

The Rapture is a Witnessed Event-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 Ten Resurrections From The Dead

(Wait: None of Them Just Disappeared!)

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:

The son of 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**

The son of the wealthy Shunammite woman from Shunem

2 Kings 4:35 – “*The child sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes.*”

The full narrative can be found in: **2 Kings 4:18-35**

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 from Gath-Hepher, the son of Amittai

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 from Bethany, the brother of Martha and Mary

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**

Tabitha from Joppa, also known as Dorcas

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

The full narrative can be found in: **Acts 9:36-42**

Eutychus from Troas, who fell from the third story to the ground

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, presumed to be dead

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 The Ten People Disappeared!

Not one of the ten resurrected people mentioned above just instantly disappeared when they came back to life.

Just the opposite. ALL were seen alive by many after their resurrection.

But, But, But: None of Them Got Glorified Bodies

The above statement is absolutely true: **Not one** of the ten resurrected people mentioned above received a glorified, incorruptible, immortal body. Most, we assume, later died and were buried, as is the case of Paul.

The Two Resurrections From The Dead

(Wait: None of Them Just Disappeared!)

The Holy Ones

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. They appear to have witnessed during the forty days after their resurrection.

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.

Two Future Resurrections From The Dead

(Wait: None of Them Will Just Disappear Either!)

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.

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 after 3½ days and then stand on their feet., Shortly thereafter, they are called to come up, and finally are raptured as their enemies watch.

Wait: None of These People Just Disappeared!

Scripture gives us twelve examples of those who have already died (or been presumed dead) who were resurrected. Interesting number, 12! Neither the Holy Ones, nor Yeshua, instantly disappear after their resurrection. Scripture also gives us two more examples of those who will die and be resurrected – the Dead in Yeshua and the Two Witnesses of Revelation.

Wait: None of These People Disappeared! **Just the opposite. ALL were (or will be) seen alive by many after their resurrection.** This pattern is consistent, and it is reasonable to anticipate that neither will the Bride of Yeshua simply instantly disappear. Two witnesses establish a fact, according to the Bible (**Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1**, etc.).

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** ἁρπάζω **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: **harpazō** (ἁρπάζω)

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.

Bodily Raptures

Who Knew?

Elijah [2 Kings 2:3-5](#)

“Do you know that Yahweh is taking Eliyahu, your master, away from you today?” Twice, scripture tells us that the day of Elijah’s departure, or rapture, was known to the sons of the prophets. The prophets at Bethel knew. The prophets at Jericho knew. Elisha also knew. I call this advance notice!

Yeshua [Luke 9:30-31](#)

“Suddenly there were two men talking with him — Moshe and Eliyahu!” Both Moses and Eliyahu spoke to Yeshua about his ‘departure’ which he was to accomplish from Yerushalayim. Another instance of advance notice, perhaps.

Enoch [Enoch 81:5-6](#)

“One year you will have with your son, Methuselah, until you give your last commands, teach and testify them to your children . . . In the second year, you will be taken” Enoch was given one year to testify to Methuselah and his children before his rapture. He knew he would be raptured, and so did his family. Definitely another instance of advance notice, no doubt about it.

The Bride of Yeshua 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

Many ask: “Will the Bride of Yeshua also have advanced notice?”

The answer to that is perhaps yes. Paul appears to say just that in **1 Thessalonians 5:4-6**: “*But you, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise like a thief; for you are all people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We don’t belong to the night or to darkness, so let’s not be asleep, like the rest are; on the contrary, let us stay alert and sober.*”

Adonai Elohim’s Promise of Advance Notice Amos 3:7

Amos 3:7 – “Adonai Elohim does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”

Adonai Elohim firmly states that he gives *Advance Notice*.

I believe an Advance Notice will be the first sequence of events that leads up to the resurrection and rapture of the Bride of Yeshua. I do not know what form this advance notice may take, but believe that his promise to do so is still valid today.

Adonai Elohim always informs his prophets in advance and Paul clearly states that we, the Bride of Yeshua, will not be caught off guard by the coming of Yeshua to rapture his bride when he says “*You, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise.*”

Yeshua arriving without advance notice does not correspond to the many instances in scripture that state very clearly, precisely, and definitively that Advance Notice is given. Yeshua showing up without Advance Notice being given would violate Adonai Elohim’s promise as set forth in **Amos 3:7**.

Who Knew Conclusions

Advance Notice is the scriptural norm. In every case the person being raptured knows he will be.

- Elijah and two schools of prophets knew the day of his departure (2 Kings 2:3-5).
- Moses and Elijah spoke to Yeshua about his departure prior to his going to Yerushalayim to be crucified (Luke 9:30-31).
- Enoch had a full year of advance notice (Enoch 81:5-6).
- The Bride of Yeshua, according to Paul, will also receive advance notice.

Who Watched?

Elijah 2 Kings 2:7-12

“Fifty of the guild prophets went and stood watching Eliyahu and Elisha from a distance. . . . Elisha saw Eliyahu depart and cried out, “My father! My father! Elijah’s ascension was witnessed by both Elisha and the prophets.

Yeshua Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11a

“As he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.” “After saying this, he was taken up before their eyes.” Yeshua was carried up into heaven while the disciples 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.

The Two Witnesses of Revelation Revelation 11:11

“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 as their enemies watched.

Enoch.....[Enoch 81:5-6; Jasher 3:34](#)

“The seven holy ones will take you from their midst.” Though the description of Enoch’s ascension is not found in the scriptures, it is found in two non-canonical books that are mentioned or quoted from in the Bible. Enoch’s ascension was witnessed by his children as he was taken from their midst. Jasher 3:34 tells us that some of the king’s men remained with Enoch when he went to the place where he was to be raptured. Enoch’s rapture was also witnessed by many people.

Who Watched Conclusions

In every case, the person being raptured is witnessed by more than one other person. Not once does the person raptured in the body just disappear in an instantaneous rapture event.

- Elijah was in the presence of Elisha and perhaps fifty or more of the sons of the prophets when he was raptured (2 Kings 2:7).
- Yeshua was in the presence of the apostles, and perhaps others when he was raptured (Acts 1:10-11).
- Enoch was in the presence of his children and the King’s men when he was raptured (Enoch 81:5-6; Jasher 3:34).
- The rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will more than likely also be a witnessed event.

How Did They Go?

Horses, Chariots of Fire, and Whirlwinds are often present. There are some who believe that it is the whirlwind that carries the person aloft. I believe that the horses are the mode of transportation that carries the person to the fiery chariot when present. Fiery Chariots may be what today we would call a rocket ship. Any modern rocket during takeoff creates a whirlwind. To the ancients it may have looked like the whirlwind was carrying the person aloft, but I say this was just the result of the fiery chariot blasting off.

Elijah[2 Kings 2:11](#)

“There appeared a fiery chariot with horses of fire; and as it separated the two of them from each other, Eliyahu went up into heaven in a whirlwind.” Elijah is carried into the clouds with horses of fire.

Yeshua[Acts 1:11b; Revelation 19:11](#)

“Yeshua will come in just the same way as you have watched him go into heaven.” “Before me was a white horse. Sitting on it is Yeshua who passes judgment and makes war in righteousness.” Yeshua comes back on a white horse. He is taken the same way according to the two “men” who spoke to the disciples!

Enoch.....[Jasher 3:36-37](#)

“Enoch ascended into Heaven in a whirlwind with horses and chariots of fire.” Jasher 3:27 tells us that the horse paced in the air, and, Enoch, like Yeshua and Elijah, is carried into the clouds with horses.

How Did They Go Conclusions

The person being raptured does not lazily float up to the clouds, as if by magic – he is **carried** aloft.

- Horses are always present – and often Chariots of Fire and a whirlwind.
- Elijah was carried to Heaven with horses, chariots of fire, and a whirlwind present (2 Kings 2:11).
- Yeshua rose riding upon his white horse (Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 19:11), but there is no mention of a chariot of fire or a whirlwind.
- Enoch was carried to Heaven with horses, chariots of fire, and a whirlwind present . (Jasher 3:36).
- No doubt, the Bride of Yeshua will also be carried to Heaven by horses.

Other Patterns

The Exodus Pattern

Exodus 33:1 – “Yahweh said to Moses, ‘Leave, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt; and move on from here toward the promised land’ [i.e. Israel – a parallel, picture, pattern, or type of our Heavenly destination].”

The Hebrew slaves had been in Egypt for over 400 years. Upon leaving Egypt the Egyptians witness their departure (**Exodus 12**):

- The Hebrew slaves are redeemed, if you will, “*resurrected*”.
- Their departure was witnessed; Pharaoh’s army chased them.
- They arrived at Mount Sinai in the third month.
- It took another forty years to reach the promised land.
- The 40 year journey was also witnessed.

This pattern conforms to the witnessed rapture paradigm and teaches that there is no basis for teaching an instant disappearance paradigm.

Paul’s Midrash on the Patterns

The Hebrew slaves **resurrection** from their Egyptian “*graves*” did not result in an instantaneous disappearance – it took time for them to walk away in full view of the Egyptians. It took more time to arrive at Mount Sinai. Of the Bride, Paul tells us that the Dead in Yeshua are **resurrected** first. Perhaps they too have a time of witnessing after their resurrection before they reach their destination – the clouds to meet together with the changed living and with Yeshua. Rabbi Paul effectively takes the same approach to the Exodus narrative as Rabbi Peter takes to the **Joel 2:28-29** prophecy. They both teach using a typical rabbinical technique called a Midrash:

- Peter applies Joel 2 to the Giving of the Spirit at Shavuot. (**Acts 2:17-21**)
- Paul applies the pattern of the exodus of the Hebrews slaves out of the graves of Egypt, their trip to Mt. Sinai, and the subsequent ascent of Moses to meet with Yahweh on the mountain to the future rapture of the Bride of Yeshua (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**).

The scriptures in **Matthew 27** lend further support for this pattern.

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.

This pattern also conforms to the witnessed rapture paradigm and teaches that there is no basis for teaching an instant disappearance paradigm.

A Chart of the Similarities Between New Age and Instant Disappearance Teachings

Numerous scriptures warn us not to be deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 John 3:7 – “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way.”

2 Timothy 3:13 – “But evil men and seducers shall grow worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

We are even not to think of ourselves as wise or clever (Isaiah 5:21, Proverbs 3:7, 1 Corinthians 3:18)

New Age Teachings

New Age and Occult movements teach the following.

1. New Age channelers say: “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!
2. The Aliens who come from Vulcan, Klingon, Cardassia, Romulus, or some other planet in the Universe are responsible for people disappearing from Planet Earth. Their spaceships will be able to beam them up via Star Trek Enterprise transporter technology.
3. 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.
4. People who are taken leave their clothes behind; autos, planes, and boats that are left unmanned will crash. The people who remain are in a dilemma as to what happened.
5. People who remain are the people who will advance into a higher spiritual consciousness.

We are not to be deceived by these teachings from evil men and seducers – they are deceived and make every effort to deceive others.

Instant Disappearance Similarities

The instant disappearance paradigm teaches the following.

1. People who leave the planet during the rapture do not stay here any longer – they are taken by Yeshua and are not part of the left behind unbelieving masses.
2. People who just disappear is a mystery – but only to those who do not belong to Yeshua. Various ways it may happen are suggested, including alien abduction, or some form of transporter technology.
3. People who are raptured have been transformed by the renewal of the mind, able to discern what is the will of God, and therefore worthy to be raptured. They will be taken to heaven to be trained to rule with Yeshua when he returns to set up his millennial reign.
4. Raptured people leave their clothes behind. Autos, planes, and boats that are left unmanned crash; and the folks left behind are in a dilemma as to what happened.
5. Those who remain will be plugged into the internet of all things and promised eternal life via technology.

The Instant Disappearance paradigm is not a whole lot different from the teaching of evil men and seducers, is it? – We are not to be deceived!

The Resurrection is a Witnessed Event

The son of the widow from Zarephath
The son of the Shunammite woman
The dead man in the tomb of Elisha
The prophet Jonah
The daughter of Jairus
The son of a widow from Nain

and

Lazarus
The Apostle Paul
Eutychus
Dorcas/Tabitha
Yeshua
The Holy Ones
The Two Witnesses of Revelation

Scripture gives us twelve examples of those who have died (or been presumed dead) who were resurrected but did not instantly disappear or get instantly raptured. Just the opposite. *All were seen alive and well after their resurrection.* Scripture also gives us another example of two who will die, be resurrected, but who will not instantly disappear or get instantly raptured. The Bible only asks for two witnesses to establish a fact!

The Rapture is a Witnessed Event

2 Kings 2:7-12..... Elijah's ascension was witnessed by both Elisha and the prophets.
Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11a..... Yeshua's rapture was witnessed by the disciples.
Revelation 11:11..... The two witnesses will be raptured as their enemies watch.
Enoch 81:5-6; Jasher 3:34..... Enoch's rapture was also witnessed by many people.

Two or More Witnesses are Required

The Bible only asks for two witnesses to establish a fact! Scripture gives us twelve examples of resurrections that were witnessed, and three examples of those whose raptures were witnessed. Not one of these people instantly disappeared. The instant disappearance paradigm is not supported by the patterns revealed in the scriptures that show a progression of well witnessed events over time. The belief that "*the resurrection is the rapture*" also fails to adhere to the Biblical requirement that two or more witnesses are necessary to establish a fact.

The Witnessed Resurrection and 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, 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 Resurrection and Rapture of the Bride of Yeshua will be witnessed by all. The fully witnessed resurrection and 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.

Final Conclusions

The instant disappearance paradigm, which has been espoused for way too long:

- does not conform to the Greek or Hebrew Word Definitions
- does not conform to the Witnessed Resurrection Pattern
- does not conform to the Witnessed Bodily Rapture Pattern
- does not conform to the Exodus Pattern
- does not conform to the Thessalonians Midrash Pattern
- and does not conform to the Jewish Wedding Pattern

All of the above are **witnessed** events – not instant disappearance events

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