

**Do Jewish Wedding Customs  
Prove a Pretrib Rapture?**

**Pre-tribbers often claim that clearly established Jewish wedding customs support a Pretrib rapture.**

**More recently, the film *Before The Wrath* has dramatically expanded this claim. Promotional material for the film claims that this was the #1**

**Christian Film of 2020**



**CHRISTIAN  
MOVIE IN  
AMERICA**

NARRATED BY KEVIN SORBO

**BEFORE THE WRATH**

**The primary claim of the film is that Galilean Wedding Rituals were very different than other Jewish wedding rituals:**

**The film claims to reveal a recent  
anthropological discovery.**

**“Newly rediscovered ancient anthropological evidence from the time of Christ finally reveals unprecedented findings that could prove the upcoming Rapture is not only real to a skeptical world but sheds new light on how and why this event must take place”**

**“These findings resulted from 10-years of research in Israel by leading ancient anthropological scholars which rediscovered lost Middle-Eastern views regarding how and why the biblical ‘catching away’ was prophesied to occur.”**

**The film makes tremendously over-the-top, hyper-sensationalized claims concerning this discovery:**



**The film is based on the work of Calvary  
Chapel Pastor Jay McCarl, which is claims  
is a “Middle East Anthropologist”**

A middle-aged man with grey hair, glasses, and a goatee is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark grey blazer over a blue collared shirt and a dark vest. He is standing in a workshop or studio with wooden walls and beams. To his right, there is a wooden shelf with several rolled-up scrolls or documents. The lighting is warm and focused on him.

**JAY McCARL**

**MIDDLE EAST ANTHROPOLOGIST**

**Despite all of the over-the-top, sensationalized claims, there were any actual discoveries. Zero. There is no new text, archeological find, or anything. It's all just based on the teachings and opinions of Jay McCarl, with the other famous pastors in the film agreeing with him.**

**Despite the claims of the creator of the film,  
Jay McCarl is not really even an  
anthropologist.**

**He is a Calvary Chapel pastor, with a Master's degree in Chaplaincy Ministry.**

**“Concerning my being referred to as any sort of ‘anthropologist’, that came from the PR folks, whom I have had nothing to do with in this regard. I am not an anthropologist and have no credentials in that field.”**

**—Pastor Jay McCarl**

**The film claims that Jesus is coming back “to save us from the end of the world.”**

**Jesus never promised to save us from the end of the world. He promised to save us from our sins and eternal spiritual death.**



**“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.”**

**(Matthew 1:21)**

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have  
eternal life.” (John 3:16)**

**“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full  
acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to  
save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”**

**(1 Timothy 1:15)**

**Jesus' sermon on the end times describes  
us being caught up:**

**“after the tribulation”  
(Matthew 24:29-31)**

**The film relies almost entirely on the claims of Jay McCarl. Many of these alleged Jewish wedding customs that he claims to have discovered are not even real. Many are fabricated, literally just made up.**

**“Information about wedding customs in the ancient world is relatively sparse, and practices may have differed from place to place.”**

**—Klyne Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*,  
Second Edition, pg 510.**

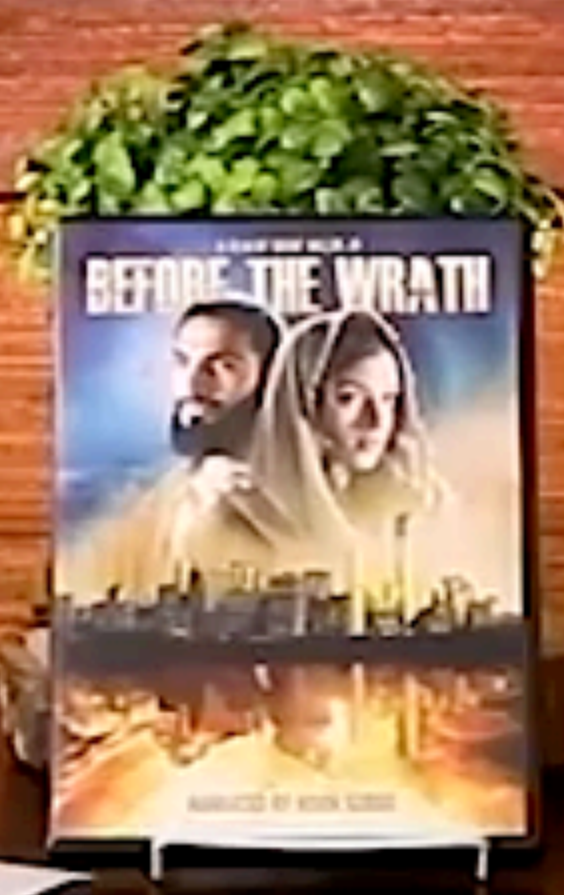
**McCarl himself even admits this:**

**“...what were their wedding traditions like before the fall of the Temple? This is not an easy question to answer because few historians recorded anything about it... That is why there just isn’t much historical information out there.”**

**“The problem was, almost all of the available information about Galilean weddings was recorded in the New Testament of the Bible.”**

**—Jay McCarl**

The film claims that only the Bridegroom's Father knew when the wedding would take place. It was a surprise. Therefore only the Father knows when the rapture will happen, but no one else knows the time.





**When they would lift the bride and  
bring her, they would call it “Lifting the  
Bride into the Air”**

**The Last Supper would have been  
clearly understood to have been  
modeled after a betrothal covenant.**

**The Bible specifically says the Last Supper  
was a Passover meal:**

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The

Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”

So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

(Matthew 26:17-19)

**Jesus compared what was going to happen to Him to a Passover lamb:**

**“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”**

**(Matthew 26:26-28)**

**The Covenant he was speaking of was  
the New Covenant:**

**“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”**

**(Jeremiah 31)**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you:  
The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is  
my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”  
In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This  
cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you  
drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this  
bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until  
he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)



**The only two explicit statements in Scripture about the wedding are Revelation 19 and Matthew 25 (The Parable of the Foolish and Wise Virgins). Both argue against a pre-trib rapture and teach a post-trib wedding.**

**Revelation 19 shows the marriage supper  
happening after the tribulation:**

Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’”

And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”

(Revelation 19:6–9)

**The film claims that the Bridegroom would go and get His bride and take her back to His Father's House for the wedding celebration. Therefore they say Jesus will come and get us and bring us back to heaven, proving a pre-trib rapture.**

**With regard to the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, the evidence we have suggests the marriage supper has held in the Bride's House.**

“If Greco-Roman sources are used and if Palestinian customs are assumed to be similar, *which is not unreasonable, the groom is understood as bringing his bride back to his (or his parents’) house after observing a banquet at the home of the bride.* The virgins then wait in the home of the groom. This is an attractive explanation and would make good sense of the text, *but certainty does not exist about where they are and exactly what is described.*”

—Klyne Snodgrass *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*

**“We have little knowledge of the specifics of wedding customs among first-century Jews, and we do not know how fixed various patterns were. The present story, however, seems to work best if we imagine the bride as already at the bridegroom’s destination and as sending out her maidens to welcome him in... In a much simpler form, the pattern of the bridegroom being brought to the bride is reflected in Tobit 8:1”**

**—Klyne Snodgrass**

Then Raguel called his daughter. When she came in, he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with his blessing, “Take her to be your wife according to the teachings in the Law of Moses. Take her safely with you to your father’s house. May the God of heaven give you a happy life together.” Raguel asked his wife to bring him a blank scroll so that he could write out the marriage contract. Edna brought him the scroll, and Raguel wrote out the agreement, saying that Sarah was given to Tobias according to the teachings in the Law of Moses. After the ceremony they began the meal. Raguel called his wife and said, “Get the spare room ready, my dear, and take Sarah there.” Edna made up the bed as Raguel had told her. Then she took Sarah into the room with her, and Sarah began to cry. But Edna wiped away her tears and said, “Don’t worry, Sarah. I’m sure the Lord of heaven will make you happy this time and not sad. So cheer up, my dear.” Then Edna left the room.

(Tobit 7:13–18)



**When they had finished the meal, and it was  
time to go to bed, Sarah's parents led young  
Tobias to the bedroom.**

**(Tobit 8:1)**

# Conclusion

**The Before the Wrath film itself is a fraud. There was no great discovery. The film's creators lie concerning the credentials of the experts. The talking heads in the film make claims that are demonstrably false.**

**The level of false information in the film is deeply grievous. The Body of Christ deserves the truth.**

**The Bible has clear information regarding the wedding, and many pre-tribbers ignore that information, while placing so much emphasis on these alleged extra-biblical Jewish wedding rituals, many of which are fabricated, not even real, fake.**