

RAPTURE IN 5777?

During Rosh Hashannah this year which fell on October 2-3, an article was published by “Biblical Signs in The Headlines” talking about the possibility of the rapture happening this year, the year 5777 according to the Jewish calendar (<https://biblicalsignsintheheadlines.com/2016/09/09/5777-are-you-rapture-ready/>). Here I would like to share my thoughts on this and who idea of Rosh Hashannah being the “Biblical New Year”.

Before I talk about that let me just explain the meaning of “Feast”. In the Bible particularly in Leviticus there are two Hebrew words translated to English as “feast”. The first is “mo’ed” found in Leviticus 23:4 and the second is “chag” (sounds like hug) in verse 6.

“Mo’ed” means an appointed time, these days were appointed by God for His people to gather in His presence.

“Chag” means to move in a circle or cycle, thus were God’s appointments that His people were to keep at their appointed time on an annual cycle.

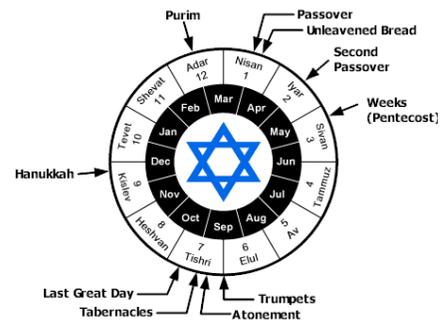
The cycle begins with Passover which falls on the first month of the year: Leviticus 23:5 On the fourteenth day of the **first month** at twilight is the Lord's Passover. NKJV

In fact when God gave Moses and Aaron the instructions for the Israelites to escape the angel of death in Egypt, He told them that month was to be the beginning of months for them i.e. the beginning of the year.

Exodus 12:1-2

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month shall be your **beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year** to you. NKJV

Therefore according to God’s calendar, the first month is the month on which Passover falls, known in the Jewish calendar as “Nisan”.



Just another bit of information; the months of the year do not actually have names in the Bible, they are simply called the first, second, third month etc. The names that they use today were acquired during their exile in Babylon in fact the month called Tamuz is named after a Babylonian god.

The next issue I want to address is Rosh Hashannah, many Christians including leaders and well known prophets refer to it as the “Biblical New Year”, this is incorrect. Even the Rabbis do not call it such. It is a cultural New Year, only according to Jewish culture. If something is considered Biblical then it must be a given by God.

Rosh Hashannah falls on the first day of the month known as Tishrei. In the Bible it is called "the seventh month", not the first. If it was the New Year then it stands to reason that it should be the first month, just as January is the first month according to the Gregorian calendar. The Biblical Feast that falls on this date is called "Yom Teruah" better known as the Feast of Trumpets:

Leviticus 23:23-24

23 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: **In the seventh month, on the first day of the month**, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. NKJV

The Rabbis explain Rosh Hashannah as dating from the creation of Adam and Eve but there is no Biblical basis for this, it comes from the "oral Torah" the religious Jews believe in.

Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets) however as we see is Biblical and it was set aside by God as one of the holy days. What is it about? It falls at the end of the preceding month (sixth month) called Elul. This month is known as a time of Teshuvah or repentance and returning to the Lord. Trumpets precedes the holiest day in the Jewish year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Biblically it was the day when the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and Temple to make atonement for the nation. It is known also as the Day of Judgment. From Elul 1 to Yom Kippur (10 Tishrei), is the period when God's people are called to prepare themselves for judgment. So the sound of the trumpets is to warn the people of the coming judgment and to prepare themselves by turning back to God. The days from Trumpets to Yom Kippur are known as "Yamim Noarim", the Days of Awe, the last chance to repent before judgment.

So, in my opinion is not a suitable time to release "prophetic blessing" but rather a time to call God's people to repentance not a particularly popular subject in church circles today.

Now regarding the Rapture, the key scripture that is used to support the doctrine is 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. NKJV

But we overlook another scripture about this subject:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. NKJV

Notice that Apostle Paul says here that our transformation will take place at the "last trumpet" this indicates that there are more than one trumpet that will sound before the rapture. We can see in the book of Revelation that in the end-times seven trumpets will be blown in heaven, this can be found from Revelation 8:7 – 11:19. Each of the first six trumpets releases a plague on the earth and in chapter 9:20-21 we see that God's purpose for the plagues was to call mankind to repentance but there are those that refuse.

The last trumpet is found in Revelation 11:15 and that trumpet announces the coronation of Jesus as the King of the nations:

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" NKJV

I do not believe we can disconnect the trumpets of Revelation from the trumpets of rapture. The only reason we do so is to support our theory that we believers will not experience any of the judgments that will befall this world.

We are living in time when the world is rushing towards judgment but we are not yet in the times of the plagues of Revelation and so I do not believe that it will happen in 5777.

While scripture that we do not know the hour or day on which He will come, it tells us to watch; to be observant and to pray so that we will know the signs of His coming.

Matthew 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. NKJV

Revelation 3:3-4

3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. NKJV

Jesus warned us to not be deceived into chasing every theory concerning His return (Matthew 24:26-28) but if we are observant and understand the signs given in the Bible, we may not know the particular day when He will return but we will be able to discern by observing the events unfolding in the world and the season when it will happen.