

# **Eight Reasons Late Summer Could Be the Season of the Rapture**

T.W. Tramm – (08/24/24)

SCRIPTURE teaches that there is an appointed season for everything (Ecc. 3). Here are eight reasons late summer could be the season of the Rapture:

## **1. WHEAT HARVEST**

The Rapture occurs during the wheat harvest:

“At the coming of the Son of Man ... two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left” (Matt. 24:39–41).

The wheat harvest in Israel begins in June, with the cutting, or reaping.

The subsequent steps of drying, threshing, winnowing, sifting, and grinding the wheat continue throughout the summer, overlapping the grape harvest (Lev. 26:5 NLT).

Finally, around summer’s end, before the Feast of Tabernacles, the processed wheat is gathered into barns (Deut. 16:13).

The gathering of wheat into the barn is a picture of the gathering of believers at the Rapture:

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him” (2 Thess. 2:1).

“At that time [Jesus] will tell the harvesters ... gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.” (Matt. 13:30).

## **2. GRAPES**

In Song of Songs, tender grapes are the last agricultural sign mentioned before the Gentile maid is “raptured” by her beloved Shepherd–King:

“The vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away” (Song 2:13).

In Israel, grapes are harvested from August to October, or late summer.

### 3. RUTH AND BOAZ’S WEDDING

The wedding of the Gentile Ruth to the Jewish redeemer Boaz is a picture of the Rapture.

While Ruth and Boaz were betrothed, or legally married, around Pentecost, Scripture records that Ruth continued to live with her mother-in-law until the end of the wheat harvest (Ruth 2:23). Some translations specify, “till all the barley and the wheat were laid up in the barns” (DRB).

There are two reasons Ruth may have continued to live with her mother-in-law, despite being legally married to Boaz, until the grain was stored in barns.

The first reason is that Boaz, as the owner of the field, would have been busy overseeing the harvest. It was normal practice in those days for landowners to supervise the harvest, even sleeping on the threshing floor, as a deterrent to theft (Ruth 3:7). Boaz’s work would not have ended at the threshing floor. After winnowing and sifting, the grain had to be measured and portions meted out as various payments or tithes, before the rest could be stored. For these reasons, Boaz could have easily been occupied with the harvest until summer’s end.

A second reason Ruth may not have cohabited with Boaz until summer’s end is a Jewish law called *Havchana*, which requires a divorcee, widow, or new convert to Judaism to wait at least three months after the betrothal before consummating the marriage. The purpose of the law is to ensure that the bride is not already pregnant before marrying, thus avoiding any confusion concerning the lineage of the child. Since Ruth was both a widow *and* a convert to Judaism, it is possible that in accordance with the law of *Havchana*, the wedding was not consummated until three months after the betrothal, in late summer.

### 4. TRUMPETS

The first day of the seventh month, around summer’s end, is when God commands a memorial blowing of trumpets (Lev. 23:24).

While Scripture does not specify what the trumpet blasts memorialize, they are believed to commemorate the original trumpet blast at Sinai, when the Lord descended in a cloud and entered into a “wedding agreement,” the Law, with Israel (Ex. 19). Supporting this view, it was on the first day of the seventh month that Ezra read the Law (wedding agreement) to the people as a reminder of their contract with God, after returning from Babylon (Neh. 8:2).

The trumpet blasts around summer's end are thus a reminder of Israel's wedding and, by association, the Church's betrothal that occurred on the same festival day, centuries later (Acts 2). Since summer's end is a time to remember past wedding agreements, it is a fitting time for the Rapture.

## 5. TRADITIONS OF ELUL

The last full month of summer on the biblical calendar is called "Elul."

According to the rabbis:

- Elul is the "month of the bride." The bridal theme derives from the fact that the name Elul is an acronym for the Hebrew phrase, "I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine" (Song 6:3).
- Elul is when the "King is in the field." The notion that the King is in the field, observing His subjects as they work, evokes the rapture-passage in Matthew: "At the coming of the Son of Man ... two men will be in the field" (24:39, 40).
- Elul 1 marks the beginning of a 40-day period of repentance, leading up to the Day of Atonement. Accordingly, every day during the month of Elul, a trumpet is sounded as a warning blast that Judgment Day is near and fast approaching.
- Elul is when one's fate is sealed for the following year. The notion of being "sealed" recalls the passage in Revelation where 144,000 Jews are sealed by the Holy Spirit, before judgment is poured out on the earth.

The month of Elul begins September 4 this year.

## 6. PEACE AND SECURITY

The fourth Tuesday in September, around summer's end, is when the UN Organization convenes to discuss matters of international "peace and security." This is significant because the sign given by Paul that the Rapture and Judgment Day are imminent is people talking about peace and security:

"While people are saying, 'Peace and security,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape" (1 Thess. 5:3).

Besides the annual peace-and-security meeting, the UN has other eschatological correlations:

- The UN is headquartered in New York City, the location that many believe to be Mystery Babylon, the great city that is judged at the end of the age (Rev. 17, 18).

- The UN was founded on the biblical date Cheshvan 17, the anniversary of Noah's Flood. Jesus says when He returns, it will be "like the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:37–39).
- Since the Rapture is when many are left behind, it is striking that the theme of this years' UN assembly is "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations."

## 7. OTHER ALLUSIONS

Various Bible passages allude to a late-summer rapture, and judgment for Israel:

- Late summer is when the godly people have disappeared, and the wicked are left behind: "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).
- Late summer is when the Jews lament not being saved, or rescued: "The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved" (Jer. 8:20).
- Late summer is when Israel is ripe for judgment: "This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. 'What do you see, Amos?' he asked. 'A basket of ripe fruit,' I answered. Then the LORD said to me, 'The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer'" (Amos 8:1, 2).

## 8. THE BRIDEGROOM TARRIES

In the Parable of the Virgins, the bridegroom shows up later than expected:

"The bridegroom was delayed, and they all became drowsy and slept" (Matt. 25).

Since the Church was betrothed in late spring (Acts 2), and a Jewish betrothal typically lasts for a year, late spring is the expected time for the Bridegroom to appear. His arrival several months later, around summer's end, would thus be perceived as a delay, as in the Parable of the Virgins.

Delaying the Rapture until the end of the harvest season is consistent with God's propensity to rescue His people in the "eleventh hour," and to postpone judgment as long as possible.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In Scripture, late summer is a time of:

- Wheat being gathered.
- Grapes ripening.
- Weddings and wedding reminders.
- Trumpets sounding.
- Repentance and preparation.
- Peace and safety.
- Judgment.
- Delay.

All of these themes point to the Rapture. While only God knows the day and hour, late summer into autumn is a season “ripe” with possibility.

#### NOTES:

1. The gathering of the elect in Matthew 24 refers to the Rapture, not the later Second Coming, as people are engaged in regular activities: “eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, planting, and building” (Matt. 24:37–41; Luke 17:26–29). At the time of the Second Coming, the earth and its inhabitants will be in a state of devastation, due to the wars and divine judgments described in Revelation 8 and 9.

2. Wheat threshing overlaps the grape harvest: “Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land” (Lev. 26:5 NLT). Israel’s grape harvest begins in August:

<https://brill.com/view/book/edcoll/9789004369825/B9789004369825-s007.xml#:~:text=a.&text=The%20grape%20harvest%20in%20modern,their%20growth%20in%20the%20spring.&text=Presses%20and%20Cup%20Marks%2C%22,%2C%20%22Wine%2C%22%20850>.

3. Wheat is gathered into the barn by the Feast of Tabernacles:

<https://www.bible.com/bible/compare/DEU.16.13>

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/4603/jewish/Festival-Of-Ingathering.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4603/jewish/Festival-Of-Ingathering.htm)

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/rosh-hashanah-and-the-mystery-of-the-gezer-calendar/>

4. Wheat harvest (general):

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/botany/wheat2.htm>

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/manners/growing-and-harvesting-grain.htm>

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/medieval-farming-the-farming-year?fbclid=IwAR2Eq1900sfwijiePKsQsRBJPIIW-aNcoWYcYd4v4YWj5-FXBztr3aLeltI>

5. Grapes, harvested in August–October, are also associated with the judgment of nonbelievers: “Another angel ... came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.’ The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath” (Rev. 14:18, 19).

6. Jewish weddings occur in two stages. At the betrothal, the couple is considered legally married. However, they typically do not live together, or consummate the marriage, until a year has passed.

<https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3229-betrothal>

7. Concerning Boaz’s harvest, another factor to consider is that his field was located near Bethlehem, situated on the Judean Mountains. At higher elevations, wheat ripens considerably later and is thus harvested later.

8. Ruth and the three-month separation period before marriage:

[https://www.sefaria.org/Megillat\\_Ruth%3B\\_From\\_Chaos\\_to\\_Kingship%2C\\_Perek\\_2.16.2?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en](https://www.sefaria.org/Megillat_Ruth%3B_From_Chaos_to_Kingship%2C_Perek_2.16.2?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en)

<https://www.etzion.org.il/en/halakha/yoreh-deah/topics-yoreh-deah/tevilat-ha-ger-%E2%80%93-when-couple-converts>

<https://shulchanaruchharav.com/halacha/how-long-must-a-widow-or-divorcee-wait-to-remarry/>

9. The pattern of Ruth and Boaz marrying at the end of the sixth month corresponds to the wedding of the Church to Messiah after 6,000 years, and may explain the symbolism of the six measures of grain Boaz gave to Ruth the night before their betrothal (Ruth 3:15).

10. The United Nations Organization was created after World War Two, on October 24, or Cheshvan 17, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. <https://www.un.org/en/our-work/maintain-international-peace-and-security>

11. Is New York City the Bible’s Mystery Babylon?

[https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/afb9d992650d4d3eac7524d3107ce5d7/Is%20New%20York%20City%20the%20Bibles%20Mystery%20Babylon.pdf)

[35306783/documents/afb9d992650d4d3eac7524d3107ce5d7/Is%20New%20York%20City%20the%20Bibles%20Mystery%20Babylon.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/afb9d992650d4d3eac7524d3107ce5d7/Is%20New%20York%20City%20the%20Bibles%20Mystery%20Babylon.pdf)