

THE RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING OF MESSIAH

LESSON ONE

Matthew 24:1-3 CJB

- (1) As Yeshua left the Temple and was going away, his disciples came and called his attention to its buildings.
- (2) But he answered them, "You see all these? Yes! I tell you, they will be **totally destroyed**—not a single stone will be left standing!"
- (3) When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that you are coming, and that the world is ending?"

The answer that Yeshua gave the disciples was a warning about **difficulty and hardship**. Yeshua cautioned his disciples to expect more of what they had experienced in the past: **wars, earthquakes, famines, and persecution**. Yet in the midst of all that, they could remain confident that Elohim would be with them and they would be victorious.

Mark 13:3-13 CJB

- (3) As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately,
- (4) "Tell us, **when will these things happen?** And what sign will show when all these things are about to be accomplished?"
- (5) Yeshua began speaking to them: "Watch out! Don't let anyone fool you!
- (6) Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will fool many people.
- (7) When you hear the **noise of wars nearby** and the news of wars far off, don't become frightened. Such things must happen, **but the end is yet to come**.
- (8) For peoples will fight each other, and nations will fight each other, there will be earthquakes in various places, there will be famines; this is but the **beginning of the 'birth pains.'**
- (9) "But you, **watch yourselves!** They will hand you over to the local Sanhedrins, you will be beaten up in synagogues, and on my account you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.
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- (12) **Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child;** children will turn against their parents and have them put to death;
- (13) and everyone will hate you because of me. **But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.**

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Mark 13:26-27 CJB

(26) Then they will see the **Son of Man coming in clouds** with tremendous power and glory.

(27) He will **send out his angels and gather** together his chosen people from the four winds, from the **ends of the earth** to the **ends of heaven**.

There is **no question** that the Lord is coming back. There is **no question** that the congregation or those who have been called out of the world to become members of the kingdom will **be transported to another place**. Called the **"rapture"**.

Rapture is a word that is not found in the bible but describes an event that will take place in history. The term is derived from the Latin verb *rapere*, which means **"to transport from one place to another."**

An example of the rapture in the old testament are **Enoch and Lot**.

1. **Enoch** was **raptured** from the world before the Flood judgment

Genesis 5:24

(24) Enoch walked with Elohim, and then he wasn't there, because Elohim took him.

It is believed that **Enoch** was **transported** to heaven. He was raptured up.

2. **Lot** was **raptured** from Sodom before the fire judgment.

Genesis 19:22-24 CJB

(22) Hurry, and escape to that place, because I can't do anything until you arrive there." For this reason the city was named Zo`ar [*small*].

(23) By the time Lot had come to Zo`ar, the sun had risen over the land.

(24) Then Yahweh caused sulfur and fire to rain down upon Sodom and `Gomorrah from Yahweh out of the sky.

Lot was **transported** from Sodom and Gomorrah to Zoar to save him from being destroyed when the Lord destroyed those cities. Therefore, lot was **raptured**.

To be raptured does not always mean to go up. Is to be transported from place to another place.

The question however, **is when** will the transport of believes take place?

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Paul gives us a description of the rapture in **1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthian 15**.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 CJB

(15) When we say this, we base it on the Lord's own word: we who remain alive **when the Lord comes** will certainly not take precedence over those who have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a **rousing cry**, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with **God's shofar**; those who died united with the Messiah will be the **first to rise**;

(17) then we who are left **still alive** will be **caught up** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 CJB

(51) Look, I will tell you a secret — **not all of us will die!** But we will all be changed!

(52) 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**.

(53) For this material which can decay must be clothed with imperishability, this which is mortal must be clothed with immortality.

So, it is going to happen. The Lord Yeshua is coming back to earth **a second time**.

The **first time** he came was to **redeem** humanity from the bondage of sin. The **second** time he come will be to bring those who are redeemed; those who believe in his name, to be with him forever, in his everlasting kingdom.

There are **three doctrinal** theological teaching on the **time that the rapture** or taking away will occur.

1. There is the pre-**tribulation** which says the rapture will take place prior to the beginning of the seven years of tribulation. At the beginning of the reign of the anti-messiah or anti-christ. They believe the congregation/church **will not** experience **any** of the wrath of Yahweh which will be poured out upon the world.
2. There is the mid-**tribulation**, who says the rapture will occur at the middle of the seven-year tribulation. They believe the congregation will continue to remain on earth during the first half of the anti-messiah reign. The first 3 1/2 years of false peace before the anti-Christ reveal himself as to who he really is.

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3. There is the **post-tribulation** who says the rapture will occur at **the end** of the seven-year tribulation.

Since each group **has scriptures** to support their decisions, I believe it is helpful and important for us to try to see the **big picture** of how Yahweh is dealing with the **world system of things**.

It is good to know **the WHY, the HOW** as well as **the WHEN** the Lord will bring it all to an end. Everything that has been going on since the creation of the world leads to the final conclusion of Yahweh's plans for this present era.

Today, **before** I deal with the **rapture and second** coming of the messiah, I want to try to answer the **WHY**, by giving you the background or foundation.

This will help you to understand **why** it is necessary for the Lord to make **everything new**.

Let us begin in the book of Genesis. The book of the beginning.

Genesis 1:27-28

(27) So Elohim **created humankind in his own image**; in the image of Elohim he created him: male and female he created them.

(28) Elohim blessed **them**: Elohim said to **them**, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. **Rule over** the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth."

The **authority** to rule the earth was originally given to **Adam and Eve** collectively.

Now when we come to the **third chapter** of geneses we read.

Genesis 3:1-15 CJB

(1) Now the **serpent was more crafty** than any wild animal which Yahweh, Elohim, had made. He said to the woman, "Did Elohim really say, 'You are not to eat from any tree in the garden?'"

(2) The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat from the fruit of the trees of the garden,

(3) but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden Elohim said, 'You are neither to eat from it nor touch it, or you will die.' "

(4) The serpent said to the woman, "**It is not true** that you will surely die;

(5) because Elohim knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Elohim, knowing good and evil."

(6) When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it had a pleasing appearance and that the tree was desirable for making one wise, she **took some**

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of its fruit and ate. She **also** gave some to her husband, who was with her; and **he ate.**

(7) Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to make themselves loincloths.

(14) Yahweh, Elohim, said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all livestock and wild animals. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust as long as you live.

(15) I will put **animosity between you and the woman**, and between your descendant and her descendant; he will **bruise your head**, and you will bruise his heel."

Adam and eve disobedient to Yahweh's instruction, brought **sin** into the world. And because this happened before children were born to Adam and Eve, it caused all of humanity to be separated from the most high holy Elohim.

Yahweh immediately set forth his plan to **correct the situation**. However, it would need to go through a **chain of events** that would covered many years.

In Verse **fifteen** Yahweh gives us a **glimpse into His plan**.

*I will put **animosity between you and the woman**, and between your descendant and her descendant; he will **bruise your head**, and you will bruise his heel."*

Now the apostle Paul explains what happened in Romans 5.

Romans 5:12 CJB

(12) Here is how it works: it was through one individual that sin entered the world, and through sin, death; and in this way death passed through to the whole human race, inasmuch as everyone sinned.

This explains **why** Yahweh **must make everything new**. He will not only redeem the human race, but he must also **redeem the earth** back to its original state.

Revelation 21:5 CJB

(5) Then the **One sitting on the throne said**, "Look! I am making **everything new!**" Also, he said, "Write, 'These words are true and trustworthy!'" "

The message bible translation explains what happened this way:

Romans 5:12-19 (TMSG)

¹²You know the story of how Adam **landed us in the dilemma** we're in—first sin, then death, and **no one** exempt from either sin or death.

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¹³That sin **disturbed relations** with God in everything and everyone, but the **extent** of the disturbance was **not clear** until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss **separating us from God**, dominated the landscape from **Adam to Moses**.

¹⁸**Here it is in a nutshell:** Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, **another person** did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, **he got us into life!**

¹⁹One man said **no to God** and put many people in the wrong; **one man said yes** to God and put many in the right.

That one man that Paul is speaking of is **Yeshua**, the son of the living God.

However, as I said Yahweh's plan for our redemption would **not happen overnight**. It would span over a period of **thousands of years**.

Keeping in mind that Yahweh does not calculate time as we do. **For a thousand years are as one day with him.**

So, to implement his plan. **Yahweh chose one man, Abraham**, through that man came **one nation, Israel**. From the nation of Israel, He chose one tribe, Judah. From the tribe of Judah, he chose one king, David. From the descendant of David, came **the redeemer** of the world.

Yahweh made a covenant with the **nation of Israel** and chose them to be a **kingdom** of kings and priests.

However, When the kingdom of Israel **ceased** to exist, Yahweh proceeded to establish **another kingdom**. This kingdom would be **different**. Although it would be a continuation of the kingdom of David because its king is a descendant of David of the tribe of Judah.

This kingdom will be the **last kingdom** of Judah because it will be a Kingdom that will last forever.

Yeshua announce this kingdom When he began his earthly ministry. He said in:

Matthew 4:17 CJB

(17) From that time on, Yeshua began proclaiming, "**Turn from your sins to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!**"

The kingdom Yeshua is referring to is the **everlasting kingdom** that will rule this world **after** everything has been **renewed**. Yeshua was calling those who would hear to turn from their sin and become citizens in his kingdom.

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Citizens in the **eternal kingdom** are **not always** protected from danger. Nor are they always protected from **suffering**. It is not those who have an **easy life** that will be saved but those who will **endure all thing** and are faithful to Yeshua until the end.

As Yeshua said in-

Matthew 24:7-13 CJB

- (7) For peoples will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world;
- (8) all this is but the beginning of the 'birth-pains.'
- (9) At that time you **will be arrested and handed over to be punished and put to death**, and all peoples will hate you because of me.
- (10) At that time many will be **trapped into betraying** and hating each other,
- (11) many false prophets will appear and fool many people;
- (12) and many **people's love will grow cold** because of increased distance from scriptures.
- (13) **But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.**

Please note: a very important point. Yeshua did not say that his disciples **would not go through the persecution**.

Rather he encouraged them to hold firm to their faith in him **even to death**.

Throughout the **ages** believers in Yahweh have suffered some kind of persecution.

John 16:33 CJB

(33) "I have said these things to you so that, **united with me**, you may have shalom. In the world, you have **tribulation**. But be brave! I have conquered the world!"

Yahweh promise to make all thing new. At the end of the age, He will pour out a serial of **plagues** upon this earth to cleanse it and purify it from the sin brought upon it by Adam.

The wicked, those who have rejected Elohim's plan of redemption, will be destroyed.

However, Yeshua has a plan for those who are in him. He will **protect** us and bring us **through** to live with him forever in his everlasting kingdom.

HOW WILL HE DO IT?

We will answer that question in our next lessons.