

# Will the Rapture of the Church Occur at Shavuot (Pentecost)?

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Rev 19:7*





To answer this question, we need to start with an understanding of:

- The Bride of Christ
- The Rapture
- The Feasts of the Lord
- Biblical Typology that reveals things to come

# *The Bride of Christ*



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- The New Testament calls Jesus the “bridegroom” and the Church is His “bride.” These are metaphors, given so we can better understand our spiritual union with Christ, now and in glory.
- The Bible uses many metaphors to help us better understand. In addition to the Bride of Christ, Christians are also called the Body of Christ, the Children of God, the Shepherd’s sheep, the Teacher’s disciples, the Master’s bondservants, the stones of God’s house, the workers in God’s field, the subjects of the King, the citizens of Heaven, and more.
- We are focusing on the Bride of Christ

# *The Bride of Christ*



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- In the beginning, God created man and woman to be one in unity and living in perfect harmony with each other and their God. Although that changed when Adam sinned, it is God's plan to restore that relationship of perfect unity. It began with the cross of Christ.
- Jesus' death was the final atonement for man's sins. When one repents and trusts in Jesus, Jesus forgives the sinner and washes the person in His blood, making the person pure and spotless, worthy to receive the Holy Spirit and the imputed righteousness of Christ. This great salvation makes one worthy to enter into the eternal glory that Jesus promised (John 3:16, 11:26).

## *The Bride of Christ*



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- Thereby when a sinner receives salvation, the person becomes a part of the Church, which is the Bride of Christ — a betrothed (engaged) bride, pledged to her Husband, and being prepared for her Husband and the wedding that will consummate the union.
- The Holy Spirit who indwells believers is the pledge of that which is to come. He is the promise of the marriage to come in the same way that an engagement ring is a pledge of marriage to come.
- The symbolism of a Jewish wedding teaches us a great deal about the Church being the Bride of Christ.

# *The Bride of Christ*



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- *The Proposal*. In asking a woman to marry, a Jewish man pledged his life to his prospective bride, not knowing her answer.
  - Jesus gave His life for us (pledged Himself to us), while we were yet sinners (Rom 5:8)
- The woman could then choose to accept the suitor's pledge and pledge herself to him, or she could choose to reject his offer.
  - Salvation is a choice of turning from self and pledging oneself to Christ.



# *The Bride of Christ*



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- *Saying Yes.* Once the woman accepted the suitor's invitation and pledged her life to him, the marriage contract began. The marriage contract was a free choice, based on love and desire. It was not an arranged marriage, forced upon someone. (In the same way, God doesn't force salvation on anyone)
- *The Betrothal.* In ancient Israel, the betrothal was celebrated. It was a covenant and therefore had great significance and was a legal contract. The couple would publicly declare their pledges to each other and the contract became binding, requiring a divorce if it were to be broken.
  - This is symbolized by baptism (or confirmation) a Christian's life. One publicly declares one's faith in Jesus and pledges to live in faithfulness to Him and in accordance with His will and ways.

# *The Bride of Christ*



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- The Betrothal Period, in ancient Israel, lasted one year or longer. The wedding ceremony consummated the marriage and the couple began living together, united as one, as husband and wife.
- This betrothal period was different from our modern-day engagements.
  - It was a legally binding contract, not easily broken.
  - It was a time period of preparation for their new life. (Sadly, modern-day engagements are often only a time period of preparing for the wedding ceremony because so many engaged couples live together.)
  - The betrothed man returned to his father's home to build a home for his future bride (Jesus returned to Heaven and is preparing a place for us John 14:1-3).
    - The betrothed woman prepared for the wedding and for her life as a wife and mother. (We are being prepared: Rev 19:7)
    - When the betrothal period ended, the groom would return for his bride (symbolic of the Rapture).



# *The Bride of Christ*



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- *The Betrothal Gift.* A Jewish man would signify the sincerity of his pledge to his prospective bride with a gift. It served to remind the woman of his love for her and his promise that he would return for her.
  - Our betrothal gift is the Holy Spirit (John 16). He is both the guarantee of our salvation (Eph 1:14, Eph 4:30) and the One who assures us (the Comforter, John 16:7) and prepares us (our Teacher, John 14:26) until we go to Heaven. What a great gift!!!
- *The Consummation of the Marriage.* When the home was prepared and the bride was ready, the groom returned for his bride.
  - Jesus has promised He will come for us, His Bride. This is the Rapture, the bodily resurrection of all who are in Christ.

*John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*



# The Rapture of the Church

The Return of the Bridegroom for His Bride

1 Corinthians 15:52

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17



# The Rapture of the Church



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- It is the event that takes place when Jesus returns for His Church.
- It is the bodily resurrection of all who are in Christ. The souls of those who have died are in Heaven, but their bodies lie in the grave. They will rise first. Then those who are alive at Jesus' coming will rise.

*1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

## *The Rapture of the Church*

- At the Rapture, all will be given a new, glorified body likened unto Jesus' own resurrected and glorified body.

***Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

- All Christians believe that Jesus will come again. They also must believe that there will be a rapture as explained in **1 Cor 15:52, 1 Thess 4:16-17**.

However, there is much disagreement as to when this will take place and how it will happen.

Be ready to discuss such matters, but do not let the discussions become divisive. Be prepared to share verses from the Bible that explain The Rapture and the bodily resurrection of the Church.



# *The Rapture of the Church*



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- Will The Rapture take place before, during, or after the Tribulation?

We believe that the Bible teaches a pre-tribulation rapture, because:

- It closes the Church age and begins a time the Bible calls the Seventieth Week of Daniel (Daniel 9). God will turn back to Israel to reveal Himself and will pour out judgment on the earth, purposing to draw people unto Himself.
- This is called the Time of Jacob's Trouble in Jeremiah 30:7. Jacob is a reference to the Jews, not the Church. Jacob's name became Israel, so this refers to a time of Israel's trouble.
- Revelation 7 tells of 144,000 Jewish men who will be sealed by God to proclaim the gospel to Israel and to the nations.
- Those martyred in the Tribulation will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev 15:3)

# *The Rapture of the Church*



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- Why Isn't the Word Rapture in the Bible?
- The word “rapture” is in the Bible....just not in our English Bibles.
- The Greek word is “harpazo” (1 Th 4:17) and it means “caught up” or “the catching away.”
- The Latin translation of “harpazo” is “rapturo” from where we get the English word rapture (found in the Latin Vulgate, circa 382).
- Our English Bibles translate the Greek word “harpazo” as “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians and as “pluck” in John 10:28 — no one can pluck us, or catch us, away from Jesus.



## The Rapture of the Church

- The Greek word harpazo indicates a swift, quick action. In [Acts 8:39](#) the word harpazo is how Philip was “*caught away*” after salvation had come to the Ethiopian eunuch. He was quickly, swiftly, taken from one place to another.
- The Rapture of the Church will also be swift. Those who are dead in Christ and those who remain alive will be quickly taken from one place to another—from this world to Heaven. We are told that when we will be “*caught up*,” we will be bodily “*raised...*” and that it will take place “*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*” ([1 Cor 15:52](#)).
- Read more about the Rapture: [Why a Pre-Trib Rapture?](#) [What is the Rapture?](#) [What Is Shavuot / Pentecost? Does It Prophecy of End Times?](#)

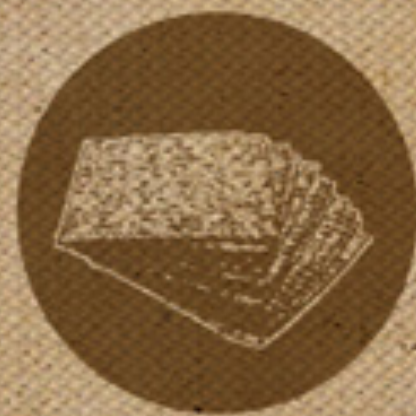
To better understand the Rapture and when it might occur, let's look at .....



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# THE SEVEN FEASTS

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# *The Feasts of the Lord*



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There are seven feasts, prescribed and ordained by the Lord.

- Spring Feasts
  1. The Feast of Pesach/Passover
  2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread
  3. The Feast of First Fruits
- Late Spring/Early Summer
  1. The Feast of Shavuot/Weeks
- Fall Feasts
  1. Feast of Trumpets
  2. Day of Atonement
  3. Feast of Sukkot/Tabernacles

## *The Feasts of the Lord - Pesach/Passover*

- In the Church, we also have three celebrations annually. The early spring celebration of Easter is near the time of Passover (and sometimes coincides with it).
- Pentecost Sunday is a celebration of the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), when the Church was born by the giving of the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. It takes place near the time of Shavuot (and sometimes coincides with it).
- The third celebration for Christians is Christmas. It is a time of remembering when Jesus came to earth to tabernacle (dwell) with man. Although the Church celebrates Christmas on December 25th, it is well known that Jesus was most likely born at the time of the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) in late September (Read: [Was Jesus born in September? Should we celebrate Jesus birthday in September?](#))



# *The Feasts of the Lord - Spring Feast Fulfilled*



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## 1. The Feast of Passover — Jesus was the Passover Lamb

*John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold **the Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

*1 Cor 5:7 ...Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*

Jesus was the perfect, spotless Lamb. His blood was pure and shed for all mankind to pay for man's sins. Just as in the first Passover, the Angel of Death will passover anyone who is covered in the blood of Jesus and Jesus will deliver the person out of bondage and into freedom.

## *The Feasts of the Lord - Spring Feast Fulfilled*

### 2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread:

*1 Cor 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*

The Feast of Unleavened Bread centered around eating: the passover lamb and unleavened bread.

1. The meal prepared them to leave Egypt and to enter into a new life by God's deliverance. They partook of the sacrificial lamb of Passover. We partake of Jesus in salvation. Jesus' sacrifice of His life's blood, to cover and wash away our sins, is the only way to be delivered from bondage to sin and to be prepared to enter into newness of life.
2. During the time of Passover, the Israelites were instructed to remove all leaven (representing sin) from their homes. Jesus had no leaven (sin) in Him. Jesus is the true Unleavened Bread:

*John 6:33, 35 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*



# *The Feasts of the Lord - Spring Feast Fulfilled*



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## 2. The Feast of First Fruits:

*Lev 23:10-11 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.*

The Feast of First Fruits of the Passover took place on Sunday morning, the day after the Jewish Sabbath. Jesus fulfilled this, when He ascended to His Father on Sunday morning at the same time the priests in the Temple were making this offering to the Lord.

*1 Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

## *The Feasts of the Lord - Sukkot/Tabernacles*

- Before we consider Shavuot, the late spring/early summer feast, let's consider the fall feast, the Feast of Sukkot (aka. Feast of Booths or the Feast of Tabernacles). Jesus will completely fulfill the fall feast in His second advent:
  1. Feast of Trumpets — In ancient Israel, trumpets heralded all significant events. Trumpets will sound when Jesus returns.
  2. The Day of Atonement — Blood will rise to the horse's bridles when Jesus returns in judgement.
  3. The Feast of Sukkot/Tabernacles — Jesus will come again to tabernacle (dwell) with man on earth. Again, He will be Emmanuel (God with us) and He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords from His throne in God's holy city, Jerusalem.



## *The Feasts of the Lord - Shavuot, The Feast of Weeks*



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Shavuot is the feast between the spring and fall feasts. It takes place in late spring or early summer (late May or early June).

Instead of a seven day period of celebration, it is a one day festival.

Shavuot is also called the Feast of Weeks. Shavuot is the Hebrew name of the feast. In Greek, it's Pentekoste, and in English, Pentecost.

Now, with basic understanding of the Bride of Christ, the Rapture, the Feasts of the Lord, and some biblical typology, let address the question at hand...



# Will the Rapture of the Church Occur at Pentecost (Shavuot)?

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Rev 19:7*





# *The Rapture of the Church*



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There are many who think that the Rapture will occur at the time of the Feast of Trumpets in the fall. This is usually based on a verse from 1 Corinthians that tells a trumpet will sound:

*1 Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

It is correct, that when the Rapture occurs a trumpet will sound. But trumpets sounded for many major events in ancient Israel, so this does not put the time of the Rapture at the Feast of Trumpets.

There is many reasons to think that the Rapture of the Church will occur at the time of Shavuot (Pentecost).



## *Typology and Reasons that Point to the Rapture at Shavuot*

Unlike the Feasts of Passover and Sukkot, which are both seven day festivals, Shavuot was declared by the Lord to be a one-day feast (Lev 23:15ff).

Shavuot is also an undated feast, meaning the day is not set by the calendar. It is set by counting 50 days from Passover's Feast of First Fruits.

## Reasons Why the Rapture Could Occur at the Time of Shavuot

### **Shavuot celebrated the wheat harvest.**

Typologically, the wheat growing in the fields between the spring feast (barley harvest) and fall feast (fruit harvest) represents the Church growing in the world between Jesus' first coming and second coming. The wheat will be gathered unto Jesus (John 4:35) at the harvest (the Rapture).



# *Typology and Reasons that Point to the Rapture at Shavuot*



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**At Shavuot, the Jews were instructed to bake two loaves of leavened bread and offer them to the Lord ([Leviticus 23:17](#)).**

Leaven represents sin in the Bible. During Passover they were instructed to remove all leaven from their homes (symbolic of removing sin from their lives). So why would the Israelites offer two loaves of bread, baked *with* leaven to God? In type, the two loaves represent two people groups —Jews and Gentiles. In the Church (in Christ), Jews and Gentiles become one. This is symbolized by the two loaves of bread that look the same. The two loaves also have leaven in them (because sin still dwells in believers). But the leaven (sin) is covered by the finished (baked) bread (the Bread of Heaven, Jesus). Therefore, the two loaves are acceptable unto the Lord.

**Jewish tradition tells that Enoch was born at the time of Shavuot.**

Enoch was raptured by God (Gen 5:24) and Jewish tradition claims that his rapture was at the same time of year as his birth. In type, Enoch is considered a “picture” or a “whisper” of the primarily Gentile Church. (Enoch was a Gentile, predating Abraham. Enoch walked with God and was taken, i.e. raptured. Gen 5:24)



# *Typology and Reasons that Point to the Rapture at Shavuot*



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Since we know that the Church was “born” at the time of Shavuot (and Enoch was born at Shavuot), could it be that the Church will be raptured at the same time of year that it was “born” (just as tradition says Enoch was)? It seems very plausible, but remember that this is biblical reasoning, not scriptural fact.

## **Pattern Completed in the three Feasts**

1. Passover: With the first coming of Christ culminating in His death, burial, and resurrection, Passover was fulfilled.
2. Shavuot: With the birth of the Church at Shavuot (Pentecost), Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to indwell believers and He partially fulfilled this feast.

Jesus will come again. It will be to gather those who belong to Him, those whose bodies lie in graves and those who are His and still alive on earth.



# *Typology and Reasons that Point to the Rapture at Shavuot*

When Jesus comes for His own, He will not set His foot on the earth. We will meet Him in the air:

*1 Th 4:16-17* For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall [bodily] rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together [rapture] with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...**

*1 Cor 15:21, 23* But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. [at the time of Passover] For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive [bodily resurrected]. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward **they that are Christ's at his coming.**

Jesus promised He would come for His own:

*John 14:3* And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself;** that where I am, there ye may be also.



## *Typology and Reasons that Point to the Rapture at Shavuot*



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3. Finally, in Jesus' second coming He will fulfill the fall Feast of Tabernacles. In His' first coming, He came to tabernacle (dwell) with man (Emmanuel, God with us). And in His second coming, He will come again to tabernacle with man.

### Conclusion

Considering that Jesus' first coming completely fulfilled the spring Feast of Passover, and His second coming will completely fulfill the fall Feast of Tabernacles, it seems very reasonable that the early summer Feast of Shavuot has been only partially fulfilled with the birth of the Church and will be completely fulfilled with the Rapture of the Church.

Typologically, the two loaves of bread for the offering at Shavuot have already been made and baked (representing the Church). They are finished and are now being waved unto the Lord. When Jesus returns for His bride, and raptures the Church to Heaven, in type, the two loaves offering, will be received by God.



Some time following (no one knows how long) the Seventieth Week of Daniel will begin (ie. the seven years of tribulation), after which Jesus will return (at the Feast of Tabernacles) and His reign of righteousness on earth will begin.

## The King of Kings

*Isa 32:1 Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall sit in judgment.*

*Jer 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

*Num 14:21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD*

*Psa 72:19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.*

*Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory*

*Isa 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

*Hab 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*



# Comparison of Passover and Shavuot



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## **Feast of Passover/Feast of Firstfruits**

- Seven-day feast.
- Set according to God's prescribed date.
- Bread made without leaven, which represents sin.
- Commanded to remove all leaven from the home.
- The killing of the pure and spotless paschal Lamb (fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God)
- The Blood applied to the doorposts of the homes and the Angel of death passing over the blood covered homes (symbolic of the blood of our Lamb that covers the tabernacles of our bodies and removes our death curse)
- Passover commemorates God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt (symbolic of our deliverance from sin and death)
- Firstfruits offering of a sheaf of grain from the barley harvest (symbolic of thanksgiving unto the Lord for His mighty works and fulfilled by Jesus, the first fruits of the resurrection).



# *Comparison of Passover and Shavuot*



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## **Shavuot/Feast of Weeks**

- One-day feast in Israel (a two-day feast outside of Israel).
- Set according to the counting of weeks (7 weeks of the counting of the omer) + one day of rest. The 50th day is the feast of Firstfruits of Passover.
- God's giving of the Law at Sinai, 50 days after delivering His people out of Egypt, happened at the time of Shavuot (although it pre-dated the Feasts of the Lord).
- Firstfruits offering of two loaves of leavened bread made from fine flour from the wheat harvest, brought to the Temple and offered to God.



# When will the Rapture take place?

We do not know. But we do know that we are getting closer every day.  
The next event on the prophetic calendar is the Rapture. Keep looking up...



*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing  
of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13*