

## Bible Passages using "Harpadzo" (NKJV)

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number G726 occurs 13 times in 13 verses (in 10 passages). (note: G stands for Greek and H would stand for Hebrew).

Meaning according to Strong's Definitions: to seize (in various applications):—catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force). It is a variant of a word that means to choose and focuses on the activity of taking hold of the thing chosen.

The word "rapture" comes from the Latin translation of this Greek word.

1. Matthew 11:12. *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent **take it by force.**"*
  - a. It pictures the kingdom of heaven, or a place within it, being snatched up by "the violent," which more likely means those who are strong and forceful (see Isaiah 53:12).
  - b. This is clearly a metaphorical/spiritual snatching up.
2. Matthew 13:19. *"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and **snatches away** what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."*
  - a. Like a bird snatching up seed, the devil works to snatch up the word of God from the heart of those who hear it.
  - b. Though the point is metaphorical/spiritual, the parabolic imagery is literal.
3. John 6:15. *"Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and **take Him by force** to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone."*
  - a. Though a type of arrest, it was for the positive purpose of declaring him king of Israel.
  - b. This is a literal seizing and perhaps would have manifested as them carrying him on their shoulders.
4. John 10:12. *"But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf **catches** the sheep and scatters them."*
  - a. The metaphor of a wolf seizing upon sheep is used to depict the spiritual danger of the devil capturing weak believers.
5. John 10:28. *"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone **snatch** them out of My hand."*
  - a. No one will be able to take those who have eternal life out of the hands of Jesus, which is a spiritual point.

6. John 10:29. *"My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able **to snatch** them out of My Father's hand."*
  - a. The point of the previous verse is restated and enhanced by bringing in the Father, who is greater than all.
  - b. Again, this is a spiritual point.
  
7. Acts 8:39. *"Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **caught Philip away**, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."*
  - a. As Philip draws the eunuch out of the water (he is baptizing him), Philip is caught away by the Spirit of the Lord.
  - b. He is physically taken away, but it seems to be a sudden disappearance of Philip, and then reappearance in Azotus 10-15 miles away. We have no testimony of what this looked like, or felt like, to Philip.
  
8. Acts 23:10. *"Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and **take him by force** from among them, and bring him into the barracks."*
  - a. Used here of an arresting of Paul, not so much for breaking the law, but to protect him and find out what is causing the commotion.
  - b. This is a literal seizing, but the force is more about the crowd than Paul.
  
9. 2 Corinthians 12:2. *"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was **caught up** to the third heaven."*
  - a. Paul relates a story of being caught up into the presence of God (third heaven). He is not sure whether he was taken physically into heaven, or only had a vision (mentally taken into heaven)), which means that he was alone when it happened.
  - b. He is literally caught up into heaven, whether it was physical or not.
  
10. 2 Corinthians 12:4. *"how he was **caught up** into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."*
  - a. This is a repetition of the prior verse, and the same context.
  
11. 1 Thessalonians 4:17. *"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."*
  - a. Paul describes the coming of Christ who resurrects those believers who have died, and then catches up the believers, who are still living at the time, into the air together with the resurrected dead, in order to be always with Jesus.
  - b. This is clearly literal.

12. Jude 1:23. *"but others save with fear, **pulling them out** of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."*
- a. Jude has been talking about sensual persons who cause division in the Church. There are some who may be able to be saved, but the righteous person must guard themselves lest they be lost themselves.
  - b. This snatching out of the fire is a parable for a spiritual point.
13. Revelation 12:5. *"She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was **caught up** to God and His throne."*
- a. This passage uses symbols, but clearly speaks of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.
  - b. From the Gospel accounts, we know that they watched him ascend until the clouds took him out of their sight.
  - c. This is less forceful than Philip's disappearance and reappearance. Since Jesus is involved, we would most likely see it as him raising himself up to heaven.
  - d. The use of symbolic language would explain why catching up language is used here, whereas, in the literal accounts, he is described as "taken up" (Acts 1:9), "received up" (Mark 16:19), and "carried up" (Luke 24:51).

Used Literally: 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13

7 times in 6 passages

Used Spiritually: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12

6 times in 4 passages