

Rapture and Resurrection Words 2025 - Essay

The ParTy Lens -- Four Levels of Meaning (ParTy)

A fourth lens – my favorite-- is the lens of **ParTy**. This stands for **Parallels, Patterns, Pictures, and Types**. This lens brings scripture to life, and allows every verse or chapter multiple applications.

Parallels, Patterns, Pictures, and Types.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 – “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 3:15 – “Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.”

Biblical parallels, patterns, pictures, and types tell us who Yeshua is, what his ministry is, and what the future holds. Historical and secular parallels and patterns also help us understand the direction history and nations are headed. These parallels become very important when we try to determine if scripture and prophecy have anything to say to us today, especially since scripture informs us that patterns are cyclical.

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

No doubt you have heard it said that “*the rapture is an instantaneous event that happens at the same time as the resurrection of the dead*” and that “*there are no signs that precede the rapture – the rapture is a sign-less event.*” But I say the Biblical scriptures present an entirely different scenario. Those who say there are no signs are greatly mistaken. Yeshua gave us numerous signs to look for: many coming in his name, famines, pestilences, wars and rumors of wars, signs in the heavens, and great earthquakes in various places, just to name a few signs. At the very least, the **dead** in Yeshua must **rise first**.

The Resurrection Words: Greek (and Hebrew) Word Definitions

1 Corinthians 15:52 – “The shofar will sound, and the dead will be **raised** to live forever, and we too will be changed.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – “Those who died united with Yeshua will be the first to **rise**.”

Scripture uses several Greek words for raise, rise, arise, or resurrect. Many verses in Corinthians, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John frequently use *egeiro*^[G1453]. Paul uses a synonym, *anistemi*^[G450] in Thessalonians.

These words are defined as:

- **G1453** ἐγείρω *egeiro* – to waken; (literally) to rouse from sleep, from death; to raise up, produce, cause to appear, to bring before the public.
- **G450** ἀνίστημι *anistemi* – to raise up from the dead; to cause to appear, to stand forth and enter into conversation or dispute with anyone.
- **G386** ἀνάστασις *anastasis* – a standing up again; (literally) a resurrection from death.

Note that both *egeiro* and *anistemi* indicate that the resurrected person then appears in public – **they do not instantly disappear!**

Egeiro G1453 ἐγείρω

G1453 Egeiro: to arouse from the sleep of death, to recall the dead to life, to cause to appear, and bring before the public – **not to instantly disappear**. Egeiro is translated raised 45 times, rise 23 times, risen 22 times, arise 13 times, arose 13 times, and raise 8 times.

Egeiro is the word Paul uses in 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 to describe Yeshua’s being **raised** from the dead (v 4), who by the way, was seen not only by Peter, but also by more than five hundred brothers at one time.

Egeiro is also the word Paul uses to describe all who are **raised** and given their immortal, incorruptible bodies! They too will be witnessed by many – the patterns show they do not just instantly disappear.

Egeiro is used in the following verses:

- Matthew 27:64 – He has been raised **G1453** from the dead.
1 Corinthians 15:12 – He rose **G1453** from the dead.
1 Corinthians 15:20 – Christ has been raised **G1453** from the dead.
1 Corinthians 15:32 – If the dead are not raised **G1453**.
1 Corinthians 15:42 – What is raised **G1453** is imperishable.
1 Corinthians 15:43 – When raised **G1453** it will be beautiful, strong, and will be raised **G1453** a spiritual body.
1 Corinthians 15:52 – For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised **G1453** to live forever.
Acts 4:10 – God raised **G1453** Yeshua from the dead.

Anistemi G450 ἀνίστημι

G450 Anistemi: to raise up from the dead and cause to appear to enter into conversation or dispute with anyone. Anistemi is translated arose 24 times, rise 23 times, rose 18 times arise, raise, or raised 28 times.

This word comes from **G2476 Histemi:** to rise up in the presence or midst of others – **not to instantly disappear**. **Anistemi** is the form used in **1 Thessalonians 4:16** to describe the dead in Yeshua who **rise first**. They too will be witnessed by many – **they do not just instantly disappear**.

Anistemi is used in the following verses:

- Romans 14:9 – Yeshua both died, and rose **G450**.
Acts 10:41 – He rose **G450** from the dead.
Ephesians 5:14 – “Awake, O sleeper! Rise **G450** from the dead.
1 Thessalonians 4:16 – the dead in Yeshua will rise **G450** first.

Anastasis G386 ἀνάστασις

G386 Anastasis: (literally) a resurrection from death.

Again, this word indicates a resurrection and return to community – **not an instant disappearance**.

Acts 26:23 tells us that “Yeshua would die, and that he, as the first to **rise G386** from the dead, would proclaim light to both the Jewish People and to the Gentiles, the Goyim.”

1 Corinthians 15:6 – “Yeshua was raised **G386** on the third day, . . . was seen by Peter and the disciples; and afterwards by more than five hundred people . . .”.

1 Corinthians 15:42 – “It is the same with the resurrection **G386** of the dead.”

Again, **no instant disappearance** here, either – Yeshua witnessed to over 500 after he was raised.

Quwm H6965 קוּם

H6965 Quwm : to rise, to arise, come on the scene. Quwm is translated arise 103 times, arose 105 times, rise 28 times, risen 1 time and raised 1 time. An equivalent Hebrew word also defines a resurrection as a rising to be placed back in community, **not an instant disappearance**.

Isaiah 26:19 puts it this way: “Your dead will come back to life; your corpses will rise up. Wake up and shout joyfully, you who live in the ground! For you will grow like plants drenched with the morning dew, and the earth will cast out the dead.”

Growing like well watered plants doesn’t even remotely lend itself to instant disappearance teachings!

Protos G4413 πρῶτος

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – the dead in Yeshua will rise **G450** first **G4413**.

The Greek word translated first is **protos** – meaning foremost or first in time, order, place, or importance. **Protos** is translated first 50 times, before 2 times, and former 1 time.

Did you catch that? First in time or order. Paul tells us that the Dead in Yeshua are resurrected **first**. Not second, and not third, but the dead are the **first** in a series of events that take place. The resurrected dead in

Yeshua will more than likely also remain for a short time if the pattern of Yeshua and the Holy ones is followed. Only after meeting with the still living will both then ascend together to be with Yeshua.

The Apostle Paul does not teach that *the resurrection is the rapture* – but that:

- they are **separate** events,
- and the **resurrection happens first**.

Not one of the words described above can be found in Chapter 15 of 1st Corinthians, nor anywhere else in the entire book! Not one of these words are used in connection with a resurrection!

Resurrection Word Conclusions

In short, the Biblical words used for rise, arise, rose, etc. do **not** give one single definition of a resurrection being an instant disappearance event – all definitions indicate the person is returned alive into the community.

The Dead in Yeshua are resurrected **first**. Not second, and not third, but the dead are the first in a series of events that take place.

The Bible only asks for two witnesses to establish a fact!

- **Fact:** the resurrection is a witnessed event that happens **before** the rapture.
- *Instant disappearance* is a paradigm that is **not** Biblically supported.

The Rapture Words: Greek Word Definitions

It's All Greek To Me . . . Harpazo

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, to spring up
- **G359** ἀνάλυσις **analysis** – 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

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

Acts 27:15 – “The ship was caught up^{G726} unable to face the wind so we gave way to it and were driven along.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – “We who are left still alive will be caught up^{G726} with them in the clouds to meet Yeshua in the air; and thus we will always be with him.”

2 Corinthians 12:2 – “I know a man in Mashiach who fourteen years ago was caught up^{G726} to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, Yahweh knows.”

The word translated *caught up* in Greek is: **harpaz** (ἀρπάζω)

Classical Meaning: 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.

The harpazo, the snatching away, the catching up, the seizing, or whichever verb one uses, will not be something that human beings accomplish.

When Yeshua shouts, he will be expecting us to comply and be taken up, not asking if we would mind coming up once we've gotten showered and dressed in our finest linens!

Here are some examples of harpazo ^[G726] which are in boldface:

- 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 **steal** and plunder 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. **Rarely ever does this happen in a split second, nanosecond, or instant!**
- 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). The Roman barracks were a fair distance away from the public square. **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, 2:5, 2:9), as was Enoch (Genesis 5:24) but again, **neither disappeared in a split second or nanosecond.**

Here are some examples of laqach ^[H3947] which are in boldface:

- Elijah was **taken away** and **took** his mantle (2 Kings 2:3, 2:5, 2:9).
- Enoch was **taken** by Yahweh (Genesis 5:24)

Neither disappeared in a split second or nanosecond.

It's All Greek To Me . . . Harpazo Eagerly Gather

Genesis 22:2-4 – “Yahweh said to Abraham, ‘Will you please take your son . . .’”

Revelation 3:20 – “Here, I’m standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him.”

There another definition of harpazo that may better fit the compassionate Yeshua who asks the willing to gather? Indeed there is and that definition is:

- **To eagerly gather together those who are loved**

And it is this definition that best fits the Rapture pattern. Yeshua comes to gather us together in love, not to brutally force us to head up to the clouds. Yahweh and Yeshua both honor their commitment to giving each individual free choice – to obey or not. Will you freely go when called to come up, or refuse?

Harpazo is not the only word used in scripture to indicate a rapture. Will you freely go when called to come up, or refuse?

There are many scriptures which speak about people willingly gathering together.

- **Luke 24:33** – *“They got up at once, returned to Yerushalayim and found the Eleven gathered together with their friends.”*
- **John 20:19** – *“When the talmidim were gathered together behind locked doors out of fear of the Judeans, Yeshua came, stood in the middle and said, “Shalom aleikhem!”*
- **Acts 2:1** – *“The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place.”*
- **Ephesians 1:10** – *“His goal was to carry out his plan, when the right time came, that all things in Heaven and on Earth would be gathered together in Yeshua as the head.”*
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1** – *“Now we request you, brothers and sisters, with regard to the coming of our Lord Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and our gathering together to him.”*
- **Hebrews 10:25** – *“You should not stay away from the gathering meetings, as some are doing, but you should gather together and encourage each other, even more so as you see the day of Yahweh's wrath approaching.”*

Gathering together for festivals, gathering together to give thanks and praise, gathering together for reading of the good news, gathering together to be in Yeshua's presence all sound like joyous occasions to me – not something one is forced to attend.

HARPAZO – Not Necessarily in a Split second or Nanosecond

Regardless of which definition one uses, it is not necessary to impose a time dependant connotation upon the word harpazo or its definitions: taken by force, snatched, and carried off.

The definitions of harpazo are descriptions of the **amount of energy or force expended** to accomplish an action, **not descriptions of how much time it takes** for an action to be completed. Regardless of which definition one uses, the imposition a split second, nanosecond, twinkling of an eye definition to Harpazo is unwarranted and simply does not conform to the many instances of 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.

Rapture Word Conclusions

In short, the Biblical words used for catch up, ascend, seize, carry off, snatch away, claim for one's self eagerly, depart, etc. do not give one single definition of a rapture being an instant disappearance event – all definitions indicate the person is watched as they ascend from earth to the clouds and heaven.

The Bible only asks for two witnesses to establish a fact!

- **Fact:** the rapture is a witnessed event that happens after the resurrection.
- *Instant disappearance* is a paradigm that is **not** Biblically supported.

Y'varekh'kha Yahweh v'yishmerekha
Ya'er Yahweh panav eleikha vichunekka
Yissah Yahweh panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom whole

Yahweh blesses you and keeps you
Yahweh makes his face shine upon you and is gracious to you
Yahweh lifts up his countenance upon you and makes you whole.