



You Have Heard It Said

Disappearing Acts

Or So We Have Been Told

But Did Yahweh Really Say?

People Don't Just Disappear

Perhaps you have heard that *Yeshua just disappeared*. Nothing could be farther from the truth. When we let scripture interpret scripture, we find a completely different account. Let's take a closer look.

Rapture Word Definitions

Harpazo, [G726 ἁρπάζω]

The word most commonly translated rapture, or caught up is the Greek word Harpazo which traditionally is defined to mean: to be seized or plucked up by force, to catch (away, or up), pluck, pull, or to take by force. It does **not in any way mean to disappear**, much less to disappear instantly – **just the amount of force used** to move someone or something from one location to another.

For instance: Yeshua knew that people wanted to **seize him by force** ^{G726} (harpazo) so he departed to the mountains {John 6:15}. **A perfect example of a harpazo that did not occur in a nanosecond of time.**

Word Comparisons

Here are more scriptures that graphically state that harpazo does not mean to instantly disappear.

Violent men “take the kingdom of heaven by **force** ^{G726}” (harpazo) {Matthew 11:12}. This process has been ongoing for roughly 6000 years and is still happening!

No nanosecond of instant disappearance here!

The evil one “**snatches away** ^{G726} (harpazo) 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 nanosecond of instant disappearance!

Word Comparisons

Two more scriptures that graphically state that neither word means to instantly disappear.

The centurions were afraid the crowd would kill Paul so they ordered the soldiers to go down, **take him by force** ^{G726} (harpazo) to the barracks {Acts 23:10}.

This removal from the public arena to the barracks did not happen in a nanosecond.

Robbers come to plunder and **steal** ^{G726} (harpazo) and to **carry off** ^{G726} (harpazo) 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.

Never do criminal activities and the arrest of those same criminal happen in a nanosecond.

When we compare the Newer Covenant word Harpazo in the different scriptures we find that it is **not** a word that has a definition that indicates time or instant disappearance – **just the amount of force used** to move someone or something from one location to another.



Yeshua

Not A Disappearing Act - Yeshua

Acts 1:9 – *“And while they watched, Yeshua was lifted up into a cloud which hid him out of their sight.”*

Many have asked, *“How was Yeshua lifted up?”*.

The short (and simple) answer to that question is
“While his talmidim (disciples) watched!”

But wait, there is so much more to the answer, so today that question will be answered unequivocally.

Not A Disappearing Act - Yeshua

Pictures Of Ascension

What picture do you have of Yeshua's ascension that day into the cloud?

- Did Yeshua climb the ladder that Jacob saw? (Genesis 28:12).
- Did Yeshua ride the chariot or horses of fire as did Elijah? (2 Kings 2:11).
- Did Yahweh's personal throne-chair, the Merkabah [מֶרְכָבָה H4818], pick Yeshua up? (Ezekiel 10:1-22).
- Did Yeshua ride upon a cherub, or perhaps fly upon the wings of the wind? (Ps 18:10; 2 Sam. 22:11).
- Did angels carry Yeshua aloft as they did Lazarus? (Luke 16:19-31)
- Or, did Yeshua simply float upward like a helium balloon?

So, what picture comes to your mind as you read these scriptures?

- One of the above, or perhaps another?

Not A Disappearing Act - Yeshua

Pictures Of Ascension

I see him ascending riding on his white horse that will bring him back (Revelation 19:11-14).

I like to picture Yeshua, as he stands nearby his talmidim, either whistling, or perhaps, just calling out. Not only do his sheep know his voice, so apparently do his horses! And this particular horse, is special – he is the King Of Horses.

Peter Jackson, in *The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*, employed this imagery well – Gandalf whistled, and Shadowfax, the King of the Mearas, answered, also bringing with him other horses for the man, the elf, and the dwarf to ride.

Not A Disappearing Act - Yeshua

The Ascension Described By “Angels”

Acts 1:10-11 – *“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel who said, ‘You men of Galilee, why are you gazing up into heaven? Yeshua will return in exactly the same way as you have watched him ascend into heaven’.”*

It is well attested to that Yeshua’s talmidim (disciples) could at times be as dense as a London fog, as dumb as driftwood, as bright as a burned out light bulb, as thick as a brick. Once again, they show their inability to respond immediately to what Yeshua is doing. They continue to gaze off into the sky so long, in fact, that two men (angels) in white clothing have to break their concentration by saying: *“Hey, youse guys, whatcha lookin’ at?”*

Not A Disappearing Act - Yeshua

The Ascension Described By “Angels”

The question of exactly how Yeshua ascended, if one can call it that, has been answered – **the same way he went**. But to answer this new question – how he returns, we must study scripture to see if it tells us how he will return!

Scripture has a lot to say about his return.

- **Revelation 19:11** tells us very plainly that *“heaven is opened and Yeshua is astride a white horse, coming to judge and wage war.”*
- **Revelation 19:14** tells us *“The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.”*

Therefore, since Yeshua returns on a white horse, and **Acts 1:11-12** tells us he ascended the same way, there can be absolutely no doubt that Yeshua ascended on the back of a white horse.

Not A Disappearing Act - Yeshua

The Ascension and Return in a Picture

Here is my mind's eye picture of how Yeshua returns along with his army of people, and is also therefore how he ascended . . .



Conclusions

Deuteronomy 19:15 *“One witness alone will not be sufficient . . . the matter will be established only if there are two or three witnesses.”*

Two or more witnesses are required to establish a matter according to numerous scriptures (see also Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; Matthew 18:16; John 8:17; 2nd Corinthians 13:1; and Hebrews 10:28).

- **We have many witnesses** that the word Harpazo does *not* indicate an instant disappearance event – merely an event that takes place forcefully, fervently, or enthusiastically.
- **We have at least twelve witnesses that** without a doubt, as Yeshua ascended into heaven he was watched by his talmidim who had to be spoken to by angels to quit looking into the clouds and get back to living – approximately ten days before Shavuot.

Once again, it was *not* an instant disappearance event – **Yeshua was watched.**

Conclusions

Deuteronomy 19:15 “*One witness alone will not be sufficient . . . the matter will be established only if there are two or three witnesses.*”

Without a doubt, Yeshua ascended into heaven on his white horse – *approximately ten days before Shavuot*.

He will return the same way, and his Bride will return with him, also astride white horses!

I like to picture Yeshua, as he stands nearby his talmidim, either whistling, or perhaps, just calling out.

Not only do his sheep know his voice, so apparently do his horses!

And this particular horse, is special – he is the King Of Horses.

I am about to

rattle some cages

upset some carts

and

ruffle some feathers

so fasten your seatbelts

Sound Doctrine

Teaching that Yeshua or others instantly disappear (Harpazo), much less disappear in any manner, is not Biblically sound doctrine.

Even when the word disappear is used in these verses, it is to be understood in the same way that one says: *“Billy took off and disappeared into the forest – he vanished into the trees.”* No one would imagine that Billy vanished in a twinkling of an eye!!

Neither should one assume the Biblical accounts of any person, property, sailing ship, or even words be interpreted to mean that they vanished in a twinkling of an eye!!

It would go well with those that teach such unsound doctrines to be aware of **1st Timothy 6:3-4** which states: *“If anyone teaches differently and does not agree to the sound precepts of our Lord, Yeshua the Messiah, and to the doctrine that is in keeping with godliness, he is swollen with conceit and understands nothing.”*

*Y'varekh'kha Yahweh v'yishmerekha
Ya'er Yahweh panav eleikha vichunekka
Yissa Yahweh panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom*

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.