

SESSION 11: DO JEWISH WEDDING RITUALS PROVE A PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE?

Supporters of a pre-tribulation rapture often claim that Jewish wedding rituals lay out a timeline that proves a pre-tribulation rapture. The film, “Before the Wrath” dramatically expanded this view without actually exclusively saying this.

I. NEWLY DISCOVERED ANCIENT ANTHROPOLOGICAL DISCOVERY

- A. Claims that the discovery shows that Galilean wedding rituals were very different from other Jewish wedding rituals
- B. Claims that any of Jesus’ disciples would have clearly understood some of the underlying concepts that Jesus was teaching because they were Galileans The story of the End Times would have been clearly understood because Jesus (the Galilean) was teaching to his disciples as Galileans
- C. The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia references medieval Jewish wedding traditions, not biblical Jewish traditions
- D. Despite all of the over-the-top sensationalized claims, a new discovery is not ever revealed

II. LEAD SOURCE FOR THE FILM IS NOT ACTUALLY AN ANTHROPOLOGIST

- A. Jay McCarl is a Calvary Chapel pastor, not an anthropologist

III. CLAIMS THAT JESUS IS COMING BACK TO SAVE US FROM THE END OF THE WORLD

- A. Jesus never promised to save us from the end of the world
- B. Jesus promised to save us from our sins ([Matthew 1:21](#))
- C. Jesus came to give us eternal life ([John 3:16](#))
- D. Jesus came into the world to save sinners ([1 Timothy 1:15](#))
- E. Jesus’ sermon about the End Times describes us being raptured “after the tribulation” ([Matthew 24:29-31](#))

IV. THE FILM HEAVILY RELIES ON THE CLAIMS OF ONE MAN

- A. Many Jewish customs mentioned are not even real, they are made up
- B. There is no historical, anthropological, or biblical evidence that Jewish and Galilean wedding rituals were different
- C. McCarl himself also admits that there is not much evidence about Jewish wedding traditions

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V. ONLY THE FATHER KNOWS WHEN THE WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE

- A. In ancient Jewish biblical practice, first there was a betrothal
- B. In the biblical narrative, the betrothal is at Mt. Sinai, God betrothed himself to Israel
- C. Then later the actual marriage comes and is accompanied by a celebration
- D. All of us (both Jew and Gentile) who believe in Jesus will be part of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- E. According to McCarl, no one other than the Father will know when the rapture will happen
- F. The basis for this claim is [Matthew 24](#), but there is no evidence that this practice truly took place in ancient Jewish weddings
 - 1. The evidence that we do have actually shows the opposite, that the time of the wedding was foreknown

VI. “LIFTING THE BRIDE INTO THE AIR”

- A. There is no historical evidence to prove that the act of lifting the bride to bring her to the wedding was actually called “Lifting the Bride into the Air”

VII. THE LAST SUPPER

- A. The film claims that The Last Supper would have been understood to be Jesus betrothing himself to the church and that he’s coming back to marry the church
- B. There are echoes of a marriage covenant in The Last Supper, but it was NOT a betrothal ceremony
- C. The biblical narrative is very clear that the betrothal takes place when Israel reaches Mt. Sinai
- D. The church is never called the bride of Christ, Israel is called the bride
- E. The Bible specifically says the Last Supper was a Passover meal ([Matthew 26:17-19](#))
- F. We have the Passover meal (and communion today) to remember and to look forward to His return ([Matthew 26:26-28](#))

VIII. WEDDING SCRIPTURES

- A. The only two explicit statements in Scripture about the wedding are [Revelation 19](#) (the wedding and the bride of Christ) and [Matthew 25](#) (Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins), both actually argue against a pre-trib rapture
- B. Revelation 19 places the marriage supper after the tribulation

IX. THE BRIDEGROOM WILL TAKE HIS BRIDE BACK TO HIS FATHER’S HOUSE

- A. The evidence we have suggests that the marriage supper was held in the bride’s house (or there is a lack of evidence, we have little knowledge of the specifics)

The Bible has clear information regarding the wedding, and many pre-tribbers ignore that information while placing strong emphasis on alleged, extra-biblical Jewish wedding traditions (many of which are fabricated). We should be focusing on what the Bible teaches instead.