Yeshua. Let’s examine how that works.

Proving the Prophecies – Advance Notice of Rapture

Enoch and Elijah both had advance notice that they would be taken up to heaven, and both were witnessed as they ascended to the clouds. We find Enoch’s prophecy of “**Advance Notice of Rapture**” in **Enoch 81:5-6** – “*You will have one year to teach your children, then the seven holy ones will take you from their midst.*” Elijah’s prophecy is a little trickier, as we do not have a source for his “**Advance Notice of Rapture**” – we only know he did have advance notice because twice in **2 Kings 2:7-12** the sons of the prophets ask Elisha, “*Don’t you know today is the day Elijah will be taken?*” to which Elisha answers, “*Yeah, I know!*”

Proving the Veracity – The Visible Raptures

2 Kings 2:12 – “*While Elisha was watching, he was crying out, . . . Then he could no longer see him.*”

Elijah’s ascension was witnessed by both Elisha and the prophets with their own eyes, and eventually Elisha “*lost sight of him*”.

Acts 1:9 – “*Yeshua was taken up before their eyes; and a cloud hid him from their sight.*”

Yeshua was carried up into heaven while the disciples (and perhaps wives, children, neighbors, etc.) were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight. This ascension was so fascinating to those watching that two “men” had to interrupt them and basically tell them to get on with their lives until Yeshua returned! And not to mention that the disciples were in the right spot at the right time to witness Yeshua being taken up, eh?” Yeshua’s rapture was witnessed by many.

Revelation 11:12 – “*The two witnesses went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.*”

The two witnesses are raptured while many enemies watch.

Impact – Seeing But Not Believing

Seeing is believing, we are told, but there are still those who refuse to admit that Elijah's ascension was witnessed by both Elisha and the prophets with their own eyes, though eventually Elisha "*lost sight of him*" (v12). But the prophets didn't believe what they had witnessed – they insisted on going to look for Elijah, spent three days doing so, finally returned without finding him, only to hear Elisha say: "*I told you not to go, didn't I?*" (v18). The same goes for Enoch – Enoch's rapture was witnessed, though many deny this despite his having been taken from the midst of a crowd of witnesses.

Seeing is believing, we are told, but there are still those who refuse to admit that Yeshua's rapture was witnessed, despite his having been taken from a crowd of witnesses. No doubt the same will happen when the Two Witnesses of Revelation are raptured right before the eyes of their enemies.

Proving the Veracity – The Wedding Pattern

In a Jewish Wedding, when the Father tells his son to go get his bride, the son does not step outside his newly built home, blow the shofar, shout "*Bride, come here*" and then the Bride just disappears from her house and, poof, instant teleportation to the bridegroom's house. Her "rapture" is accomplished by the bridegroom and his friends carrying her from her house to his.

Impact – Seeing But Not Believing

Seeing is believing, we are told, but there are still those who refuse to admit that the Bride's "rapture" was witnessed, despite all the people who watch her being carried from her house to the bridegroom's house. But wait, you say, it happens in the middle of the night – who is awake to see it? Humph. If you think the blowing of the shofar and all that shouting both going to and coming from her house doesn't wake people up who don't stick their heads out of their doors to see what all the commotion is about, then you don't know human behavior at all.

Proving the Prophecies – Resurrection Is Not Immediate Rapture

- The individuals that were resurrected according to the scriptures that did not instantly disappear but were seen by many after their resurrection are:
- The son of the Shunammite woman [widow from Zarephath in Sidon] (1 Kings 17:21-22, and 2 Kings 4:31-35)
- The dead man placed into the tomb of Elisha (2 Kings 13:20-21)
- The prophet Jonah (Jonah 2:1-10)
- The daughter who is only "asleep", also known as the daughter of Jairus (Matthew 9:23-25; Mark 5:22, 5:35-42; and Luke 8:41, 8:52-55)
- The only son of a widow from the town of Nain (Luke 7:11-15)
- Lazarus (John 11:11-44)
- Dorcas/Tabitha (Acts 9:37-42)
- Eutychus (Acts 20:9-10)
- The Apostle Paul who was presumed dead (Acts 14:19-20)
- Yeshua who witnessed for forty days (Matthew 28:7; Mark 16:9; John 20:17, Acts 10:40)
- The Holy Ones who also witnessed in Jerusalem, likely also for forty days (Matthew 27:50-53)

Future Resurrections Include:

- The Dead in Yeshua who more than likely may also witness for a short time (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)
- The Two Witnesses of Revelation (Revelation 11:11-12)

Impact – Seeing But Not Believing

Seeing is believing, we are told, but there are still those who refuse to admit that the resurrected who were witnessed after they rose from being dead did not, repeat, did not just disappear, – all were seen by many after their resurrection, some for forty days, some perhaps even longer.

Proving the Scriptures – Many Witnesses

Numerous times scripture tells us “*You certainly see, but you don’t get the point!*” (**Isaiah 6:9; Ezekiel 12:12; Matthew 13:14; Mark 4:12**; etc.) and we wonder why Yahweh/Yeshua speaks in parables. I like the way the Complete Jewish Bible translates **Jeremiah 5:21** – “*Hear this, stupid, brainless people, who have eyes but do not see . . .*”

The resurrection pattern, the witnessed rapture pattern, and the wedding pattern all agree – there is no such thing as an instant disappearance rapture. And that is three witnesses, as required by scripture (**Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1**, etc.) which establish a fact. If the resurrection patterns show zero instant disappearance events, two or three witnesses establish a fact, and Yahweh/Yeshua doesn't change, then why would the rapture of the Bride be an instant disappearing act? More than likely the rapture of the Bride will also be fully witnessed and will take more than a twinkling of time to finish.

I believe the rapture from Earth to the clouds may take time – whether short or long scripture does not specify. Elijah ascended fairly quickly. Yeshua's ascension may have taken a bit longer, as the witnesses were still staring up to the clouds for quite some time! If the Bride in a Jewish Wedding has to literally be carried from her house to the house of the Bridegroom's father in full view of all those who have been awakened by the shofars and shouting of the bridegroom's friends, isn't that yet one more pattern of no instant disappearance? And yet, once we get to the clouds the transfer from there to Heaven may be in an instant! Scripture simply doesn't give us all the details.

Why Is It So Important That The Rapture Be Witnessed?

The Witnessed Rapture Gives The Glory To Yahweh/Yeshua

Deuteronomy 4:24 – “*Yahweh your Elohim is a consuming fire, a jealous Elohim.*”

Isaiah 42:8 – “*I am Yahweh; that is my name; my glory I give to no other.*”

Isaiah 48:11 – “*For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it . . . My glory I will not give to another.*”

Yahweh does not give nor share his glory with anyone, especially not with Satan. That is why the Rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be witnessed by all. The fully witnessed rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be hard, if not downright impossible to deny – all will know it was done by Yeshua and will bring great glory to Yahweh.

The witnessed rapture proves Yahweh’s power to do what no other god or magician can do. This pattern is consistent throughout scripture. Here are two examples:

- **Moses and the Magicians.** The magicians were able to perform the first several miracles: staffs into snakes, water into blood, and swarms of frogs (**Exodus 7:11-8:7**). But from then on, only Moses was able to perform additional miracles (**Exodus 8:18**), bringing glory only to Yahweh.
- **Yeshua and the Rephaim.** Baal, it is said, promised his fallen minions in Tartarus that he would resurrect them for all to see, and it would only take three days to do so. Scripture, however, says “*they live not, Rephaim,[ghosts, shades, the dead] they rise not*” (**Isaiah 26:14**). But it is Yeshua who rises after three days and Yahweh allows Yeshua to be seen (**Acts 10:40**). Yeshua even preaches to those in Tartarus (**1 Peter 3:19, 4:6**), saying in effect “Guess what, guys, I’m outta here in three days, but you are still dead!” His resurrection after three days brings glory only to Yahweh.

The Instant Disappearance Rapture Gives Glory Others

An instant disappearing act allows the glory that only belongs to Yahweh / Yeshua to be stolen or denied – not gonna happen! Satan can falsely claim the rapture was done by aliens or some other means. This false paradigm is parroted by many in the New Age and Occult movements. Here are four examples:

- The [instant disappearance rapture](#) depicts people who leave their clothes behind; autos, planes, and boats that are left unmanned and crash; and folks left behind that are in a dilemma as to what happened.
- The [instant disappearance rapture](#) is accomplished by aliens who come from Vulcan, Klingon, Cardassia, Romulus, or some other planet in the Universe. Their spaceships will be able to beam them up via Star Trek Enterprise transporter technology.
- The [instant disappearance rapture](#) according to New Age channelers says: “The people who leave the planet during the time of Earth changes do not fit in here any longer, and they are stopping the harmony of Earth.” Therefore, they have been taken by angels, Ascended Masters, or aliens!
- The [instant disappearance rapture](#) takes place because both earth and humanity are evolving into a higher spiritual consciousness. Those who are hindering this evolutionary process will appear to vanish and will be taken elsewhere to evolve at their own rate while the people remaining will advance into that higher spiritual consciousness.

Impact – Seeing But Not Believing

Seeing is believing, we are told, but there are still those who refuse to admit that the rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be a witnessed event, just as were the scriptural patterns. The witnessed rapture brings glory **only** to Yahweh – all will know it was done by Yeshua and no other. Yahweh will not allow the rapture of the Bride of Yeshua to be attributed to anyone other than himself – he does not share his glory with anyone.

The entire instant disappearance rapture paradigm is severely flawed – The instant disappearance rapture allows Satan to steal glory that belongs **only** to Yahweh / Yeshua – not gonna happen!

Me thinks our thinking about the witnessed rapture needs a little fixin’ too – **what do you say?**

Conclusions

We need to understand the word instant is more accurately defined as quickly, not as an instantaneous, indivisible nanosecond of time – that a wink is not a blink, but is just a very short space of time. Wink and Blink are not equal in length.

1 Corinthians Chapter 15 is Paul’s succinct teaching on the how, when, and veracity of the change from mortal to immortal and the resurrection of the Dead in Yeshua. Our bodies, whether dead in the grave, or still living will instantly become immortal, and the dead will rise at that same time. It is Paul’s PhD dissertation and thesis, if you will, on the change and resurrection – not the rapture. Paul clearly states there is a sequence: **first** – the change of the body to a glorified body for both living and dead, and the simultaneous resurrection of the Dead in Yeshua, **second** – the rapture of both previously dead and still living. All three events, however, **do** take place before the Tribulation Period.

The rapture is not addressed in the Corinthians passage – not one single word used in the Newer Covenant can be found in the entirety of Chapter 15. Applying the rapture up to the clouds to the change and resurrection is eisegesis, not exegesis – it is dividing the word of Yahweh wrongly, not rightly. Stating that the resurrection of the dead is the rapture and that both take place in an instant is not what scripture teaches.

Resurrection and Rapture are not the same event, though both events do take place before the Tribulation Period.

Imposing an instant, nanosecond interpretation on the word harpazo, which means: *to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away*, is unnecessary. The most common usage of the word harpazo simply shows a removal by force over a period of time – short or more prolonged. Furthermore, Scripture does not reveal one single resurrection that culminates in a rapture of any kind, much less an instant, split-second or nanosecond disappearance.

The witnessed rapture brings glory **only** to Yahweh – all will know it was done by Yeshua and no other. Yahweh will not allow the rapture of the Bride of Yeshua to be attributed anyone other than himself – he does not share his glory with anyone.

An instant disappearance rapture allows Satan to steal glory that belongs to Yahweh / Yeshua. This scenario is NOT scriptural, but more than likely taken from fictional stories which have become Man-made Doctrines (Matthew 15:9). It's got to break Yahweh's heart. We have to stop teaching and listening to things that satisfy our itching ears (2 Timothy 4:4) [or our expectations of instant gratification].

The entire instant disappearance rapture paradigm is as severely flawed as our definitions of the words harpazo and instant.

Me thinks our definitions and interpretations need a lot of fixin' – **what do you say?**

Final Thought

- The Resurrection is not The Rapture, both of which take place before the Tribulation Period.
- The prophetic signs are burgeoning and not abating.
- Time is incredibly short – Yeshua Ha'Mashiach is coming soon – so be of great cheer, keep looking up, and keep maintaining an attitude of gratitude.
- Be sure you are believing The Truth, not The Lie. Be sure Yeshua is your Redeemer, King, and High Priest, and your sins are forgiven.