

Spring Is Here!

By T.W. Tramm

MARCH 20 marks the vernal equinox, the official turn of the season from winter to spring in the Northern Hemisphere. From this day forward, the longer and warmer days will have a transforming effect on nature:

- Grass will sprout and thicken.
- Trees and shrubs will bud and send forth new growth.
- Flowers will blossom.
- Birds will lay their eggs, and mammals will give birth.
- Animals will shed winter coats, and Caterpillars will transform into butterflies.

The world around us, which had seemed almost dead during the long cold winter, is about to come to life!

Knowing that God, the Author of nature, is consistent and works to patterns, it's not surprising that spring is a time of new beginnings in Scripture as well. Biblically, spring is when:

- The new year begins (Ex. 12: 1, 2).
- The harvest begins (Lev. 23:9-14).
- Decrees are issued (Ez. 7; Neh. 2).
- Kings go forth to battle (2 Sam. 11:1).
- Principal figures are born (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and, some believe, Jesus Christ).
- God's people are freed from captivity in Egypt and Babylon (Ex. 12; Ez. 7; Neh. 2).
- God's people are married (Israel was "wed" at Sinai and the Church betrothed in Acts 2.)
- The Nation of Israel is born and, later, reborn (15th century BC and 1948 AD).

- Dispensational change occurs (Age of Law at Sinai and Church Age in Acts 2).
- The fig tree puts forth its leaves (Matt. 24:32-33).
- The trumpet of God is sounded (Ex. 19: 16, 19, 20).
- Resurrection and ascension occur (Matt. 27:51-53).

Last but not least, spring is when the shepherd comes to gather and spirit away his beloved, a Shulammite Gentile maid, in the Song of Solomon:

“The winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come ... Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away!” (Song 2:11-13).

And so, in both nature and Scripture, spring is a time of new beginnings, birth, rebirth, marriage, redemption, and transformation.

What do all of these themes have in common?

They all point to the awesome and soon-to-occur event we call the Rapture:

- The Rapture is a “new beginning” as we will acquire new incorruptible bodies (1 Cor. 15:53).
- The Rapture is like a “birth” as we will be born into the Kingdom of Heaven (1 John 3:2).
- The Rapture is a “wedding” between the Church and the Lord (Matt. 25).
- The Rapture is a time of “redemption” for our physical bodies (Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:13, 14).
- The Rapture is a “transformation” that occurs in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52).

Some believe that the catching away can only happen in the late summer or fall. However, the falling leaves and darker days of autumn, combined with the festival themes of “judgment” (Yom Kippur) and “final harvest” (Sukkot), seem more denotive of the Tribulation and Second Coming—the time when God’s wrath is poured out and the last of the harvest is brought in.

Do the types and patterns in Scripture and nature point to a spring Rapture followed by judgment in the fall?

Only God knows for certain.

What we can say for certain is that the spring—better than any other season—typifies the transformation that will occur on the day the Lord sounds the trumpet and says, “Come up here!”