

Spring Rapture?

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THE BIBLE TEACHES that there is an appointed season for every activity under the sun (Ecc. 3).

Here are eight reasons spring is a plausible season for the Rapture:

1. HARVEST

Spring is the season of the wheat-harvest festival, Pentecost (Lev 23:15–22). Prophetically, the wheat harvest foreshadows the gathering of believers into God’s “barn” at the Rapture (Matt. 13:30).

2. WEDDINGS

Spring is the season of weddings:

- Israel entered into a wedding-covenant with God in the spring, on Pentecost (Ex. 19).
- The Church became betrothed to God by receiving the Holy Spirit in the spring, on Pentecost (Acts 2; Eph. 1:13, 14).
- The Gentile Ruth married the Jewish redeemer Boaz in the spring, around Pentecost (Ruth 4).

Also, in the wedding–rapture allegory in Song of Solomon, the shepherd comes to gather and spirit away his beloved Gentile maid in the spring:

“The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; he is looking through the windows, gazing through the lattice. My beloved spoke, and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit, and the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!’” (Song 2:8–13).

Consider the individual clues as to the season:

The “winter is past” indicates spring has arrived and summer is near.

The “rain is over and gone” indicates May–June, the beginning of the dry season in Israel.

The “flowers appearing on the earth” indicates peak flower season in Israel, which is March through June.

The “voice of the turtledove” refers to a migratory bird that arrives in Israel beginning in spring.

The “early figs” and “blossoming grape vines” point to May–June in Israel, when figs first appear and grapevines put forth fragrant blossoms.

Seeing that spring is when early figs ripen, it is also interesting to note that . . .

- Figs represent Jews (Amos 8:1, 2).
- Figs that ripen early are said to be very good, or desirable (Hos. 9:10).
- Early ripe figs, because they are desirable, are quickly “snatched up” (Isa. 28:4 NLT).

Could the figs that ripen early, around June, be symbolic of believing Jews “snatched up” at the wedding–rapture of the Church?

3. BIRTH

Spring is the season of birth:

- Animals are born in the spring (Job 39).
- Israel’s greatest ruler, King David, was born in the spring, on Pentecost.
- Enoch, a prophetic type of the Church, was born in the spring, on Pentecost.
- The Nation of Israel was born and, later, reborn in the spring (Circa 1500 BC and 1948 AD).
- The Church, or body of Christ, was born in the spring, on Pentecost (Acts 2).

Correspondingly, the Rapture is likened to a birth: “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise ... the earth will give birth to the dead” (Isa. 26:19).

4. SINGING

Spring is the season of singing:

“The winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come” (Song 2:10–12).

Correspondingly, the Rapture is a time of singing:

- “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise ... You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! (Isa. 26:19).
- “Those the Lord has rescued will ... enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads” (Isa. 35:10).
- “And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you [Lord] to take the scroll and to open its seals’” (Rev. 5:9).

5. NEW BEGINNINGS

Spring is the season of redemption, transformation, and new beginnings.

Springtime is when . . .

- The New Year begins (Ex. 12: 1, 2).
- The harvest begins (Lev. 23:9–14).
- God’s people are liberated from captivity (Ex. 12; Ez. 7; Neh. 2).
- Decrees are issued (Ez. 7; Neh. 2).
- The fig tree puts forth leaves (Matt. 24:32).
- God’s trumpet is heard from on high (Ex. 19: 16, 19, 20).
- Resurrection and ascension occur (Matt. 27:51–53).
- New dispensations begin, e.g. the Age of Law and Church Age (Ex. 20; Acts 2).

The themes redemption, transformation, and new beginnings—all associated with the spring season—point to the Rapture.

6. DISAPPEARANCE

Summer (following spring) is when the godly people are said to have “disappeared” from the earth: “How miserable I am! I feel like the fruit picker after the harvest who can find nothing to eat ... The godly people have all disappeared; not one honest person is left on the earth” (Mic. 7:1, 2 NLT).

7. LEFT BEHIND

Summer (following spring) is when the Jews lament not being saved at the harvest: “The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved” (Jer. 8:20). Another translation reads: “Spring and summer have come and gone, but still the LORD hasn't rescued us” (CEV).

8. JUDGMENT

Summer (following spring) is when Israel is deemed ripe for judgment: “This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: a basket of summer fruit ... Then the LORD said to me, ‘The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer’” (Amos 8:1, 2).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Biblically, spring is the appointed season for harvest, weddings, birth, singing, redemption, transformation, and new beginnings.

What do these themes have in common? They each describe the awesome event we call the Rapture:

- The Rapture is a ‘harvest’ as believers are gathered into God’s barn (Matt. 13:30).
- The Rapture is a ‘wedding’ between the Church and the Lord (Matt. 25).
- The Rapture is a ‘birth’ as the earth gives birth to the resurrected dead (Isa. 26:19).
- The Rapture is a time of ‘singing’ as the resurrected saints sing praises to the Lord (Ps. 30:3, 4; Rev. 5:9).
- The Rapture is a time of ‘redemption’ as the bodies of believers are redeemed from the curse of death (Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:13, 14).
- The Rapture is a ‘transformation’ as corrupt bodies are changed to incorruptible in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52, 53).

- The Rapture is a ‘new beginning’ as a new dispensation called the Day of the Lord commences (1 Thess. 4:16, 17; 5:1, 2).

One of God’s fundamental attributes is that He is consistent and works to patterns (Heb. 13:8; Ecc. 1:9). Seeing that spring embodies the types and themes of the Rapture, it is a plausible, if not likely, season for this world-changing event to occur.

NOTES:

1. Scripture divides the year into only two main seasons, “summer and winter” (Gen. 8:22; Ps. 74:17). Thus, spring may be considered the first part of summer (the warm/dry season), and autumn considered the first part of winter (the cold/rainy season).

2. Pentecost is one of three designated harvest festivals, during which all Israelite males are required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem: “Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. ‘Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread the Festival of Harvest [Pentecost] ... and the Festival of Ingathering [Tabernacles] ... Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord God’” (Ex. 23:14–17). The three harvest festivals correspond to the “order” of resurrections mentioned by Paul (1 Cor. 15:23; Deut. 16:16): The first harvest festival, Unleavened Bread, was fulfilled by Jesus’ resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20). The third harvest festival, Tabernacles, will presumably be fulfilled by a resurrection at the Second Coming (Rev. 20:4–6). This leaves the middle harvest festival, Pentecost, to potentially be fulfilled by the Church’s resurrection–rapture.

More on Pentecost: <https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/49d33e64bf1a4611ba3b791fa97aa65b/CHAPTER%20%20-%20Pentecost.pdf>

3. Jewish tradition holds that the biblical figures King David and Enoch were born on Pentecost.

4. The full passage in Isaiah 26 confirms the Rapture to be a pretribulational event as resurrected believers are told to enter rooms while “the people of earth,” those left behind, face judgment: “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise ... the earth will give birth to the dead. Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the bloodshed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer” (Isa. 26:19–21).

5. Some translations of Song 2:12 add the words “of birds”; e.g., “the time of the singing [of birds] is come” (KJV). The original Hebrew, however, reads simply, “the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land”: <http://biblehub.com/text/songs/2-12.htm>. The Hebrew word translated “singing,” zamir, commonly denotes a song of triumph or praise: <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/2158.htm>.

6. Fig trees in Israel generally produce two crops, one in late June and another in early September:

<https://www.svasthlife.com/fruits/often-asked-when-do-fig-trees-bear-fruit-in-israel.html>

7. The Hebrew word typically translated “perished” in Micah 7:1, 2, ‘abad,’ means “to make vanish” (Strong’s #6:

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6.htm>).