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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Pastors: Don't Prepare The Bride To Meet The Antichrist, Prepare The Bride To Meet Her Bridegroom

By Dean Dwyer May 5



In my last article, I spoke about the bride of Christ – the church. But did you know that unlike Western countries where the focus is on the bride, in Jewish weddings, the focus is on the groom? And that is certainly the case in the heavenly scene (Revelation 19) when the focus, the glory, the honour and the

majesty all belongs, as it should, to our Beloved Bridegroom – Jesus Christ. But when!? That is the daily cry of our heart. Many of us have looked forward to that wonderful promise for so long. Our anticipation grows and perhaps, so does our impatience.

It seems that as our excitement for the rapture grows, so also does opposition to it, particularly amongst those who are of the household of faith. In fact, many Christians have long doubted it; many scholars have long debated it and many sceptics have long denied it. But the truth is that the Scriptures have long declared it and therefore it will happen – in His time.

The Jewish bride did not doubt that her bridegroom would return because, at the time of betrothal, they were considered to have entered into a contract of marriage and the

bridegroom was duty bound to return. So church, we can cling to that wonderful promise just as a Jewish bride would have clung to the expectation that her bridegroom would return for her. And just as the bride did not know the day nor the hour, the phrase “I will come” reinforces the imminency of the rapture because it indicates a present tense in the Greek. In other words, it is so certain that Jesus can speak of it in any age in its present, not future tense.

You see, we often get into the habit of thinking of the rapture as a future event but it is one that is ever imminent and always at hand. Just as the Jewish bride was to expect her bridegroom at any moment, so too must we expect Jesus at any moment. But while we wait, we should not let the enemy rob us of our joy or permit him to seduce us into spiritual adultery. As we await His upward call, it should be a purifying hope. 1 John 3:2-3: *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*

That is why I am currently preaching a series on holiness. During the betrothal period of Jewish weddings, the bride was being observed for purity. Don’t you expect that Jesus is doing the same!?

Now, when that moment arrives and Jesus comes to get His bride, I want you to note an important principle: He does not simply send for us, He said “I will receive you unto Myself”. Let me explain. Because it is all tied up in the Greek word *paralambano* which is related to the concept of betrothal and the personal nature of it. In the New Testament, we first encounter the word in Matthew 1:20: *“But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take (paralambano) to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”*

Also in Matthew 1:24: *“Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took (paralambano) to him his wife.”*

Nobody else received Mary – it was Joseph, her bridegroom, who received her personally. We see this same word used in John 14:3: *“Let not your heart be troubled;*

you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive (paralambano) you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

So, when we understand some of the context of the use of the word "paralambano", in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, we can see a distinct harmony with John 14 (emphasis added): *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 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."*

In both passages (John 14 and 1 Thessalonians 4), we see Christ personally receiving His saints; in both, we see the relocation of believers from earth to heaven (from the bride's home to the Father's home); in both, we see truths that ease the troubled hearts of believers; and in both, we see the permanence of the union with Christ forevermore. Hallelujah!

But there is growing opposition to the doctrine of the rapture within Christian circles. One American preacher I know of is becoming increasingly exasperated that we are not actively doing anything to prepare the bride of Christ to face the Tribulation Period.

As a pastor who believes in a pre-Tribulation rapture, let me say this: I am not preparing the bride for wrath; I am preparing the bride for a wedding. I am not preparing the bride to have her garments stained by the wickedness of the world, I am preparing the bride to hold onto the purity and hope of Christ. I am not preparing the bride to live alongside the apostate church, I am preparing people to be counted amongst the raptured church. I am not preparing the bride to meet the Antichrist, I am preparing the bride to meet her Beloved – Jesus Christ!

Dean Dwyer has served for over 20 years as Pastor and President of Eiser Street Baptist Church in Queensland, Australia.

‘Somebody Is Radicalizing Our Students’: Weapons and Terrorism Book Discovered at Pro-Hamas Encampment by NYPD

By [Jim Hoft](#) May. 4, 2024



Credit: NYPD

The New York Police Department (NYPD) has uncovered alarming discoveries within a pro-Palestinian encampment on a college campus. According to reports, the police found weapons and a book on terrorism while clearing the encampment.

NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Operations Kaz Daughtry shared a concerning update from Columbia University’s Hamilton Hall on X.

“Pencils, books, laptops, those are the tools of students and what you expect to find on a college campus. But here’s what the NYPD found in Hamilton Hall at Columbia University after we were able to arrest the protestors and agitators for commandeering and barricading themselves inside the building. Gas masks, ear plugs, helmets, goggles, tape, hammers, knives, ropes, and a book on TERRORISM,” he wrote.

“These are not the tools of students protesting, these are the tools of agitators, of people who were working on something nefarious. Thankfully, your NYPD was able to prevent whatever they were planning and stop them before they could do it. Continue to peacefully and lawfully protest; but know that if you engage in illegal conduct, the NYPD will hold you responsible and hold you accountable—someone has to,” he added.

Speaking to reporters, NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Operations Kaz Daughtry expressed concerns about the sophisticated organization behind these protests.

“I just want to say—and I’ve said it before—there is somebody behind this movement. There is some organization behind this movement,” said Daughtry.

“The level of organization that we’re seeing in both of these camps, here and at Columbia, is evident from the leaflets on how to protest, how to commit civil disobedience, what to do when you get arrested, and what to say to the police when they question you,” he added.

The NYPD’s Deputy Commissioner of Counterterrorism and Intelligence is reportedly taking a proactive role in investigating these concerns.

“There is somebody funding this; there is somebody radicalizing our students. Our Deputy Commissioner of Counterterrorism and Intelligence will find out who it is,” Daughtry said.

According to Fox News, some of the groups involved in the protests are associated with far-left organizations backed by George Soros. These groups, including National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP), have been accused of using anti-Israel rhetoric and promoting radical views.

An AI license plate surveillance startup installed hundreds of cameras without permission

Flock installed its surveillance cameras without permits, and has now been banned from operating in two states

Bradley Brownell / Jalopnik



Image: Flock

Flock, a startup which promotes a surveillance state, has installed car tracking cameras in 4,000 cities among 42 states. The company makes its money and shareholder value by delivering AI-based tracking hardware

and software to local police departments, which are more than happy to pay Flock’s

\$3,000 annual fee. The Atlanta-based company has grown nearly 2,700 percent since 2020, and at least some of that growth, according to a new report from *Forbes*, has come from a willingness to bend the rules to get their cameras installed and tracking your every movement.

Flock uses fallible artificial intelligence software to “fingerprint” a car, matching its make, model, and appearance to a license plate number in the DOT database. Cops love Flock because they say it is less expensive than competitive systems from Motorola, while allegedly providing more accurate tracking of potential suspects.

Forbes’ report shows the level of law-breaking Flock is willing to commit in order to help law enforcement catch alleged criminals. According to company correspondence reviewed by *Forbes*, Flock has failed to obtain correct permitting for hundreds of its camera installations. Installing “devices” on state infrastructure without prior DOT approval is a crime in Florida, Illinois, and South Carolina, and the company has also run into issues with Texas and Washington over its lack of permits.

From *Forbes*:

In South Carolina, State Transportation Secretary Christy Hall told *Forbes* that since spring 2022, her staff has found more than 200 unpermitted Flock cameras during routine monitoring of public roads. In July 2023, the agency put a moratorium on new installations and ordered a safety and compliance review of all Flock cameras across the state.

Furthermore, and more importantly, it isn’t exactly clear what Flock is doing with the tracking data. Early last year South Carolina Rep. Todd Rutherford had this to say:

“People don’t know what is happening with that data, who is accessing it, who is keeping it. All of that infringes on our personal freedom without our knowledge. It’s getting to the point where a company is willing to break the law to install these cameras.”

Flock CEO Garrett Langley said at a recent event that the company’s cameras now “cover almost 70 percent of the population” and are used to solve “about 2,200 crimes a

day.” Just one Flock contract, Riverside County, California’s, consists of a network of 309 cameras scanning 27.5 million cars per month.

In June of 2022, an Illinois DOT official in contact with Flock representatives told the company it had many repeated, error-filled permit applications for camera installations. A Flock representative gave the IDOT official a thinly-veiled threat that if they didn’t fast-track the process, Flock would send “about 30 different police chiefs” to their office to talk to them about it.