

## **A Possible Old Testament Rapture Verse?**

THE OLD TESTAMENT does not have very much to say about the Church. It also has very little to say about the Rapture. When people discuss the Rapture and defend that doctrine, they always use passages from the New Testament. The apostles had a lot to say about that teaching, but the Old Testament does not.

The reason for this has to do with the topic of dispensations. Simply put, people in the Old Testament lived under the Mosaic Law. They were not a part of the Church, and they did not face the possibility of being raptured. God did not teach them about those mysteries because they did not apply to them. However, when Christ died He ushered in a new dispensation. In this new age, the Mosaic Law was ended and a new system was put into place. Since things were different, God spoke through His servants and told them what the Church needed to know. Since the Rapture *does* apply to the Church, God revealed it to us and told us what to expect.

However, it is possible that the Old Testament does mention the Rapture. There is a passage in Isaiah that might be talking about it. That passage can be found here:

**Isaiah 26:19:** “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

21 For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”

This part of Isaiah (chapters 24 – 26) is talking about end-times events. Isaiah 24 speaks of the Day of the Lord. Isaiah 25 speaks of a time when God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. As you can see, Isaiah 26:19 speaks of a resurrection, and verse 21 speaks of a time when the Lord will judge the world for its sin.

Verse 20 is the verse that might be speaking about the Rapture. If you look at the entire passage it is easy to see how this might be a Rapture verse. Verse 19 speaks of a time when there will be a resurrection of the dead. After this resurrection, God will take His people and hide them “until the indignation be overpast”. God wants to protect His people because He is going to punish the world for its sins, and He doesn't want His people to face His wrath.

That is the same sequence of events that we find surrounding the Rapture in the New Testament! When Jesus returns He will raise the dead, then He will take His Bride back to Heaven so we will be spared the Tribulation. During the Tribulation God will pour out His wrath upon the world for its sins, and at the end of that time He will return to the Earth with His Bride.

Given the details of the passage itself and the context of the surrounding chapters, it certainly seems like a possible fit. The similarities are remarkable.