

Meet the Lord in the Air

There are many professing that at the time of Yahshua's return there will be a rapture of sorts by which the believer is caught up in a cloud in the air above the earth to meet the Lord, thus being saved from the wrath to come. And upon the rapture's completion, those saved will descend with Christ to form His army, establishing the Kingdom of Yah here on earth. Is this true? Do the scriptures in fact support such a doctrine or is this the fantasy of mankind once again taking scripture out of context, with a failure to provide adequate witnesses to support such doctrinal belief? Please allow us to address this topic supported by multiple scriptures as well as definitions of key words that will collectively produce a comprehensive study of the Apostle Paul's statements that will prove the rapture as false doctrine. Let us begin this study by citing the one and only scripture given as the crux of this dogma to understand what is actually being revealed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13~18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are **asleep** (*meaning having previously died*), that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord **shall not prevent** (*meaning come before, or precede*) them which are **asleep**. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the **dead in Christ** shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them** in the **clouds**, to meet the Lord in the **air**: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Permit us to define the original meaning of some of the words used to better understand the context in which the apostle Paul speaks.

Prevent #5348. *Phthano; a primary verb; to be beforehand, anticipate or precede; by extension, to have arrived at, already attain, averts. Accordingly the words "shall not prevent" refer to the act of one coming before the arrival of another. Other words as; those that sleep, meaning those that have died and are buried with not be resurrected, "prevent" come before or ahead of those that are present at the time of Yahshua's return.*

Caught up #726. *Harpazo; from a derivative of #138; to seize, catch, catch away, catch up, pluck, pull, take by force.*

Cloud #3507. *Nephele; from #3509; properly, cloudiness, to make dim, obscure, blur shade.*

Air #109. *ah-ayr' from aemi; to breathe unconsciously, respire, to blow; "air" as naturally surrounding us. Compare #5594. Psucho; a primary verb to breathe, voluntarily but gently, thus differing on the one hand from blew #4154. Pneo; a primary word to breathe hard, breeze, blow. Contrast the two with one denoting properly a forcible respiration; and on the other from the base of #109, which refers accurately to an inanimate breeze, by implication, of reduction of temperature by evaporation, to chill, wax cold.*

Because the definitions of these words are still a bit cloudy, let us look at the words in context as they were understood by the apostle Paul at the time of his ministry.

Luke 9:28~36 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, **the fashion of his countenance was altered**, and his raiment was white and glistening. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of **his decease** which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for

Elias: **not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them:** and they feared as they **entered into the cloud.** And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

Let us examine another recording of this occurrence found in the scriptures.

Mark 9:2~9 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. **And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow;** so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. **For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.** And there was **a cloud that overshadowed them:** and a voice came out of the **cloud,** saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves. **And as they came down from the mountain,** he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

*These two examples show us that the gathering together with the Lord **in the cloud** does not indicate that anyone left the earth's surface, being transported up into the clouds suspended above earth's terrain. Observe that the **cloud came down and covered those three gathered on the mountain;** they did not ascend upwards, **but were embraced by its substance as the cloud descended upon them,** thus engulfing them within its presence, within the cloud's vapor-like essence.*

Please refer to the Bible Study; **"The Two Witnesses"** for further revelation to the identity of the witnesses As they appear in the Old and the New Testament

This study will now examine another illustration with similar events showing mankind in the presence of Our Lord who was engulfed within the vapor, a mist or fog of a cloud.

Exodus 24:15~18 And Moses went up into the mount, and a **cloud covered the mount.** And the glory of the LORD abode upon Mount Sinai, and the **cloud covered it (Mount Sinai)** six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses **out of the midst of the cloud.** And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went **into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount:** and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

*Here the events undoubtedly depict the glory of the Lord atop of Mt. Sinai as a cloud descends, covering the mountain, obscuring Our Lord's presence from those at the base of the mountain. From within this cloud the voice of Our Lord is heard summoning Moses to ascend up the mountain and join Him surrounded by this cloud, with both engulfed within its obscure vapor. Once again scripture is depicting the evidence of Our Creator seen standing on the earth's surface atop of Mt. Sinai in the presence of man, Moses, with **both encircled by a cloud.** There is no substantiation that Moses at any time is seen being taken up, elevated above earth's surface, to meet the Lord in the vapor of the cloud. But rather Moses climbs up to reach the top of the Mount where he finds Our Lord engulfed within the cloud into which he enters.*

Acts 1:6~12 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: **and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was **taken up;** and a **cloud received him** out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand

ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is **taken up** from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.** Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the **mount called Olivet**, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

Taken up #1869. *Epairo; from 1909 and 142; to raise up, exalt self, poise, lift, take up.*

*Here scripture stated that Christ was **taken up** from the earth's surface while on the Mount called Olivet, received by a cloud, engulf in its vapor and taken to heaven. Also scriptures declare His return happening in like manner, thus **descending** from heaven in a cloud, landing on the earth's surface of the Mount called Olivet engulfed in the vapor of a cloud. To fulfill the prophecy, Yahshua must return to earth in the same manner and place from which He ascended as stated. Note again, He descends in the cloud from heaven, engulfed in its vapors coming to rest on the Mount called Olivet, where those that are His at His return will join Him in this cloud.*

Scripture also indicates the proceedings that will be occurring at the time of this event. Though we don't know the actual time, we are given the events that must first occur prior to being joined with Our Lord in the cloud on the Mount called Olivet.

1 Corinthians 15:51~52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all **sleep** (meaning previously died), but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

*At the **last trump** sounding on the **Day of Atonement**, the captives are released from the captivity of sin while Satan is bound, cast into the bottomless pit and held there for a thousand years. This event is the gateway to our resurrection to life, being joined to Our Lord in the vapor of the cloud atop of the mountain, as described in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 20.*

*** For further detail of the return of Yahshua, the Messiah, please view Our Website; ActionofBeliefMinistry.org for the Holyday study on "**The Day of Atonement**": The prophecy fulfilling Yah's Holydays as seen in the Plan of Salvation ***

Let us review two doctrinal views; one describing individuals being taken up from the earth's surface and another posing that a cloud descends from above to the earth covering individuals specifically referencing those that are gathered atop the mount at Yahshua's return. Let us look once again to scripture to validate the truth supplied by witnesses substantiating truth.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, **He cometh with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

*Do any verses in scripture ever describe the called meeting the Lord in the sky in a cloud far above the earth's surface when He returns? **No**...they do not. The doctrine is false because the rapture is unsubstantiated by scripture; insists those who are called are swept away from the wrath of Yah to be then rewarded by joining the Lord in a cloud, ruling with Him above the earth. In contrast, scripture does state that His called will be raised, resurrected from their sleep from **within the earth** to then join our Savior on top of the Mount. The biblical text shouts to us that Yahshua's first fruits will inherit the earth; the wicked will be taken away, separated from the truth. These events are opposite from what is thought to occur as taught by the rapture doctrine.*

Matthew 13:36~43 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the

harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, **and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that OFFEND, and them which do INIQUITY**; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

*Thus scriptures reveal a crucially important fact diametrically opposed to what is taught to occur during the rapture event: Those which **do iniquity that offend**, shall be removed from earth as the New Kingdom descends with Christ atop of the Mount and is established with His first fruits. It is the wicked that are taken away! This righteous act allows the righteous to inherit the earth, as part of the newly established dominion of the Kingdom of God, ruling as kings and priests reigning on earth with Yahshua. Book of Revelation, Chapter 5:9~10.*

Isaiah 24:21~23 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones (*the fallen angels*) that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. **And they shall be gathered together**, as prisoners are gathered in the **pit**, and shall be shut up in the prison, **and after many days shall they be visited**. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

What is being described above is the aftermath of Yah's wrath, binding the unfaithful angels into a pit with those that fought against Christ at His coming. They are gathered together, separated from those that are destined to inherit the Kingdom, until a thousand years pass. The rest on the earth, now separated from the enticement of Satan's lust and covetous ways, will then receive their reward. After many days, they will be dealt with following the heavenly signs seen on the Day of the Lord, revealing the arrival of the Kingdom of Yah on earth.

Zephaniah 3:11~12 In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: **for then I will take away out of the midst of thee** them that rejoice **in thy pride**, and thou shalt no more be **haughty** because of my holy mountain. I will also **leave** in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

Zephaniah's prophecy at the time of the New Kingdom's arrival describes a separation happening in the midst of His first fruits. There will be a cleansing before the establishment of the Kingdom. Those who are prideful, resentful, haughty, unrepentant of their self centered ways will be removed. Thus the group that remains will be an afflicted, poor people who will trust in the name of the LORD. This scenario runs counter to the doctrine of the rapture with scripture now describing evil being taken away as the righteous are rewarded with the inheritance of the Kingdom here on earth.

Luke 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the **one shall be taken**, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the **one shall be taken**, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; **the one shall be taken**, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, **Where, Lord?** And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the **eagles be gathered together**.

Again the scriptures point to a separation happening, but the shocking fact is that those being separated are gathered to where the eagles congregate. There are no references describing good eagles, fowls or birds of any kind drawing together to exist with the elect, but just the contrary.

Revelation 19:17~18 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to **all the fowls** that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; **That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and eat the flesh of captains, and eat the flesh of mighty men,**

and the flesh of horses, and eat of them that sit on them, and eat the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

It is the wicked that are taken away to where the eagles are gathered to eat the flesh of sinners. The righteous inherit the Kingdom of God and rule as kings and priests on earth. The Book of Revelation, Chapter 5:9~10. Manmade doctrine exalts the position of reward without repentance and or punishment. Receiving the reward of the Kingdom without complying with its laws is flawed in the same manner as scripture denies the doctrine of ascending to heaven immediately upon death.

Matthew 24:38~44 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, **and took them all away;** so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the **one shall be taken,** and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the **one shall be taken,** and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch **the thief would come,** he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be **broken up.** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour **as ye think not** the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and **sever the wicked from among the just,** And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; **and lean not unto thine own understanding.**

Expose one lie and you keep a hundred others away.

Action of Belief Ministry
ActionofBeliefMinistry@gmail.com