

# Spring Is Here!

By T.W. Tramm

THE BIBLE teaches that there is an appointed season for every matter under heaven (Ecc. 3:1).

In Nature, spring is when—

- Daylight increases.
- Trees and plants bud and blossom.
- Birds and mammals give birth and shed winter coats.

Biblically, spring is when—

- The New Year begins (Ex. 12: 1, 2).
- The harvest begins (Lev. 23:9-14).
- God's people are liberated from captivity (Ex. 12; Ez. 7; Neh. 2).
- God's people are married or betrothed (Ex. 19; Ruth; Song 2:11-13; Acts 2).
- Decrees are issued (Ez. 7; Neh. 2).
- Kings go forth to battle (2 Sam. 11:1).
- The Nation of Israel is born and reborn (Exodus circa 1500 BC and 1948).
- The trumpet of God is sounded (Ex. 19: 16, 19, 20).
- Resurrection and ascension occur (Matt. 27:51-53).
- Dispensational change (Law/Grace) occurs (Ex. 20; Acts 2).

And so, in both Nature and in Scripture, spring is the season of new beginnings, birth, rebirth, marriage, redemption, and transformation.

What do these themes have in common?

They each describe the awesome and much anticipated event we call the Rapture:

- The Rapture is a “new beginning” as it marks the start of a different era called the Day of the Lord (1 Thess. 4, 5).
- 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 God (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).

One of God’s main attributes is that He is consistent and works to patterns (Heb. 13:8; Ecc. 1:9). Seeing that spring, better than any other season, embodies the types and themes we associate with the Rapture, it’s reasonable to expect that the catching away might occur during the spring of some year.

But in *which* year?

Jesus provides a clue in Matthew 24 where He says the generation who sees the fig tree (Israel) come to life and put forth leaves will see His return (Matt. 24:32-35). Since a typical human lifespan is 70 years in Scripture, it’s reasonable to ascribe a period of 70 years to the fig-tree generation.<sup>1</sup>

Daniel gives a further clue as to a year in the 70-weeks prophecy where it is said, “From the going forth of the word to restore and to build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks [49 years]” (Dan. 9:25).

Finally, Paul furnishes an important clue as to the timing by telling us that people will be saying “peace and safety” when the Rapture happens (1 Thess. 4, 5).<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, a scripturally plausible time for the Rapture to occur is—

- 70 years after Israel is restored as a nation.
- 49 years after the Jews repossess and begin to rebuild Jerusalem.
- At a time when people are talking about peace and safety.
- During the spring.

What is extraordinary is that spring 2019 marks just such a time. It’s been 70 years since Israel came back to life and put forth leaves in 1948-49. It’s been 49 years since the rebuilding of Jerusalem began in the spring of 1969.<sup>3</sup> Also, owing to an unfathomable array of events and circumstances, including a

number of delays, the most talked about Middle-East peace plan in a generation is set to be unveiled after Israeli elections in April.

Does the above improbable convergence mean the Rapture *has* to happen this spring?

It does not.

Nonetheless, as Jesus' bride and beneficiary of all that the title entails, we are expected to—

- Know the signs (Luke 12:55, 56; 21:25-32).
- Discern the general timeframe (Heb. 10:25; 1 Thess. 5:1-5).
- Be watching when He appears (Matt. 24:42, 46; Luke 21:28).

Whether in the spring or soon after, the signs affirm that the Lord's return "is near, right at the door" (Matt. 24:33).

Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch.

#### NOTES:

1. Scripture defines a typical lifespan as 70 years, with an upper limit of 80 "by strength" (Ps. 90:10). Therefore, the Rapture and Tribulation should occur sometime between Israel's 70th and 80th year. The 70th year seems most probable to see the fullness and redemption of the Church as the number 70, more than any other number in Scripture, signifies fullness, redemption, and an endpoint. The number 70 also figures prominently pertaining to key biblical figures: Terah, the father of Abraham, was 70 years old when Abraham was born (Gen. 11:26). Israel's greatest ruler, King David, died at the age of 70 (2 Sam. 5:4). Adam, the first man, died at the age of 930, exactly 70 years short of a millennium (Gen. 5:5). More on the prophetic significance of the number 70: [http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/ISRAELS\\_70TH\\_YEAR\\_-\\_WHY\\_ITS\\_SIGNIFICANT\\_rev\\_a.pdf](http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/ISRAELS_70TH_YEAR_-_WHY_ITS_SIGNIFICANT_rev_a.pdf)

2. Explaining the rapture-resurrection event to the Church at Thessalonica, Paul says there is no need to write about specific "times or dates" because they already know that Jesus is coming "like a thief in the night" (on a day and at an hour no one can predict). As an alternative way to know the time, the Apostle gives an event or happening to look for: the Rapture and onset of the Day of the Lord will occur while people are saying, peace and safety. "Brothers and sisters [in Christ], we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so

that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind .... For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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 .... Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates [of this event] we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape" (1 Thess. 4:13, 16, 17; 5:1-3).

3. "From the going forth of the word to restore and to build Jerusalem unto one anointed [Messiah], a prince, shall be seven weeks [49 years]" (Dan. 9:25 JPS). In 1969, the Jewish Quarter Development Company was established under the auspices of the Construction and Housing Ministry to rebuild the desolate Old City of Jerusalem: <https://www.rova-yehudi.org.il/company-profile/>

May 9, 1969 headline about the rebuilding of Jerusalem from the St. Petersburg Times: "Jerusalem Restoration On High Priority List" "JERUSALEM -- One of the most dramatic restoration projects in the history of cities is forging ahead in the ancient walled city of Jerusalem. The reconstruction of the Jewish quarter of the Old city, lost to the Jews in the 1948 war after centuries of occupancy, is one of the high priority projects of the Israeli government."