

Parade of Planets: A Sign of the Rapture?

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2022 is apparently the year for weddings.

Due to the pandemic, the last couple of years have seen a sharp decline in couples walking down the aisle (2020 saw the lowest numbers since 1963). However, according to The Wedding Report, a group specializing in marriage statistics, 2022 is set to see an explosion of wedding ceremonies before the numbers normalize again in 2023.

From a prophetic perspective, the upsurge in weddings in 2022 is noteworthy for two reasons.

First, according to Luke, Judgment Day will begin at a time when people are “eating, drinking, and marrying” (Luke 17:26, 27). Seeing that every word of Scripture has meaning, it is interesting that weddings are mentioned as a common activity when the end of the age arrives.

Second, earthly weddings are a picture of the ultimate union, the wedding of Jesus and the Church at the Rapture.

Biblical weddings that foreshadow the Rapture include:

- The wedding of Israel to God at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19).
- The betrothal of the Church to God by the receiving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2; Eph. 1:13, 14).
- The wedding of the Gentile Ruth to the Jewish redeemer Boaz (Ruth 4).
- The pairing of the Gentile maid and her beloved shepherd in Song of Solomon (Song 2).

Significantly, all of the above weddings take place in late spring (May–June). Since spring is the appointed season of nuptials in Scripture, it is a plausible time for the rapture–wedding to occur.

PLANET PARADE

With a potential spring rapture–wedding in view, it is interesting to consider a parade, or procession, of planets occurring at this time in 2022.

First, we should note that in Jewish-wedding terminology, the “procession” refers to the lineup of attendants and the escorting of the bride to the wedding-canopy, or chuppah, to meet the groom. With this imagery in mind, it is significant that in the latter part of April this year, the Moon—a symbol of the Bride of Christ—joined four planets, Jupiter, Venus, Mars, and Saturn, in a near perfect line in front of the Sun—a symbol of Jesus the Bridegroom (Ps. 19:4, 5; 84:11). At this time, the Sun was found in the constellation Pisces, the sign depicting the people of the One who is coming.

The lineup of planets continues in various configurations throughout the month of May. Then, in early June, the lineup expands into what is called a “great” planetary parade, an extremely rare gathering of *all* of the planets in the Solar System on the same side of the Sun. At this time, the Sun will be found in Taurus, the sign depicting the Prince who is coming quickly.

A few weeks later, on the first day of summer, the Sun will transition into Gemini, the sign depicting the “wedding union” between man and woman. As this is happening, the Moon, slightly out of the planetary line, will be travelling from planet to planet as it heads toward Gemini to meet up with the Sun.

Finally, around the end of June, the Sun and Moon will meet up in Gemini, the wedding sign. Immediately after the ‘wedding,’ the Moon will enter into the constellation Cancer, the sign portraying the heavenly home of the bride, the eternal resting place of “many mansions” in the Father’s House (John 14:2, 3).

RARITY AND IMPLICATIONS

With June’s celestial wedding procession in view, the question arises, how often does such an alignment occur?

A great planetary parade is extremely rare. Only two have occurred in the past 40 years, one in 2020 and another in 1982. However, neither of these occurred in June–Sivan, the month of weddings. The next great planetary parade will not occur until 2161, about 140 years from now.

Seeing that a procession of this magnitude will not occur again until well into the next century, it is reasonable to ask:

Could the planet parade of 2022 be a sign of the Rapture?

Has God ordered the heavenly bodies to fall into line in a showing of obeisance at the ‘wedding of weddings,’ possibly in June?

One can only wonder.

It is nonetheless fascinating to consider that in a year of so much prophetic convergence, when earthly nuptials are at a high, an ultra-rare planetary procession is occurring in the biblical month of weddings.

Scripture teaches that the heavens 'speak' to us:

"The heavens declare the glory of God ... Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge" (Ps. 19:1, 2).

The message of June's parade of planets seems to be, "Behold, the bridegroom is coming!" (Matt. 25:6).

NOTES:

1. Article – Covid cut US wedding numbers to lowest since 1963:

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220517-covid-cut-2020-us-wedding-numbers-to-lowest-since-1963>

2. As an interesting aside, in Song of Solomon, the shepherd calls on his beloved to "rise up and come away" *twice* (Song 2:10, 13). This may refer to the dual gathering at the Rapture: the "dead in Christ" first, followed by those who "are alive and remain" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

3. June is the month of weddings in pagan traditions (which are often corruptions of biblical truths) as well. One of the traditional names for the full moon of June is the Honey Moon, which is the origin of the term "honeymoon." The goddess Juno, for whom June is named, was the protector of women in all aspects of life, but especially in marriage and childbearing. Thus, a wedding in Juno's month was considered most auspicious:

<https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-june>

<https://www.almanac.com/content/wedding-traditions-customs-and-etiquette#:~:text=June%20was%20traditionally%20the%20most,month%20was%20considered%20most%20auspicious.>

4. Jewish wedding procession:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/arriving-at-the-huppah-or-wedding-canopy/>

5. Planetary parade 2022:

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/space/how-to-view-rare-1000year-planet-parade-over-aussie-skies-this-weekend/news-story/e065d08a16152f51fba393af3a352005>

<https://starwalk.space/en/news/what-is-planet-parade#when-was-the-last-time-all-the-planets-aligned>

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/planetary-parade-spring/>

6. The Sun symbolizes Jesus as the Bridegroom (Ps. 19:4, 5; 84:11).

7. The moon is a symbol of the Bride. In Song of Solomon, the Gentile maid is compared to the moon: "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon" (Song 6:10). The moon is emblematic of the Church as it has no light of its own. It relies entirely upon the sun, a symbol of Jesus, for its light (Ps. 19:4, 5; 84:11). Likewise, man has no light of his own. We were created in the image of God to reflect His brilliance and glory (Gen. 1:27). When we turn to face the majesty of God, when we surrender to Him and seek Him with all our hearts, we reflect His glory, as the moon reflects the glory of the sun (Matt. 5:14).

9. The biblical study of constellations and their meanings is not the same as pagan astrology. As explained by E.W. Bullinger (Witness of the Stars) and others, the constellations, or *mazzaroth* (Hebrew), illustrate God's plan of redemption for humanity. The various star pictures and names communicate different portions of the plan. This heavenly mode of communication is alluded to in the Psalms where it is said, "The heavens declare the glory of God ... Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge" (Ps. 19:1, 2).

10. Constellation signs:

Pisces – The fishes of Him who comes

<http://www.bible-study-lessons.com/Pisces.html>

Taurus – The Prince who is coming

<http://www.bible-study-lessons.com/Taurus.html>

Gemini – The wedding

<http://www.bible-study-lessons.com/Gemini.html>

<http://www.bibletruthonline.com/themeaningofthezodiac.htm>

<https://theway.i-am.site/2020/08/10/gemini-in-the-ancient-zodiac/>

Cancer – The Bride's home

<http://www.bible-study-lessons.com/Cancer.html>