

The Rapture Window

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SPRING is a wondrous time of year.

The once barren trees sprout tender buds, flowers burst forth in a riot of colors, and warmer temps invite home dwellers to open the windows that have been shut all winter, to take in the air scented with fresh cut grass, and the cheerful twittering of birds.

For some prophecy watchers, spring also represents the opening of a metaphorical window—a season of heightened expectation regarding the Rapture, or ‘gathering of the bride,’ as allegorized in the Song of Songs:

“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 puts forth her green figs, and the blossoming grapevines spread their fragrance. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!’” (Song 2:8–13).

Consider the rapture parallels:

- The “voice” of the bridegroom evokes the voice of God at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16; John 5:28, 29).
- The phrase, “Behold, he comes” echoes the rapture phrase, “Behold, the bridegroom is coming!” (Matt. 25:6).
- The bridegroom’s swift approach, “like a gazelle or young stag,” recalls how Jesus comes suddenly (Matt. 24:27; Rev. 16:15).
- The bridegroom’s “looking through the window” and “gazing through the lattice” gives the impression of one emerging from another realm, i.e. heaven, like Jesus at the Rapture (Rev. 4:1; 1 Thess. 4:16).
- The calling of the bride to “Rise up” and “come away,” echoes rapture phrases such as, “Your dead shall arise” and “Come up here” (Isa. 26:19; Rev. 4:1).

With the allegorical picture of the Rapture in view, let us consider the signs of spring mentioned in the second half of the passage: ceasing rains, flowers, turtledoves, green figs, and blossoming grapevines.

In Israel, the setting of the Song of Songs:

- Winter ends March 20.
- The rainy season ends by early April.
- Peak wildflower season runs from mid-February to mid-April.
- The cooing of migratory turtledoves is heard beginning in late March, and markedly from mid-April through May, during the height of their breeding activities.
- Green figs appear in late March to April, and ripen into June.
- Grapevine blossoming, when the vines give forth their sweet delicate fragrance, begins anywhere from the second week of April, to the end of May, depending on temperature and other conditions, and lasts for about two weeks.

For a chart combining the times, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/37h7xjhb>

Having mapped out the seasonal signs, we understand that the spring backdrop of the rapture allegory could be merely figurative, meant to express the theme of regeneration, or resurrection. However, if the signs of spring are a clue as to actual timing, it could be said that the “rapture window” opens in early April.

So, be ready. While the Bridegroom can appear any time, spring seems a particularly apt season for Him to come and say, “Rise up, my love, and come away!”

NOTES:

1. The title “Song of Songs” is a Hebrew idiom, similar to “Holy of Holies” or “King of Kings,” which is indicative of the book’s status as the superlative love poem. In Judaism, the love poem is read annually on the Sabbath during Passover, which marks the beginning of the grain harvest (Lev. 23:15, 16).

2. A striking coincidence is that from the decree that commenced Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy (circa 457 BC), to the present year (2025), marks a period of 354 Sabbatical weeks. Strong's #354 in the Hebrew, *ayyal*, refers to a "stag, or male deer." Strong's #354 in the Greek, *analémpsis*, refers to "a taking up" to heaven. That the Hebrew and Greek words associated with the number 354 refer to a stag and a taking up to heaven is significant because the rapture allegory in Song of Songs portrays Jesus as a young "stag" who calls upon his bride to "rise up" and come away (Song 2:13).

3. More on the signs of spring:

- Though rainfall varies widely from northern to southern Israel, in the central part of the country, the rainy season ends around late March or early April.
- The peak season for migratory turtledoves starts in late March or April and lasts until September, with a particularly high concentration noted throughout May. During this time, the doves become more active as they establish territories, build nests, and care for their young. Their cooing or purring song is often heard during this period, marking their presence.
- Green figs, referred to as "breba" or immature figs, start to develop by late March or April, begin to ripen during May, and are ready for harvest in June.
- Grapevines undergo a distinct annual growth cycle that includes five main stages: bud break, flowering, fruit set, ripening, and harvest. Bud Break occurs in early spring when temperatures begin to rise, typically around March. Flowering, or blossoming, occurs approximately 40 to 80 days later, starting anywhere from early April to late May, and lasts for about two weeks. It is during the fleeting blossoming phase that grapevines give forth the fragrance described in Song 2:13.

<https://winesisrael.com/en/150/israeliviticulture/#:~:text=These%20vines%20are%20hand%20harvested,in%20the%20middle%20of%20April>

4. While some translations of Song 2:13 use the phrasing "tender grapes," the original Hebrew word, *semadar*, refers specifically to the grape "blossom" (Strong's #5563). Mature or ripened grapes are associated with the judgment of nonbelievers *after* the Rapture: "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). In Israel, grapes are typically ripe and ready for harvest from late July through September.