

**The** **Rapture**

By Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian)



I want to examine the theological concept of *rapture*. I have been [taught](teacher.html) that Christians will, some day, be raptured to [heaven](heaven.html) to spend [eternity](eternal.html) with [HaShem](hashem.html). I would like to see if this concept can be substantiated from scripture.

Who are the “saints”?

***Daniel 7:23-27*** *“He gave me this explanation: ‘The* [*fourth*](four.html) *beast is a* [*fourth*](four.html) *kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The* [*ten*](ten.html) *horns are* [*ten*](ten.html) *kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue* [*three*](three.html) *kings. He will* [*speak*](mashal.html) *against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the* [*set times*](settimes.html) *and the* [*laws*](law.html)*. The saints will be handed over to him for a* [*time*](time.html)*, times and half a* [*time*](time.html)*. “‘But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’*

If you believe that the righteous are the “saints”, then it is the righteous who will be oppressed and handed over to the [fourth](four.html) beast. It is the righteous, then, who will ultimately have the sovereignty, power, and the greatness of the kingdoms!

If all the righteous are “raptured to [heaven](heaven.html)”, then who is oppressed and handed over? Who will be ruling?

Who are the ones “who overcome”?

***Revelation 2:26-28*** *To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give* [*authority*](authority.html) *over the* [*nations*](nations.html)*-- ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’--just as I have received* [*authority*](authority.html) *from my Father. I will also give him the* [*morning star*](mazaroth.html)*.*

If you believe that the righteous are the *over-comers*, then the righteous will be ruling on earth! So, why would they be *raptured* to [heaven](heaven.html)? These same questions could be asked of those who are *purchased* in the following verses:

***Revelation 5:9-10*** *And they sang a* [*new*](new.html) *song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your* [*blood*](body.html) *you purchased men for G-d from every* [*tribe*](tribes.html) *and language and people and* [*nation*](nations.html)*. You have made them to be a kingdom and* [*priests*](priests.html) *to serve our G-d, and they will reign on the earth.”*

Those who are *purchased* will also be reigning “on the earth”. So, why do we have a rapture to [heaven](heaven.html)?

We can see where the righteous will spend [eternity](eternal.html) in the following passages:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 13:14-15***[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said to* [*Abram*](avraham.html) *after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your* [*eyes*](body.html) *from where you are and look north and south,* [*east*](east.html) *and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.*

If [Abram](avraham.html) does not get his land, on earth, forever, then [HaShem](hashem.html) is a liar!

***Shemot (***[***Exodus***](exodus.html)***) 32:13*** *Remember your servants* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*,* [*Isaac*](isaac.html) *and* [*Israel*](israelja.html)*, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *in the* [*sky*](heaven.html) *and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *forever.’”*

If [Abraham](avraham.html), [Isaac](isaac.html), and [Jacob](israelja.html) don’t get this land, *on earth*, forever, then [HaShem](hashem.html) is a liar (G-d forbid!).

***Yahoshua (Joshua) 14:9*** *So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your* [*feet*](heel.html) *have walked will be your* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *and that of your children forever, because you have followed* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *my G-d wholeheartedly.’*

If Joshua, the Israelites, and their descendants don’t get this land, on earth, forever, then [HaShem](hashem.html) is a liar (G-d forbid!).

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:8-11*** *Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will* [*inherit the land*](inherit.html)*. A little while, and the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. But the meek will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land and enjoy great peace.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:27-29*** *Turn from evil and do good; then you will* [*dwell in the land forever*](dwelling.html)*. For* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will be cut off; The righteous will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land and* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in it forever.*

Who is the Psalmist addressing? Obviously the righteous! [Yeshua](yeshua.html) echoed this same sentiment in:

***Matityahu (Matthew) 5:5*** *Blessed are the meek, for they will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the earth.*

***Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 37:21-28*** *And say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: I will take the* [*Israelites*](gen-jew.html) *out of the* [*nations*](nations.html) *where they have gone. I will* [*gather*](gather.html) *them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them* [*one*](one.html)[*nation*](nations.html) *in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be* [*one*](one.html) *king over all of them and they will never again be* [*two*](two.html)[*nations*](nations.html) *or be divided into* [*two*](two.html) *kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will* [*save*](salvation.html) *them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their G-d. “‘My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have* [*one*](one.html) *shepherd. They will follow my* [*laws*](law.html) *and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*, the land where your* [*fathers*](fathers.html) *lived. They and their children and their children’s children will* [*live there forever*](eternal.html)*, and David my servant will be their prince forever. I will make a* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *of peace with them; it will be an everlasting* [*covenant*](covenant.html)*. I will establish them and increase their* [*numbers*](nchart.html)*, and I will put my* [*sanctuary*](mikdash.html) *among them forever. My* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *place will be with them; I will be their G-d, and they will be my people. Then the* [*nations*](nations.html) *will* [*know*](daat.html) *that I* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *make* [*Israel*](gen-jew.html) *holy, when my* [*sanctuary*](mikdash.html) *is among them forever.’”*

Here we plainly have the righteous being called Israelites, and they [inherit](inherit.html) the land.

With this background, lets look at the classic passages used to [justify](justification.html) a *rapture* of the righteous to [heaven](heaven.html):

***I Thessalonians 4:15-18*** *According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen* [*asleep*](mashal.html)*. For the Lord himself will come down from* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*, with a loud* [*command*](cmds613.html)*, with the voice of the* [*archangel*](angels.html) *and with the* [*trumpet*](shofar.html) *call of G-d, and the dead in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *will rise* [*first*](one.html)*. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be* [*with the Lord forever*](eternal.html)*. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

Notice that the destination is not specified as [*heaven*](heaven.html). There is also no mention of these righteous going anywhere! We see clearly that they will be “with the Lord” forever. So, where will the Lord be?

***Revelation 21:1-4*** *Then I saw a* [*new*](new.html)[*heaven*](heaven.html) *and a* [*new*](new.html) *earth, for the* [*first*](one.html)[*heaven*](heaven.html) *and the* [*first*](one.html) *earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the* [*Holy City*](city.html)*, the* [*new*](new.html)[*Jerusalem*](city.html)*,* [*coming*](coming.html) *down out of* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *from G-d, prepared as a* [*bride beautifully dressed for her husband*](wedding.html)*. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *of G-d is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and G-d himself will be with them and be their G-d. He will wipe every* [*tear*](mashal.html) *from their* [*eyes*](body.html)*. There will be no more death or* [*mourning*](mourning.html) *or* [*crying*](mashal.html) *or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

[HaShem](hashem.html) will be [dwelling](dwelling.html) with men on earth! This means that we will be on earth with Him.

Another passage often used to support a rapture is:

***Matityahu (Matthew) 24:36-42*** *“*[*No one knows about that day or hour*](one.html)*, not even the* [*angels*](angels.html) *in* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were* [*eating*](eating.html) *and drinking,* [*marrying*](marriageact.html) *and giving in* [*marriage*](mashal.html)*, up to the day Noah entered the* [*ark*](ark.html)*; And they* [*knew*](daat.html) *nothing about what would happen* ***until the flood came and took them all away****. That is how it will be at the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the Son of Man.* [*Two*](two.html) *men will be in the field;* [*one*](one.html) *will be taken and the other left.* [*Two*](two.html) *women will be grinding with a* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *mill;* [*one*](one.html) *will be taken and the other left. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not* [*know*](daat.html) *on what day your Lord will come.*

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 17:34*** *I tell you, on that night* [*two*](two.html) *people will be in* [*one*](one.html) *bed;* [*one*](one.html) *will be taken and the other left.* [*Two*](two.html) *women will be grinding grain together;* [*one*](one.html) *will be taken and the other left...*

The above passage presumes that we [know](daat.html) what happened in the days of Noah. So, lets look at what happened in the days of Noah:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 7:1-4***[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *then said to Noah, “Go into the* [*ark*](ark.html)*, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this* [*generation*](toldot.html)*. Take with you* [*seven*](seven.html) *of every kind of* [*clean*](purity.html) *animal, a* [*male*](male%2Bfemale.html) *and its mate, and* [*two*](two.html) *of every kind of unclean animal, a* [*male*](male%2Bfemale.html) *and its mate, And also* [*seven*](seven.html) *of every kind of bird,* [*male and female*](male%2Bfemale.html)*, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.* [*Seven*](seven.html) *days from now I will send* [*rain*](rains.html) *on the earth for* [*forty*](forty.html) *days and* [*forty*](forty.html) *nights, and I will wipe from the* [*face*](body.html) *of the earth every living creature I have made.”*

It appears that Noah and his family were the only ones who were ***not*** taken from the land of the living. Noah is the only [one](one.html) righteous in this [generation](toldot.html). Therefore, we can see that the [wicked](wicked.html) were all destroyed. In this passage we also note that no [one](one.html) was [physically](physical.html) removed from the earth.

So, in the Matthew passage, the ones who were taken away were the [wicked](wicked.html) ones (note that *all* were taken away by the flood).

***Matityahu (Matthew) 24:36-42*** *“No* [*one*](one.html) *knows about that day or hour, not even the* [*angels*](angels.html) *in* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were* [*eating*](eating.html) *and drinking, marrying and giving in* [*marriage*](mashal.html)*, up to the day Noah entered the* [*ark*](ark.html)*; And they* [*knew*](daat.html) *nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all (*[*wicked*](wicked.html)*) away. That is how it will be at the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the Son of Man.* [*Two*](two.html) *men will be in the field;* (the [wicked](wicked.html))[*one*](one.html) *will be taken* (by the flood) *and the other left* (the righteous [one](one.html))*.* [*Two*](two.html) *women will be grinding with a* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *mill;* (the [wicked](wicked.html))[*one*](one.html) *will be taken* (by the flood) *and the other left* (the righteous [one](one.html))*. “Therefore keep watch, because* [*you do not know on what day*](daat.html) *your Lord will come.*

We can see that in the days of Noah, and in the days of the return of the [Mashiach](mashiach.html), that the [wicked](wicked.html) will be taken and the righteous will remain on earth. If there is a rapture, the only ones raptured will be the [wicked](wicked.html). In the days of Noah we see the righteous preserved in the midst of the tribulation which killed the [wicked](wicked.html). They were not removed from it.

This parable and the story of Noah are both consistent with the pattern [HaShem](hashem.html) has shown in the Torah. Lets look at what happened to Sodom and Gamorah:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 18:20-25*** *Then* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gamorah is so great and their* [*sin*](sin.html) *so grievous That I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will* [*know*](daat.html)*.” The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *remained* [*standing*](mashal.html) *before* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Then* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*? What if there are fifty righteous people in the* [*city*](city.html)*? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*, treating the righteous and the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 17:28-30*** *“It was the same in the days of Lot. People were* [*eating*](eating.html) *and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom,* [*fire*](fire.html) *and sulfur rained down from* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *and destroyed them all. “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.*

Again the pattern is consistent; the [wicked](wicked.html) are killed and the righteous stay on earth.

[Mashiach](mashiach.html), in Matthew 24, is repeating what the TaNaK[[1]](#footnote-1) has consistently [taught](teacher.html). Observe:

***Mishlei (Proverbs) 2:21-22*** *For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; But the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.*

***Mishlei (Proverbs) 3:25-26*** *Have no* [*fear*](fear.html) *of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*, For* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will be your confidence and will keep your* [*foot*](heel.html) *from being snared.*

***Mishlei (Proverbs) 10:30*** *The righteous will never be uprooted, but the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will not remain in the land.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:9*** *For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:10*** *A little while, and the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:22*** *Those* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *blesses will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land, but those he curses will be cut off.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:28*** *For* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will be cut off;*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:29*** *The righteous will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land and* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in it forever.*

***Mishlei (Proverbs) 10:25*** *When the storm has swept by, the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.*

Lets also notice that this is consistent with what [Yeshua](yeshua.html) [spoke](mashal.html) in other places:

***Matityahu (Matthew) 13:24-30***[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *told them another parable: “The kingdom of* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *is like a man who sowed good* [*seed*](flower.html) *in his field. But while everyone was* [*sleeping*](mashal.html)*, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good* [*seed*](flower.html) *in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that* [*time*](time.html) *I will tell the harvesters:* [*First*](one.html) *collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then* [*gather*](gather.html) *the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”*

The [first](one.html) to be taken are the [wicked](wicked.html) weeds. We also [know](daat.html) that [Yeshua](yeshua.html)’s barn is the [Temple](temple.html) from:

***Malachi 3:10*** *Bring the whole tithe into the* [*storehouse*](temple.html)*, that there may be* [*food*](food.html) *in my house. Test me in this,” says* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

This barn, that the righteous are [gathered](gather.html) into, is the [Temple](temple.html) (My house) which is in [Jerusalem](city.html), *on earth*.

The constant refrain of scripture is echoed in:

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 115:16*** *The highest* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *belong to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, but the earth he has given to man.*

We never see men [dwelling](dwelling.html) in [heaven](heaven.html), but we do see [HaShem](hashem.html) [coming](coming.html) to [dwell](dwelling.html) with men:

***Revelation 21:3*** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *of G-d is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and G-d himself will be with them and be their G-d.*

***Yochanan (John) 3:12-14*** *I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I* [*speak*](mashal.html) *of heavenly things? No* [*one*](one.html) *has ever gone into* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *except the* [*one*](one.html) *who came from* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*--the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,*

[Mashiach](mashiach.html) says that NO [ONE](one.html) has gone into [heaven](heaven.html) except ...

Some have suggested that Enoch and Elijah were *raptured* and that this is the precedent for the rapture of ALL the righteous. I point out that there were more righteous folks on earth at the [time](time.html) of these [two](two.html) men, yet they were not *taken*. I suggest that these [two](two.html) do not represent a decent argument for the rapture of all the righteous.

I think that *the ecclessia* is the ecclessia of II Luqas (Acts) 7:38. These Torah observant folks are promised an [inheritance](inherit.html) of land in Israel. These folks are eagrely looking forward to the promised land. So, when they are [gathered](gather.html) from the [four](four.html) [corners](tzitzith.html) of the earth, their destination is the [land of Israel](city.html). This is the total focus.

Another verse used to [teach](teacher.html) rapture is:

***Revelation 20:4-5*** *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given* [*authority*](authority.html) *to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *and because of the word of G-d. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his* [*mark on their foreheads or their hands*](fourteen.html)*. They* [*came to life*](eternal.html) *and reigned with* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the* [*first*](one.html)[*resurrection*](techiyat.html)*.*

We can see an obvious [resurrection](techiyat.html) and we see the righteous *reigning* with [Yeshua](yeshua.html). Lets go see where we *reign*:

***Yirimiyah (Jeremiah) 23:5*** *“The days are* [*coming*](coming.html)*,” declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.*

***Revelation 5:10*** *You have made them to be a kingdom and* [*priests*](priests.html) *to serve our G-d, and they will reign on the earth.”*

***Revelation 11:15*** *The* [*seventh*](seven.html)[*angel*](angels.html) *sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*, which said: “The kingdom of the* [*world*](worlds.html) *has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*, and he will reign for ever and ever.”*

I can conclude that the [resurrection](techiyat.html) of Revelation 20:3-4 will have the righteous resurrected and reigning with [Yeshua](yeshua.html) on earth.

The next rapture passage is:

***II Thessalonians 2:1-3*** *Concerning the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of our Lord* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *and our being* [*gathered*](gather.html) *to him, we ask you, brothers, Not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or* [*letter*](letters.html) *supposed to have come from us, saying that the* [*day of the Lord*](day.html) *has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.*

This passage indicates that we will be [gathered](gather.html) to Him. There is no hint of where the [gathering](gather.html) place is. Since we [know](daat.html) that we will be reigning with Him for a thousand years, Revelation 20:4, and since we [know](daat.html) that He will be reigning on earth, we can infer that the place is earth.

Some see rapture in this passage:

***Matityahu (Matthew) 24:29-31*** *“Immediately after the distress of those days ‘the* [*sun*](hachama.html) *will be darkened, and the* [*moon*](chodesh.html) *will not give its light; the* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *will fall from the sky, and the heavenly* [*bodies*](body.html) *will be shaken.’ “At that* [*time*](time.html) *the* [*sign*](signs.html) *of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the* [*nations*](nations.html) *of the earth will* [*mourn*](mourning.html)*. They will see the Son of Man* [*coming*](coming.html) *on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his* [*angels*](angels.html) *with a loud* [*trumpet*](shofar.html) *call, and they will* [*gather*](gather.html) *his elect from the* [*four*](four.html) *winds, from* [*one*](one.html) *end of the* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *to the other.*

***Marqos (Mark) 13:24-27*** *“But in those days, following that distress, ‘the* [*sun*](hachama.html) *will be darkened, and the* [*moon*](chodesh.html) *will not give its light; The* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *will fall from the* [*sky*](heaven.html)*, and the heavenly* [*bodies*](body.html) *will be shaken.’ “At that* [*time*](time.html) *men will see the Son of Man* [*coming*](coming.html) *in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his* [*angels*](angels.html) *and* [*gather*](gather.html) *his elect from the* [*four*](four.html) *winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the* [*heavens*](heaven.html)*.*

Again, no destination is mentioned. I see nothing to indicate that the righteous leave the earth, and our previous scriptures seem to indicate that our destination is [Israel](city.html).

Lets start by asking why the following folks don’t get to be raptured? Why do they have a [dwelling](dwelling.html) on earth *forever* whilst others have another [dwelling](dwelling.html) place?

***Tehilim (***[***Psalm***](psalms1.html)***) 37:29*** *The righteous shall* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the earth, and* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *therein for ever.*

This would be manifestly unfair!

Now, lets ask another question: If [HaShem](hashem.html) wanted folks to be [dwelling](dwelling.html) in [heaven](heaven.html), why didn’t He do that in the [first](one.html) place? Obviously [Gan Eden](eden.html) was the ideal place for man. This is consistent with [Psalm](psalms1.html) 37:29.

Now, lets clinch this deal:

***Revelatiob 21:10*** *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great* [*city*](city.html)*, the holy* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*, descending out of* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *from G-d,*

In this verse we see the place that was prepared in Yochanan (John) chapter 14. Yes, it WAS in [heaven](heaven.html). However, the place where it will be used by the righteous will be ON EARTH! This also is consistent with [Psalm](psalms1.html) 37:29.

Thus we see that Yochanan (John) 14 does not SAY that the righteous are going to [heaven](heaven.html), rather that the place that is being prepared is in [heaven](heaven.html).

**CONCLUSION:**

The TaNaK and the Nazarean Codicil[[2]](#footnote-2) agree that the righteous have their [eternal](eternal.html) [dwelling](dwelling.html) on earth. We do not ever see people [dwelling](dwelling.html) in [heaven](heaven.html). The scripture all agree that only the [wicked](wicked.html) are removed from the earth. I see no [justification](justification.html) for saying that the righteous will be raptured to [heaven](heaven.html). The pattern of scripture is for [HaShem](hashem.html) to protect the righteous in the midst of tribulation, not to remove them.

\* \* \*

This [study](study.html) was written by

Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David

(Greg Killian).

Comments may be submitted to:

Rabbi Dr. Greg Killian

12210 Luckey Summit

San Antonio, TX 78252

Internet address: gkilli@aol.com

Web page: <http://www.betemunah.org/>

(360) 918-2905

Return to [The WATCHMAN](http://www.betemunah.org) home page

Send comments to Greg Killian at his email address: gkilli@aol.com

1. Old Testament [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. New Testament [↑](#footnote-ref-2)