Understanding Eschatology Leads to a More Fruitful Christian Life

A Thesis Project Submitted to
the Faculty of Liberty University School of Divinity
in Candidacy for the Degree of
Doctor of Ministry

By

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Thesis Project Approval Sheet

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THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY THESIS PROJECT ABSTRACT
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The evangelical church cannot fulfill its mission to facilitate the return of Jesus unless its membership’s studies eschatology. Too many relegate biblical prophecies to the past without recognizing their fulfillment in the here and now. This study investigates the contemporary belief structure of church members and aims to develop an effective corrective measure in order to improve the spiritual life of its members while advancing the church’s central mission of evangelizing.

This study aims to determine what members know about church viewpoints on eschatology and deliver an educational remedy. The 15-person sample received a six-week course on eschatology developed and administered by the research project’s author. Multiple-choice questions for each week were analyzed in order to compare what participants knew and felt before and after being introduced to relevant topics.

Written responses showed that studying the components of eschatology heightened faith and the ability to live a more fulfilling life by enabling the interpretation of current events through an eschatological lens. Because eschatology was no longer relegated to biblical prophecies already fulfilled, the participants increased their ability to live a more fulfilling life while anticipating the return of Jesus Christ.

The results of the small sample could have a large impact on the church. Forty percent increased relevant knowledge and 100 percent of participants reevaluated their view about the imminence of the Rapture and were able to understand contemporary events as fulfillments of ancient prophecies. Upon completion of the intervention, all participants agreed that they would live a more ethical Christ-centered life while anticipating the Second Coming. The results suggest that evangelical churches should enhance the teaching of eschatology and refer to the author’s educational materials for intervention efforts.

Keywords: Church Education, End Times, Eschatology, Pretribulation, Midtribulation, Posttribulation, Rapture, Second Coming
Abstract Length: 280
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Abbreviations

DMIN        Doctor of Ministry
LUSOD       Liberty University School of Divinity
Chapter 1

Introduction

The central role of eschatology in Christian faith is often misunderstood. Correcting that misunderstanding yields significantly different outcomes in the life of potential believers. While the first element of eschatology is taught well and widely understood, the second is often underappreciated. The first element involves understanding past historical and prophetic events that confirm the veracity of God’s Word. New Testament eschatology is characterized by the assertion that Jesus Christ, in the role of the Messiah, fulfilled the Old Testament promise to be born, suffer, die, and be resurrected according to Scripture. John the Baptist proclaimed that the “Day of the Lord” arrived as anticipated by the prophets. Church members who believe Christ fulfilled the promises of the Messiah’s coming are thus assured of everlasting life due to their faith in Him. That Christ came to this earth has encouraged believers to accept Him as their savior and realize we are living in the presence of His age as Lord and Savior. George Eldon Ladd points to Isaiah 61:1-2 in Luke 4:18-21 to demonstrate Christ Himself confirmed this prophecy.\(^1\) J. Dwight emphasizes that God’s plan to set up His Kingdom on earth was manifested in Christ, whose physical presence as Messiah was fundamental to implementing that plan.\(^2\) The second element of eschatology is the return of Jesus Christ, referred to as the Second Coming, to redeem this earth. The primary focus of this study thus concerns the impact that a complete understanding of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will have on church members.


This paper addresses the problem of the lack of deep understanding within the church regarding the eschatological dimension of the Second Coming of Christ, also referred to as latter day eschatology. The motivation to emphasize latter day eschatology in church teaching is rooted in the conviction that understanding this topic will effectively improve the quality of life for those who have not yet incorporated into their belief structure the anticipation of the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

Ministry Context

Harvest Christian Fellowship is a large church with many campuses throughout Southern California, comprising a congregation of over 12,000 attendees. Harvest Christian Fellowship is a nondenominational Bible-teaching church. Due to its size and demographics, it is an attractional church with constituent organizations, including media production, a coffee barista bar, food courts, and other social pursuit stations. The physical layout is carefully designed, with floor plans and decor that yield a seeker-friendly and engaging environment for all demographic profiles. The campuses are operated in a welcoming manner, offering a warm and kind environment to first-time visitors. The parking staff guides all new visitors to parking spots reserved for new guests directly in front of the church and welcomes all first-timers with a special package containing information on the church and a campus map.

The church fellowship modernizes the presentation of traditional biblical doctrine with sermons full of current news and popular media content to keep the interest of the faithful. To give attendees a sense of intimacy and connectedness, Harvest Christian Fellowship offers a variety of small group gatherings, which allow for profile targeting and enhancing the social connection that is difficult to navigate in large groups. The most popular subgroups include Virtue, Valor, and V2, for women, men, and couples, respectively. Each year, the church
designates a topical theme used to develop the year’s curricular programming. The theme of a particular year is incorporated into the curricular development and guides the activities for each small group, complemented with group study guides and homework handouts for personal or group study. Generally, small group studies emphasize how to become a good person rather than traditional scriptural study. So, while the study was biblically based, reading and interpreting verses has largely been replaced by the facilitator sharing the gist of the passage, followed by participants using this as an opportunity to share their own stories.

Harvest Christian Fellowship’s educational programming offers short shrift to the topic of eschatology. Ladd establishes that New Testament eschatology points to both the here and now, as well as the things that will come. The unwavering emphasis in the New Testament, from the Gospels, to Paul and the Epistles, to the book of Revelation, is how the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth inaugurated the Age to Come so His believers could enjoy the power and blessings of the coming age in the here and now.\(^3\) Harvest Christian Fellowship sermons focus on current events and cursory Bible basics, providing only a brief introduction to eschatological matters. To correct this imbalance, the researcher sought to resolve the problem by teaching the men’s worship group about eschatology and, based on evaluations and surveys of their experience, formulated educational proposals harnessing the positive outcomes to reach other members of the congregation.

**Problem Presented**

The research problem was that the Christian Fellowship men’s lack of eschatological understanding undermined their moral fiber. Few understood eschatology to be God’s plan for the future. The more knowledge and insight people have about the End Times, the better they can

be during their life on earth. The Lord makes us accountable according to the ethical standards recorded in the Bible. A church member cannot be a good disciple without living a life pleasing to God. The motivation to live a pleasing and ethical life is grounded in the realization that the Lord has already come and, in a significant way, already established God’s kingdom. This belief supports living each day by faith and the conviction of His promises while anticipating His final return at any moment. Eschatological studies are thus necessary for believers to uphold, both for the quality of their faith and their moral constitution.

**Purpose Statement**

This project aimed to educate Harvest Christian Fellowship’s men’s worship team on eschatological matters because their comprehension of this topic was deficient. A course entitled Understanding the Future: A Prophetic Look at Past, Present, and Future Events was a project initiated by the researcher as of 2006, and implemented from October 26, 2020, to December 12, 2020, at Harvest Christian Fellowship. New handout materials were designed and delivered by the researcher to provide participants with the profound understanding that we are living in the Age of Fulfillment, and that the Time of Consummation will be fulfilled in the Second Coming of the Lord. Ladd states, “The age of fulfillment is present, but the time of consummation still awaits the Age to Come.”

As the men’s worship team developed a deep understanding of eschatology, both present and future, the researcher anticipated a change in their Christian experience by participating in the proposed course. The proper attention to an understanding of eschatology led these believers to become better Christians so their ethical behavior could improve, along with the fruit of their faith.

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Basic Assumptions

The research assumed that the men’s worship team consisted of Christians whose lives lacked superior moral behavior due to their insufficient knowledge of eschatological church teachings. By understanding that they are living in the partial fulfillment of God’s promises and that the consummation of His promises is yet to come, this group gained the knowledge and consciousness that would lead them to live a more fulfilling life today. A better understanding of New Testament eschatology increases the joy a believer can experience in the here and now. This research project provided a biblical perspective on the Pretribulation view of the Rapture of the Church to emphasize that Jesus could return at any moment and that we should live our lives in secure anticipation of His imminent return. Believers lived in the knowledge and power that Jesus of Nazareth brought with Him the present reality of God’s reign, yet the consummation of that reign would begin with the Rapture of His Church. This project utilized the Pretribulation Rapture view of the book of Revelation, which focused on the imminent return of Jesus Christ, grounded on the assumption that people who understand and believe this will live each day anticipating Christ’s return and thus live a more Christian life.

Definitions

The definition of this research project was targeted toward the Harvest Christian Fellowship men’s worship team. The study program was administered from October 26, 2020, to December 12, 2020, to a subgroup that consisted of 15 fellowship participants, musicians who served at fellowship services, and were members of Valor. Valor is a small group program for men meeting every Tuesday night for 30 minutes for praise and worship, followed by one hour of topical Bible study facilitated by two co-leaders. The year-long 2020 organizing theme was “The life of Moses.” Valor groups were sorted by various criteria, including age and profession.
The researcher’s educational project provided this small group at Harvest Christian Fellowship the requisite background and knowledge of eschatology. The group sessions began by connecting the men’s belief structure with the experience of the Second Coming by highlighting the teaching that Jesus will return with His Saints. Since His Saints are defined as the body of Christ, the goal was to examine each participant within the context of the church. As three Rapture timelines exist, namely, Pretribulation, Midtribulation, and Posttribulation, this teaching project selected the Pretribulation view. The Rapture of the Church was taught as occurring before the Tribulation period. Materials proving the Pretribulation view of God’s plan for the future were provided, along with materials disproving the Midtribulation and Posttribulation viewpoints.

The researcher’s teaching curriculum was supplemented with presentations, handouts, worksheets, and booklets. All materials supported the project’s mission by giving participants resources with biblical evidence for a Pretribulation view of eschatology to encourage the belief that the Lord could return at any moment. The curriculum was unified in its Pretribulation perspective that the Church's Rapture is the next prophetic event on God’s calendar.

Limitations

Limitations in a research study are the items or events that the researcher has no control over, such as not obtaining a large enough sample to gather valuable data. In some cases, convenience studies are appropriate, due to accessibility constraints. In contrast, an ample random sample permits the researcher to reach out to more stakeholders, allowing for more diverse data to be analyzed. An additional limitation included insufficient time to provide substantial in-depth teachings of the three competing views of the Rapture of the Church. As a
result, the researcher omitted some materials on Midtribulation and Posttribulation to thoroughly teach on the Pretribulation viewpoint of Rapture.

**Delimitations**

The research project was limited to the Tuesday night men’s musical group that consisted of 15 men who served as musicians on the worship team, meeting Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. During the first 30 minutes, these men joined everyone in corporate praise and worship in the main sanctuary. Then, small groups broke out for independent Bible study in the Green Room for the remaining hour, behind the stage. The Bible studies were based on a topical theme. Unity was maintained, since each subgroup, whether men, women, or couples, followed the same format using the same study materials. This unifying concept was highlighted by the Sunday sermon, which always aligned with the topic each group explored.

This research project was limited to the study of eschatology; other aspects of Christianity were not pursued. The course’s study of eschatology started with a unit on history and the Bible, which presented a solid foundation of Bible prophecies and significant events that have taken place. From there, the course progressed to future prophecies, emphasizing the Pretribulation view of the Rapture of the Church. The topic of eschatology was explained in terms of how believers should incorporate the belief that Christ can return at any moment. The material covered was taught so participants could appreciate and apply the relevance of the teaching to their own lives. A survey evaluated that appreciation and relevance, and the results are presented below. These materials are found in Appendices A-D. The researcher and a guest reader provided conclusions in response to the project’s results.
Thesis Statement

When people know more about eschatology, they are better prepared to lead a more fruitful and active Christian life. For example, they become better and more effective witnesses for Christ. Additionally, their day-to-day life ethically matures as it is more grounded in the perspective learned in the course, namely, a heightened awareness that Christ could return at any moment.
Chapter 2

Conceptual Framework

Chapter two includes a literature review that expands on the information discussed in the thesis project proposal. It explicates the themes found in much of the literature through paraphrases and footnotes. Based on the thesis project proposal, the project’s theological context and theoretical foundation are also expanded upon.

Literature Review

Atheist-turned Christian Lee Strobel set out to investigate Christian believers’ claims about Christ to prove that the Bible was a hoax; yet, his diligent research revealed vital historical evidence for him to convert to Christianity. Strobel’s initial impression of Christianity was that the New Testament did not successfully prove the divinity of Jesus, figuring this belief was a fanciful invention of superstitious people.\(^5\) After extensive research into challenges to the evangelical Christian view, Strobel concluded that the most significant historical support for Jesus had been hushed up.\(^6\) British historian of missions Andrew Walls points out that historical events reveal how eschatology meets history most intimately. Walls posits that studying eschatology increases faith in Christianity.\(^7\) Solid evidence of past prophecies needs to be presented to provide support for future prophecies to come. End of Times guru Mark Hitchcock lists hundreds of prophecies that have come to pass, all foretold in the Bible, giving absolute

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\(^6\) Ibid., 265.

\(^7\) Andrew F. Walls, “Eschatology and the Western Missionary Movement,” *Studies in World Christianity* 22, no. 3 (2016), 192.
proof to support that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.\(^8\) English New Testament scholar Nicholas Thomas Wright, whose writings emphasize resurrection and eschatology as the proper hope of all Christians, refers to how C. H. Dodd stressed the concept of realized eschatology, meaning that Jesus and His disciples had already realized the standards of the End Times. Wright points out that Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God was already present.\(^9\) Prophecy has been fulfilled by Christ's birth, death, and resurrection. Credible sources used to back up historical evidence for the Bible and Jesus can be found in the secular writings of first-century Romano-Jewish historian Josephus (37–c.100). Josephus’s writing supports Christianity by providing verifiable historical places and persons mentioned in the Bible.\(^10\) Renowned Jesus scholar Geza Vermes details direct quotes from the books of Genesis and Isaiah found in the Dead Sea Scrolls recovered from the caves of Qumran.\(^11\) These scrolls prove the Bible’s accuracy because prophecies written long ago and hidden in caves did come to pass. Furthermore, the books by seminary president John Walvoord focus on eschatology, with a push for an increased awareness of the role the Rapture plays among Christians. Walvoord regards God’s covenantal sign of the rainbow shown to Noah as a sign that God’s word is accurate and signals humanity that He is all-knowing.\(^12\) Walvoord and his fellow theologians enhanced the role of the Rapture.

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\(^8\) Mark Hitchcock, *The End: Everything You’ll Want to Know about the Apocalypse* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2018), 15.


Eschatology

The importance of eschatology is grounded in the first and second appearance of Jesus Christ. Jesus often mentions that the Kingdom of God has come, revealing that He has come and will come again. For Christians, Christ's return is known as the Blessed Hope. Founder of the Calvary Chapel movement Charles “Chuck” Smith speaks of the Rapture of the Church as the Blessed Hope, as Jesus takes His church off the earth and into heaven. Smith explains that “Rapture” refers to when Jesus Christ snatches His church from the world. This event is to happen suddenly and without notice. Smith believes that Scripture reveals the church will be removed, or raptured from the earth (as depicted in Revelation 4:1), such that believers will be gathered with Christ to experience a seven-year honeymoon with their Lord in heaven, meanwhile the earth experiences the Wrath of God during the time of the Great Tribulation.

Eschatology has been altered and repurposed in some groups for personal glorification rather than to glorify God through His Son. For instance, the Church’s Rapture has been reinterpreted by Hong Xiuquan (1814-1864), who believed God elected him to establish a kingdom on earth in Nanjing, China, claiming he was meant to rule as the Heavenly King. While this view is not supported in the Bible, other cults are rising with unsupported views of eschatology.

Among the options of the Pretribulation, Midtribulation, and Posttribulation views of the Rapture, Hitchcock opts for the Pretribulation, emphasizing that the Rapture will happen,

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14. Ibid., 46.

teaching that believers will escape the wrath to be with God during what is known as the Great Tribulation. Hitchcock explains that some dominations and teachings support a Midtribulation view, in which believers will suffer through the first three and a half years of the Tribulation and only then be raptured into heaven. Televangelist Don Stewart supports the Pretribulation view, claiming that a loving and gracious God would not submit his faithful saints through the Posttribulation experience. The Posttribulation Rapture view discounts the possible Rapture of the Church before or coterminous with the Second Coming of Christ, portraying Christians instead as suffering through the awful Tribulation, after which they are then raptured.

The book of Daniel is often used to support eschatology and a Pretribulation view of the Rapture. Daniel is one of the most prophetic books of the Old Testament; the most prophetic book of the New Testament may well be the book of Revelation. Both books have many parallels. Walvoord indicates that the book of Daniel predicts the developments unifying the whole world into one government. In anticipation of this unified world order, Daniel foretold the progression of proceeding world empires with precise accuracy. The seventieth week of Daniel is used to foretell the last seven years of world history, which Jesus Christ also referenced. At some point in the future, the seventieth week will begin, its events will come to pass, and it will conform to the chronology of the seven years of the seventieth week of Daniel. The church understands this as the only view that provides a reasonable ground for the belief that the final

16. Hitchcock, The End: Everything You’ll Want to Know about the Apocalypse, 44.
17. Ibid.
week of Daniel will occur in the future. Walvoord writes that Daniel believed the Lord’s Word would result in a literal fulfillment.20

Theologian Sir Robert Anderson’s diligent writings reflect his career as an intelligence officer, as he meticulously plows through mathematical calculations while consulting scriptures and the book of Daniel to support the First and Second Coming of Christ. Christ's first appearance, death, burial, and resurrection were all precisely foretold centuries earlier in predictions by Isaiah and Daniel.21 Christ also spoke of the abomination of desolation, using a phrase from the prophet Daniel. The “Abomination of Desolation” is an event that refers to the new world leader walking into a future temple that will be built in Jerusalem, where he will demand to be worshiped. Smith comments on this passage and declares this world leader will be a mighty man who will rise upon the world scene and bring the world under his control by promising peace and prosperity for all.22 Smith predicts this world leader will start an entirely new economic system, forcing everybody to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead. Without the mark, one will not be able to buy or sell.23 The book of Daniel plays such a prophetic role in eschatology because it lays out world history in advance and gives believers hope for the future.

Chapter 9 of the book of Daniel is known as the seventy weeks of Daniel and foretells the First and Second Coming of Christ to the exact day. When the Lord said, “of that day and hour no man knows” (Matt 24:36 NMB), He was referring to the Rapture of the Church. This event is


a mystery, and no time frame is given. The Rapture is when Christ comes for His Church (1 Thess 4:15; 1 Cor 15:51-53), whereas in the Second Coming, Christ comes with His Church (Rev 19:11-16). Daniel Chapter 9 refers to the first advent of Christ, the moment when Christ rides into Jerusalem (the triumphant entrée). Daniel 9:25-26 states there are 69 times 7 years, or 483 years, when the decree is sent out to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem until the time the Prince shall come. Nehemiah 2:1-9 relates that Persian King Artaxerxes signed the decree. This text is part of the historical records of the time, in the month of Nisan of the year 445 BC. The decree describes how the king supplied the governor of Persian Judea, Nehemiah, with guards, funds, and material to rebuild the Temple walls, thus adding 483 years to this date. This calculation is derived by using the Julian 360-days-per-year calendar, allowing for leap years, which accurately locates Christ riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on the ninth of Nisan in 32 AD, and is historically demonstrated and supported with facts, tables, and calculations, as researched by Sir Robert Anderson. This is why “Christ wept,” stating, Oh, Jerusalem, if you had only known that this was your day (researcher’s paraphrase) (Luke 19:41-42). I suggest that if the Jews had read their scriptures, they would have known this day was arranged and foretold. From this point, blindness would be covering the eyes of the Jews until the fullness of the Gentiles comes (Rom 11:25). As stated in Daniel 12:11, when the world leader stops the sacrifices in the Temple, there will be 1,290 days until Christ returns with His Church. This long-awaited—yet imminent—event is known as the Second Coming of Christ, when He physically returns with His Church.

In his in-depth and concise look at New Testament eschatology, Ladd lays out a foundation for identifying Old Testament prophecies revealing that the appearance of the savior Jesus Christ is present-day. As believers, we live in the here and now, and anticipate His return to occur as future prophecies unfold. Ladd speaks of Jesus's mission as being the fulfillment of Old Testament promises. While this is the age we live in, the consummation of God’s plan has yet to occur. Ladd takes a closer look at biblical history that emphasizes the New Testaments' declarations to communicate God’s redemptive plan manifested in Jesus Christ. He highlights that Jesus Himself declared the Kingdom of God is at hand and, as believers, we should rejoice because we are now living life in the present spiritual realm while awaiting the future in our resurrected bodies.


Don Stewart masterfully provides a biblical perspective on the Rapture of the Church in his signature book. He takes readers through various scriptural passages to teach what the Bible says about the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ. Don explains three views of Rapture, which refer to the moment believers will be taken up and away. He makes it easy for the reader to understand each of the three viewpoints, providing scriptural support for each. Stewart guides his readers in a careful explanation as to whether these different views fit or not into God’s prophetic plan. His organization motivates and facilitates readers to sift through the Old and New Testament to arrive at a personal perspective on the Rapture. His presentation for Pretribulation Rapture is compelling. He stresses the love of God as well as how God’s
judgment is not meant for His people. Stewart concludes with a section on the Blessed Hope and how, as believers, the church should anticipate Christ’s return and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven, which will transpire immediately before the Wrath of God that will consume the earth.


Well-known Pretribulation advocate John Dwight Pentecost provides one of the most comprehensive surveys of every possible view on biblical prophetic subject matter. He maps out all possible Things to Come in his homonymous book, reviewing all interpretations of prophetic Scripture, laying a solid foundation for the church's view on the Rapture and a description of Tribulation events. The author explains the scriptural basis of what will happen to both the People of Israel and the gentiles during this period. He also details the Kingdom Program in the Present Age and for the Age to Come.


Of the 1970s Calvary Chapel movement fame, Chuck Smith was well-known for his biblical education method, proceeding verse by verse, starting with Genesis and continuing right through the book of Revelation. He never skipped a verse or an opportunity to explain eschatology. His exciting book about the End Time envisions believers as theatergoers invited backstage to view what the director is doing right before the curtain goes up. Pastor Chuck provides a chronology of prophecies, including those that have been fulfilled and those that believers are certain will be fulfilled. The world stage and current event headlines provide the stage for the final act. Smith justifies the past before speaking about the future. The reader is given both a rearview mirror and a portal to view the future through the lens of prophetic
writings, urged to look back through the mirror. Pastor Chuck begins with the People of Israel experiencing the realization of many prophecies within the last 100 years, as the Lord has returned them to their Land. Pastor Chuck continues to present the stage notes for world history by explaining that the book of Daniel foretold world-historical events in the past and events that have yet to pass. Moreover, he uses the book of Revelation as a script to support his view of Pretribulation Rapture, the Wrath of the Lamb, and the Second Coming of Christ according to his reading of scriptures. His finale is a depiction of heaven.

**Theological Foundations**

New Testament eschatology is grounded on two factors: that we live in the Time of Grace and, second, that we anticipate the consummation of His promise. Living in the Time of His Grace is a theological idea believers use to assert that Christ has come, died, and was raised from the dead so we may have everlasting life. The ultimate consummation of His promises begins with His Second Coming, for which three popular competing views exist. The three eschatological views of the Rapture of the Church are Pretribulation, Midtribulation, and Posttribulation, and are not disconnected, but rather, are three different possible timings of the Rapture. While all three are biblically sourced, the Pretribulation perspective is closest to understanding the Lord could return, literally, at any moment. Believers should know, understand, and believe in the Pretribulation view. In Matthew 24:36, Jesus announces that neither the day nor hour of his return is known by man nor angels; only the Father knows the appointed time of His Son’s return. The Pretribulation view is the only view that supports the belief that Christ could come at any moment and that living each day as if that is the day Christ could return will change the way believers approach each day. Paul cautions the Thessalonian church to beware for “the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess 5:2, ESV).
He reminds the church to stay awake and be ready at all times, that is, to live each day as if the Lord would be coming back that day.

The biblically foreordained event is known as the Rapture of the Church. Although the term “Rapture” does not appear in English Bible translations, it appears in the Latin Vulgate as the word *rapiemur*, from which the word “Rapture” comes. In the original Greek, *harpzois*, on which the Latin is based, means “snatched away,” “taken by force,” or “caught up.” The Bible supports the Pretribulation view in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 when the Lord’s message is relayed that we will be caught up (*harpzois*) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the sky. Not all people on the rolls of the church will have this blessed privilege. Only the generation of faithful believers, those in a spiritually suitable condition, will have everlasting life with Jesus Christ. American Bible scholar Charles Ryrie expounds on this topic, explaining that the Lord is coming in the air, not the earth, and it will happen before the Great Tribulation period.24 Ryrie Pretribulation advocacy is subscribed to by Christian biblical scholars who disavow the possibility of Midtribulation or Posttribulation.

The Bible says we will get our new bodies and meet the Lord in the clouds (1 Thess 4:17). 1 Corinthians 15:51–53 states, “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed . . . in the twinkling of an eye, . . . this mortal must put on immortality” (NASB). Mark Hitchcock illustrates the Rapture of the Church, stating that, “Pretribulation believes that the Rapture will happen and the believers will escape the wrath of the great tribulation.”25 Hitchcock feels confident this is the correct view since the Lord would not want His people to endure the hour of tribulation He will pour out upon the world. In Revelation 3:10,

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Christ says, “Because you have kept My command [this is a command, not a suggestion] to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial [or, tribulation] which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth” (KJV). Pentecostal minister Don Stewart also supports the Pretribulation view. He argues Posttribulation is the only theory that does not see a long interval between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ. Walvoord explains that the Rapture of the Church is always presented in the Bible as the next event and is not dependent on immediately preceding events.26

Christ provides an overview of the End Times in the prophecy found in Matthew Chapter 24. In His own words, Jesus Christ—the Savior, the Healer, the Comforter, and the Prophet—gives a briefing on the End Times, beginning with Matthew 24:1-2: “And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye, not all these things? verily I say unto you; There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (KJV). Christ then tells them about the destruction of the Temple and what to expect during the last days. In this passage, Jesus had just left the Temple for the last time. A few days earlier, Jesus had made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, as well as the prophecy given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel, both of which foretold Christ’s first coming to the exact day.

The context is important. From Daniel 9:25, we deduce that from the time the Temple’s walls were rebuilt to the coming of the Messiah will be 69 years times seven years, which is 173,880 days (using 360 day-per-year calendar necessitating leap years). Nehemiah 2:5-8 records that King Artaxerxes signed the decree for Nehemiah to rebuild the city walls on March

14, 445 BC. This actual document artifact can be found housed in the British Museum. The addition of 173,880 days to March 14, 445 BC thus determines April 6, 32 AD as the date Christ rode into Jerusalem. This significant date was the first day Christ permitted the people to acknowledge Him as the Messiah. Before this day, He had always said, “my time has not yet come” (John 7:6, NKJV) and would hide away from crowds. The exact day of His coming was prearranged; Christ wept for His people because they did not know this. The prophets gave them the exact day and how He would enter the city, yet the Jews rejected Him. That is why Christ wept, as recorded in Luke, “you did not know the time of your visitation” (Luke 19:44, NKJV). From that point on, blindness was put on the Jews until the fullness of the gentiles came (Romans 11:25). Christ wept because His people did not know what His Word had promised. Will He weep again if believers are not ready for His return? The Creator of the universe arranged the exact day His Son would appear, yet no one accepted His Word.

The Lord has fulfilled history. The Bible has foretold past, present, and future events; yet, people are too distracted by the things of this world to understand He will come again. The exact day of His next coming is not given, for the Son of God will come at the least expected hour. Woe unto them who do not heed His Word. The value of eschatological understanding is that understanding these events can change the way Christians live their lives every day if they truly believe Christ can return at any moment. Matthew 24:15 references Daniel’s warning: “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)” (KJ21). The Midtribulation view of the Rapture is based on this specific passage, which depicts people waiting for the antichrist, who will take the form of a new world leader to make himself known, at which point, the Rapture would take place. The unfortunate consequence of this theology is that those who wait will not
have a sense of urgency of living for Christ before this event. One might characterize this with a Midtribulation viewpoint, as looking for the antichrist instead of Jesus Christ.

The Posttribulation theological viewpoint also has a negative impact on believers. The Posttribulation view waits for this ultimate event to take place, after which their theologically-based decision would be akin to Daniel 12:11, “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (KJV). The Posttribulation view involves waiting for the Rapture to happen at a specific time rather than anticipating the return of Christ at any given moment. This theology is deficient because it affords Christians the option to live each day pleasing the flesh rather than living each moment for Christ.

A better moral and behavioral outcome results from a right and correct biblical eschatological perspective, as portrayed in the Bible, wherein world history, including the past, present, and most importantly, the future, is addressed. Jesus stated, “I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him” (John 5:43, NIV). This can be understood to refer to the next nefarious world leader. Daniel's prophecy declares that the next world leader will come out of the Roman Empire, be of Roman descent, and establish a one world government. This world leader is known as the antichrist. The word “anti” in Greek means “instead of” or “other than.” This leader appears in the scene in Revelation 6:2, identified as the rider of a white horse. In Daniel Chapter 9, there were 70 seven-year periods declared upon the People of Israel. Sixty-nine of the 70 seven-year periods have been fulfilled by Christ appearing, suffering, and dying for our sins, affording everlasting life to those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The last seven-year cycle has not yet started, as it will be ushered in by the world leader. In several passages, Daniel
refers to the world leader, stating that he will make a treaty with the People of Israel to rebuild their temple. Then, after three-and-a-half years, he will walk into the Temple and claim he is the Christ, an event referred to as the abomination of desolation in evangelical biblical terms.

This world leader will come from the sphere of Rome and bring peace to Israel. If you ask Jewish scholars who the Messiah will be, the common reply is that the Messiah will bring peace to Israel and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The Bible describes this new world leader as a charismatic man bringing peace to the earth and seeming to solve economic problems of social injustice and inequitable distribution of resources. The world will love this charismatic leader and support his one world government. Believers see this reality in current events over the last 50 years, during which NATO has emerged as a world peacekeeper, the Soviet Union has collapsed, former European enemy countries have developed interdependent economic agreements, and the United States of America continues to close military bases and decrease their military workforce. This appears to be a one world government, according to believers in the church.

Revelation 13:3 relays that this one world leader survives an assassination attempt, miraculously recovering from a fatal wound, to which the astonished people of the earth respond by worshiping him. Revelation 13:11-13 refers to the world leader’s sidekick, possibly a religious figure able to perform miracles and wonders. Referring to the End Times, Daniel 12:11 states there will be 1,290 days until the end, from the moment the world leader steps into the Temple, that is, the abomination of desolation.

After this event, the Wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth, as described in Revelation Chapters 6-19, after which the final battle will take place in the Valley of Megiddo, that is, the event described as Armageddon (Rev 16:16). Daniel’s prophecy concludes that the
God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. All other kingdoms will be brought to an end, and only the Lord’s Kingdom will endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock that is cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands (Dan 2:44-45, NIV). Revelation 19:11 illustrates, “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and makes war” (KJV).

Believers will benefit from their study and understand the importance of life-changing behavior when they appreciate what the Lord says about His Second Coming. Both the Old and New Testaments proclaim the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Rapture of the Church. It is thus important to impress upon believers that the Rapture is when Christ comes for His Church, whereas the Second Coming is when Christ comes with His Church. Knowing and understanding this can lead to a better and more fruitful Christian inner life and lifestyle choices during the times believers still have on this earth.

**Theoretical Foundations**

The understanding of New Testament eschatology includes both the here and now as well as the future, leading believers to live a more fruitful Christian life. The teaching method in this study, a course on eschatology as portrayed in Scripture, included ample study materials, such as pamphlets, diagrams, charts, timelines, online videos, and hand-out materials developed by the researcher. These were used to guide the research participants, all members of the Harvest Christian Fellowship Music group. All handouts, pamphlets, PowerPoint and video presentations, and chapter books were aimed to provide adequate biblical material on eschatology. The course title was Understanding the Future: A Prophetic Look at Past, Present, and Future Events. It included eight-chapter books used as topical studies and for sermonic
purposes. An outline of the course description is presented as follows:

1. History and the Bible
2. The Mystery of the Rapture
3. The Wrath of the Lamb
4. The Signs of the Times (Matthew Chapter 24)
5. The Last Days (Israel in Prophecy, Ezekiel 38 & 39)
6. The Unveiling (The Coming of The Antichrist)
7. Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin (A Commentary on the Book of Daniel)
8. The Divine Outline (A Commentary of the Book of Revelation)

This systematic framework helped the group establish a solid understanding of eschatology. It presented a study of biblical, ancient, and contemporary history and offered a solid foundation to understand how prophecies work. The second section, Mystery of the Rapture, was taught as a stage set for prophecies to come. By the conclusion of the course, the group participants discovered, on their own the validity, God’s plan for the future, which led each person to a more fruitful Christian life.
Chapter 3

Methodology

Research studies involve collecting and analyzing data to format a proper instrument developed to gather the relevant information needed. The process is set forth to follow a procedure the facilitator or practitioner has deemed the best and most accurate way to obtain the data required for a successful research project. This process includes various interventions and methods to implement them.

This intervention was designed to bring awareness that the Lord could return for His Church at any time. The questions in this research study were outlined to authenticate prophecies that have taken place, build a solid foundation on what the Lord said would happen, and examine future prophecies of events that have not yet taken place. The assumption is that, if believers are aware the Lord has been 100% accurate about all previous prophecies, then His prophecies about the future will also come to pass. The intervention was carried out from October 26, 2020, to December 12, 2020, and was systematic. It started with a prophetic timeline, including History and the Bible, The Mystery of the Rapture, The Wrath of the Lamb, The Unveiling (which included a section about what the Bible says about the coming world leader and his attributes), The Last Days (Israel in prophecies), and concluded with The Signs of the Times (Matthew Chapter 24), which is Jesus overviewing His return and what to look for before this event.

This course survey aimed to educate and bring awareness that the day of the Lord is at hand, and participants of this study will be held accountable for what the Lord has said about his Second Coming, so they are not ignorant when these things begin to take place. The Lord has given us Bible prophecy to be sure of His word and the future He has planned for His people.
The intervention instrument was in the form of reading material and surveys administered online. The instruments provided quantitative questions and, for each section of the course, ended with a qualitative narrative to understand each participant’s thoughts expressed in their own words. Each weekly section was followed by an online survey designed to test participants on the material studied and gathered data from participants. Following each section, the facilitator evaluated and reviewed the data to determine if any topics needed to be reinforced or reexamined; the data produced a suitable outcome and no adjustments were needed. A final survey was administered at the end of the course, monitoring whether the project accomplished its objectives. The intervention changed the problem, as it was designed to monitor and track participants’ learning progress. The assumption was that, if the course material was easy to understand, and participants engaged in the handouts and material provided, then knowledge about the topic would make a difference in how they live a more fruitful Christian life due to their beliefs and behavior.

**Intervention Design**

Intervention research is the study of purposive change strategies used to gather information needed to obtain accurate and relevant data. The interventions method used in this study combined qualitative and quantitative methods, also referred to as a mixed intervention method. The objective of this project was to develop instruments that will combine both qualitative and quantitative tools used to measure the outcome of how much the Harvest Christian Fellowship Musician group has learned about eschatology and how this knowledge has changed the way they live their lives.
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process

The beginning stages of this study included a rigorous submission and approval process with the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB states that “Research is any undertaking in which a faculty member, staff member, or student collects information on living humans as part of a planned, designed activity with the intent of contributing relevant information to a body of knowledge within a discipline.” The IRB required contact information about the Researcher, Mentor or Principal Investigator (PI), and Faculty sponsorship. Documents submitted to the IRB were sent to all parties for verification and approval or denial updates.

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) addressed the purpose of the study and required an original, brief, yet non-technical overview of project’s aim. The paragraph describing the purpose of this research project submitted to the IRB stated, “The purpose is to assist and educate the men’s worship team, a small group at Harvest Christian Fellowship, where their eschatological understanding is weak. To educate this group on the topic of eschatology, a course would be designed to provide material on the Second Coming of the Lord so this particular group will have a better understanding of the End Times. The proper attention and understanding of eschatology could make these believers better Christians and stronger in their faith.”

Regarding participant criteria, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) gathered demographic data, such as gender, age range, ethnic background, health status, and occupation. Other factors included a rationale for selecting group participants and why this group would enable the research to answer the research question. In addition, when choosing participants, any

27. IRB
28. Ibid.
minors involved would need additional consent forms to participate in the study. In this study, all participants were over the age of 18 and did not require additional forms.

The following section of the Institutional Review Board addressed how the researcher identified and recruited participants. Participants were recruited face-to-face during the Tuesday night Bible study at Harvest Christian fellowship; 15 men were invited to participate, all of whom accepted and completed the study. Questions asked during the recruitment process were face to face, via a phone call, on social media, in flyers, or by email.

In addition to identifying and recruiting participants, the IRB needed to ensure that the researcher protected the data. The IRB put a great deal of effort to ensure data privacy and storage was kept safely and not used for any other reason outside this study. To assure privacy, the research study was set up anonymously with no names, email, or IP addresses recorded. Lastly, to start the approved research, the IRB-approved consent form was then handed to each participant and signed so the research project could get underway.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Intervention Procedure

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) required an outline of all procedures, including handouts, questionaries, and website information to approve a research project. When submitting the information and procedures, all materials were compliant with IRB guidelines and met their approval before the research was implemented. A week-by-week list of procedures and reading materials submitted to the IRB for research approval is provided below.

Session 1- Week 1: Introduction to Understanding the Future

Understanding the Future included a compiled overview of what the Bible says about past, present, and future events. It began with biblical history and then built a solid foundation for the things, events, and people God foretells. By this time in history, many prophecies had
already come to pass, just as foretold in the Bible. The word of God tells us we have His sure word of prophecy, so we will not be ignorant of things to come. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and Last, and He knows all things from beginning to end. The goal of lesson one was thus to set a solid foundation on the things the Lord said would happen, and have come to pass. We then moved into events God prophesied for the future, such as a cashless society, the Rapture of the Church, the Great Tribulation, and His Second Coming. The key is to remember Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

**Reading Assignment I: Daniel 2:36-45**

In the 6th century BC, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream he demanded an interpretation for, and God revealed this dream and its interpretation to Daniel. The interpretation described a golden head representing King Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom: Babylon. In the vision, the chest and arms represented two kingdoms combining their strength. We now know these two kingdoms were the Medes and the Persians. Daniel continued with the interpretation, explaining to the King that a third kingdom would rule the earth, as represented by the belly and thighs of bronze, which turned out to be Greece. Finally, a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, would rule and crush all, clearly describing the Roman Empire, whose brute force dominated the world. The Roman Empire would later collapse from within and become an individual country of Europe. This fulfilled the next prophecy, which Daniel explained as a kingdom that would divide into smaller and weaker nations as iron and clay. Keep in mind that the Hebrew book of Daniel was translated into Greek about 300 years before the existence of the Roman Empire.
Reading Assignment II: Isaiah 45:1-3

The book of Isaiah was written between 740-680 BC (150 years before Cyrus was born). I Greek version of the Bible is called the Septuagint, translated to Greek 300 years before the Roman Emperors’ existence. The prophecy in Isaiah 45:1 states: “This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut” (NIV). This prophecy was written 150 years before the event and showed how Cyrus, ruler of the Medes and Persians, would enter the city. History records that Babylon was a city with walls so high and wide that it could not be captured. Yet Cyrus conquered this empire by backing up the Euphrates River and going under the walls, where he found the city gates left open, taking Babylon by surprise. Historians speculate that when Cyrus came to power, Daniel showed Cyrus how his name was written in the scrolls of Isaiah’s writings. Cyrus was in such awe that he allowed the Jews to leave Babylon and return to Jerusalem.

In the future prophecy in Daniel 2:44, regarding the Lord’s Return, Daniel warns that in the days of these kings (United Roman Empire – Europe and other Nations Uniting), the God of heaven will set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. The kingdom shall not be left to other people, but shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. This is when the Lord comes back with His saints, “The Church,” as described in Revelation 19:1, and establishes His Kingdom on earth, also known as “The Millennial Reign.”

Reading Assignment III: Ezekiel 36:1-10; 35-36

The prophecy in Ezekiel 36:35-36 states: “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited. Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt
what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will
do it” (NIV). The results of this prophecy came to be in 1930. In the 1800s, the land in the region
of present-day Israel was neglected by the Arabs and Turks. They cut down all the trees, creating
marshland. In the 1930s, during the Zionist movement, the Jews gradually purchased back the
land and started planting trees. Today, Israel is the third-largest producer of fruit in the
world, being a major supplier of fruit to Europe during the winter. The Lord said it would
happen, and it has happened!

**Reading Assignment IV: Ezekiel 37:21**

Over two thousand years after the book of Ezekiel was written, the prophecy foretold
came to be in three distinct moments. The prophecy in Ezekiel 37:21 states: “This is what the
Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will
gather them from all around and bring them back into their land” (NIV). The first prophecy
resulted on May 14, 1948, when Israel became a nation, nearly 2,000 years later. Interestingly,
Israel is the only country in the world that lost its land yet never lost its citizenship. Furthermore,
in 1967, the city of Jerusalem was handed over to Israel during the six-day war. It is vital to
mention more wars have been fought at the gates of Jerusalem than in any other city in the
world! Finally, against all odds, during Yom Kippur of October of 1973, Syria and Egypt
attacked Israel from opposite ends. Since Yom Kippur is the Jews’ holiest day of the year, the
Israelis were not militarily prepared for battle. The Syrians attacked a twenty-mile area with
nearly 1,200 tanks, while Egypt had 3,000 tanks and heavy artillery. With minimal support, the
Israeli army managed again to overthrow their attackers. Incidentally, Jerusalem has had more
wars fought at its gates than any other city in the world. When God defends his people, he will
fight the battle on all fronts. As shown in Genesis 12:3: “I will bless those who bless you, and
whoever curses you I will curse” (NIV). The United States has always defended Israel and has always prospered; nations that have come up against Israel have suffered greatly. The Lord states He will stand for His people.

**Reading Assignment V: Matthew 24:1-4**

The prophecy in Matthew 24:2 states: “And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (KJV). History records that, in 70 AD, when Titus took the city of Jerusalem, a soldier set fire to the temple, and all the gold melted into the cracks of the rocks. The soldiers then disassembled the temple, each stone individually, gathering up all the gold—fulfilling yet another prophecy.

**Reading Assignment VI: Revelation 13:16-17**

The prophecy in Revelation 13:16-17 states that: “The second beast forces all people—important and unimportant, rich and poor, free and slaves—to be marked on their right hands or on their foreheads, so no one may buy or sell unless he has the mark, which is the beast’s name or the number of its name” (ISV). The results of this prophecy are to be seen in today’s cashless society; it is coming to pass in today’s day and age. The key to this passage is that the beast forces all to take the mark, which would mean a cashless society would already be in place—not mandatory. On a similar note, regarding money, we must not worry about taking “In God We Trust” off our money because the cashless society will do away with it. “When these things begin to happen, look up and lift your heads, for your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28, KJV).
Session 2- Week 2: The Mystery of the Rapture

So, you say you are a good person, believe in God, and live your life with respect for others, and enjoy the pleasures of life. Yet you wonder: is this all there is? As you watch TV, you notice current events, movies, and lifestyles that promote violence, sex, and pleasure, while music, movies, and commercials advertise the pleasures of man’s flesh, which lead to the decay of our society due to media corruption. It makes you think: what is this world coming to? When ministering to others, questions are asked: Is the end near? Is the earth going to be wiped out? Why would a God of love do this to man? Yet, people respond: “I do not think God would destroy the earth,” “I believe that good people will go to heaven,” “I think there are many ways to heaven,” and “being a good person is all that counts,” after all, “Jesus says, believe in Him and you will be saved.” These are questions and answers that are addressed in this series. When asked about the End Times, it is best to begin with the past, and when referring to a future subject, you must first show credibility about something that has already taken place. Beginning with history, past events can be found recorded in libraries, encyclopedias, newspapers, media, and, of course, the Bible. Once we have a sense that what God said would happen has happened, end-time prophecies are more tangible and acceptable. For further information on this topic, see Part I of this series, History and the Bible.

What's Next? According to the Bible’s prophecy, the next prophetic event will be the Rapture of the Church. After the Rapture happens, a world leader will emerge for seven years, bringing peace to the earth. He will confirm a treaty between Israel and Palestine and order the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. The Bible says this world leader will be a charismatic man of Roman descent who brings about economic prosperity, and the world will embrace him. He will set up a one world government, a one world religion, and a cashless society. After three and
a half years, he will walk into the temple in Jerusalem and demand to be worshiped. At this time, the wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth for a final period of three and a half years, bringing earthquakes, famines, pestilence, and wars. At the end of these seven years, the nations of the earth will march for battle, which will take place in Israel’s Valley of Megiddo, also known as Armageddon (Rev 16:16). Then the Lord Himself will come down with His Church and wipe out the armies of the world. Christ will rule on the earth with His Saints for 1,000 years. Following the 1,000 years comes the final judgment. To truly grasp this, you need to realize that everything God predicted has happened. Therefore, since our Lord has been 100% accurate thus far, end-time prophecies will be right on as well. You really must stop and think past the things of this world and look at Creation, the universe, and beyond, to understand what our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, is capable of.

Reading Assignment I: 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Concerning the Rapture of the Church, in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NKJV), we read:

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. 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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Keep in mind that the word “rapture” is not in the English Bible; however, you can find it in the Latin Vulgate as the word rapturous, from which we get the English word “rapture.” In the original Greek language, the word is harpzois, which means snatched away (or taken by force), is also paraphrased as caught up in English.

Reading Assignment II: 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells us we will receive our new bodies:
“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor 15:54, NKJV).

In Genesis 1:1-19, the Lord spoke into existence the heavens and the earth, and in fact, Isaiah 40:12 refers to God measuring the universe with the span of His hand. We must realize that, as humans, we can only comprehend a three-dimensional world, whereas God is outside our time domain and can do things we are incapable of understanding. Psalms 19:1 states, “The heavens declare the glory of God” (KJV). In other words, look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars declare the awesome power of our Lord. With modern-day technology (NASA, satellites, etc.), we discover more about our universe, revealing how great our God truly is. The Bible states God knows everything from beginning to end. To better understand this, let us use the analogy of a street parade. We, as viewers standing at a particular corner, can only witness the parade as it passes by, whereas God sees everything from start to finish, all at one time, like a newscaster or emcee, would see the parade from a blimp or helicopter. The Lord has told us in advance what His plans are and we need to accept that He will return for His Church!

The Rapture of the Church is different from His Second Coming. Christ comes for His church in the Rapture (1 Thess 4:15 and 1 Cor 15:53), whereas His Second Coming Christ comes with His Church (Rev 19). While we do not know the hour or the day Christ will come for His Church, the book of Daniel does tell us when He will return with His Church. The time of the Rapture is a great mystery! Our blessed hope.

Reading Assignment III: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

In 2 Thessalonians 2, the Bible foretells that, before the lawless one can come to power (referring to the antichrist), the church (the body of Christ) must be removed (raptured). Just as
the Lord removed Noah and his family before the flood, and spared Lot before He judged Sodom and Gomorrah, so will the Lord also remove His saints from the earth. Lord wishes us not to perish yet for all to come to everlasting life through Jesus Christ. He is a loving God and always offers us a way out. Noah preached repentance for nearly 120 years, yet only his family believed and were saved. The Lord will judge the earth again, and He is allowing us the opportunity to receive His grace. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, and with Him all things, are possible.

Reading Assignment IV: Romans 11:25

The Lord is graceful, and He is sending out His spirit to gather believers. Romans 11:25 states: “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (NKJV). He has a certain number in mind, and once that number is fulfilled, the Lord will come for His Church. The Lord can only put up with this sinful world for so long until He takes His people before He judges the world again. We are waiting for the fullness of the Gentiles, for the Lord will come to get His Church.

Reading Assignment V: Revelation 4:1

The Rapture of the Church will occur after various events take place: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this’” (Rev 4:1, NKJV). This verse begins with the Greek meta tauta, which means “after these things.” We would then ask: after what things? Before these words, chapters 2 and 3 referred to the seven churches, which represent Church history and speak of the past and present churches of our time. So, as you read on, you have the church being caught up.
Reading Assignment VI: Acts 1:9-11

Christ receiving His Church in the clouds is a function of the Rapture, His Second Coming. Acts 1:9-11 states:

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (NKJV).

Christ will return with His Church and set His foot on the Mount of Olives as it divides in half.

Throughout the New Testament, “the coming of Christ” is mentioned many times. It is comforting to know that our Lord is long-suffering and does not wish for us to perish but that we should come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). In other words, the Lord is waiting to gather in His Church. He is waiting for the fullness of the Gentiles to give their lives to Him, and then He will send His Son to gather us together. The Holy Spirit is convicting people of their sins, and Christians are spreading the gospel so the world will know God’s plan. In Revelation 1:1, some versions talk about these things taking place quickly. The word “quickly” in Greek translates to “soon, or suddenly,” meaning that, once the Lord is ready, it will happen like a domino effect—all at once, one event after another.

The Bible was written so we would not be ignorant of things to come. We need to live our lives in anticipation that our Lord and Savior will come at any time. Jesus says, “Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13, KJV). Christ means for us to go about His Father’s business and be ready for His return. When the disciples asked Jesus about the End Times, Jesus said, “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come” (Mark 13:33, NASB).

Additionally, we are told, “Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left”
Christ said, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming,” then added, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matt 24:40-41, NASB).

**Session 3- Week 3: The Wrath of The Lamb**

It is early Sunday morning. You put on a pot of tea, and as you open the newspaper, the headline screams: 7.9 Earthquake in Argentina kills 23,000! Next, you read that a volcano has erupted in the Philippines, killing 18,000; a flood in the Midwest wiped out 7,000 people; and an earthquake in New York City has taken down the Statue of Liberty. Wow, you say, what is going on? Each year it gets worse. Is the world catastrophically changing? What’s happening? As you go on about your typical routine—work, golf, gym, parties, and a little Sunday R and R—week after week, the same old things occur. Until one morning, you open the newspaper and read: Millions of people have vanished all over the world! You quickly turn on the television—CNN, ABC, CBS, BBC—and every station reports on this phenomenon, and the real issue is that the whole world is in an uproar. There will be complete chaos on earth, with planes, automobiles, and trains crashing, as well as vehicles, houses, and stores being abandoned, with gangs, criminals, and the poor left to loot and riot in the streets. The United Nations issues in global military law as the military, police, and reserves gear up for battle. Hospitals fill up; paramedics, firefighters, and emergency teams from all over the world come into a panic. There are so many disasters, yet the focus is on the chaos and not the phenomena. This goes on for weeks, and finally, a charismatic leader emerges and reunites the world. This feels like **déjà vu** to you. For some reason, you remember a friend years ago telling you about an event known in the Bible
called “the Rapture of the Church.” You scroll through your Rolodex and call up your Christian friend, yet there is no answer. Is this just a coincidence?

After the Rapture happens, a world leader will emerge. A restraining force (the Christians) will hold back the power of the antichrist and will continue until the Christians are removed (2 Thess 2). Then the antichrist will come into power for seven years, bringing peace to the earth. He will confirm a treaty between Israel and Palestine, and will order the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. According to the book of Daniel, this world leader will be a charismatic man of European descent who brings about economic prosperity, and the world will embrace him. He will set up a one world government and a one world religion, and with the help of a partner or sidekick, will also issue a cashless society. The Bible says an assassination attempt will be made on his life, and he will lose his right eye and use of his right arm (Zech 11:17). He will make a miraculous recovery, and the world will marvel over him (Rev 13:14). After three-and-a-half years, he will walk into the temple in Jerusalem and demand to be worshiped, known as the abomination of desolation (Dan 9:27). At this time, the wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth for a final three-and-a-half-year period (completing a total of seven years), bringing earthquakes, famines, pestilence, and wars. At the end of these seven years, the nations of the earth will march for battle, which will take place in the Valley of Megiddo, also known as Armageddon in Israel (Rev 16:16). Then the Lord will come down with His Church (the Christians) and wipe out the armies of the world. After this, there will be what is known as the millennium reign of Christ, when Christ rules on the earth with His Saints (or believers) for 1,000 years. After 1,000 years comes the final judgment.

At this point, the Tribulation period begins! The wrath of God can be described as the Lord pouring out His anger and causing tribulation, such as the world has never seen nor will
ever see again. In the Old Testament, this is referred to as “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer 30:7), while in the New Testament, it is referred to as the Great Tribulation. There will be great earthquakes, famines, wars, and destruction. In the book of Revelation, chapters 6 to 19 refer to plagues and destruction to be poured out. We read of the rider on the red horse, the authority who removes peace from the earth, bringing in wars. Another horse, fiery red, goes out, and then a black horse causes inflation and famine—where a day’s work will only buy a single meal. Then comes a pale horse that causes death by disease, hunger, and plagues. “I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (Rev 6:8, NKJ). We then have the seven trumpets God gives to his seven angels to sound and release horrible destruction. The first angel blows his horn, and hail and fire are mixed with blood thrown down on the earth, and one-third of the earth is set on fire, with one-third of all the grass and trees being burnt up. This is difficult to imagine in contemporary times. In 2019, the television news covered Indonesia’s greatest forest fire, showing how the day became night due to the smoke. What would it be like if one-third of the earth’s forests were on fire? Would the earth be in darkness? Could this be what Christ is talking about in Matthew 24:29, where He states, in regards to the tribulation, that “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light”?

Reading Assignment I: Revelation 6:1-17

The fourth and fifth chapters in the book of Revelation refer to a great multitude of angels who worship with praise. Revelation 6 introduces the rider on a white horse, the first of the five horsemen. This is the antichrist. The word antichrist in Greek refers to “other than Christ” or a “pseudo-Christ;” please note this is not the same rider on a white horse found in Revelation 19,
for that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom we refer to as the fifth horseman. According to the book of Daniel, the antichrist, or world leader, will come to power and bring peace to the world. He will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem and be considered a wonderful and powerful man who seems to be the answer to this world’s problems. This charismatic man will be praised and accepted by the world.

_Reading Assignment II: John 5:43_

A world leader will come to power, uniting the world, and bringing peace to Israel by rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem during the first three and a half years of his reign. The Jews will praise him as the Messiah, which is interesting, since Jesus states in John 5:43, “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive” (NKJV). Jesus tells us that the Jews will accept this great peacemaker as their Messiah; yet, he is a deceiver who comes in peace, but will show his true colors after three and a half years of power.

_Reading Assignment III: Daniel 12:11_

According to Scripture, this world leader will walk into the temple and demand to be worshipped (the abomination of desolation). “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Dan 12:11, NKJV). From this point on, this world leader will show his true intentions, and then all hell will break out upon the earth, and God will pour out his wrath upon a sinning nation. The wrath of the Lamb will come crashing down on all the earth, and the Great Tribulation will begin.
**Reading Assignment IV: Matthew 24:15-21**

Here we have Jesus’ identifying wand quoting Daniel! Jesus says, “When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place…then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matt 24:15,21, NKJV). Jesus adds, “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved” (Matt 24:22). Jesus continues by warning: “Then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt 24:30). Jesus will be coming with His Church—the Christians.

**Reading Assignment V: Matthew 24:37-42**

In the times of Noah, the world was so corrupt that God had to destroy the earth with a global flood, but Noah and his family were saved. Modern scientists believe there was a global flood, predicting it to have been about 5,000 years ago, but believe it was caused by a polar axis shift. When God made a covenant with Noah, He stated that “Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth” (Gen 9:11, NKJV). He then promised Noah a rainbow as a confirmation of his covenant (Gen 9:12–17). Christ says in Matthew 24:37 that, “as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (KJV). God always gives us warnings of His actions. He is a loving God, and He does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). In Noah’s days, God gave the world 120 years to repent, yet only Noah and his family believed and were saved. I believe that is why God gave the vision to the apostle John to write the book of Revelation, so we can see what the Lord has planned for this sinning world.
**Reading Assignment VI: Revelation 22:7**

Jesus repeatedly alludes to His coming throughout the New Testament. In Matthew 24:44, Jesus says, “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” And in Revelation 22:7, Jesus states, “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book” (NKJV).

The wrath of the Lamb can be described as the worst time this earth will ever experience. The Bible mentions demonic powers and demons being released upon the earth, as well as Satan worship. If we stop to consider this more profoundly, fifty years ago, one would never think that man would openly worship Satan, as we see today with music, cults, and Satanic rituals. In considering what has happened in America in the last decade, we see youth—from elementary school to high school and college—become mass murderers by going into public functions and schools with the intent to kill. Today’s youth are killing their parents, friends, and family members! Looking back to the founding of America, this nation was established on biblical principles, with the Constitution being based on the Ten Commandments. America’s forefather Abraham Lincoln said, “I believe that the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us in this book.” And George Washington said, “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” Our forefathers issued prayers and asked God for guidance. Yet, today we have taken the Ten Commandments out of the schools and courts, and man has set his earthly laws, results of which are viewed on the daily news. Throughout all denominations of Christianity, we pray for the return of Jesus Christ and for His Kingdom to come. These words are preached in sermons and church services every Sunday, yet how many of us believe that Christ could come at any time?
The Bible teaches us to be ready and anticipate that His coming could be at any minute. The Second Coming of Christ is preached more than any other event in the Bible.

Session 4- Week 4: The Unveiling

Imagine a world in perfect peace: no wars or famines, complete economic prosperity, one world government, one world religion, one world monetary system, and the perfect world leader. A charismatic man who unites countries, leaders, religions, generates world peace, and wins the world over. Elegant in speech, bold, powerful, and able to execute plans. The perfect world leader! Yes, the man with a plan who has all the right answers and can charm all. Could there be such a man? Would the world embrace him? Let us examine what the Bible says about this coming world leader: where he will come from, about his nature, what he will accomplish, and how he will come to power. The setting: the twenty-first century. The place: Brussels. The players: ten united countries (the united community of Europe and nine other nations) join in electing a one world government led by a charismatic politician who gained the world’s trust and is elected president of this new-governed world. His charm, power, and demeanor make him the hands-down candidate to get the job done. Of European descent, this charismatic man ushers in his reign by confirming a treaty with Israel to rebuild their temple, which includes building a wall between the Dome of the Rock mosque and the new temple upon the temple mount. This would give the Jews their temple to hold sacrifices, leaving the outer court divided by a wall so Muslims could hold their worship.

The Jews hail this charismatic man as the Messiah and worship him for bringing peace and their sacrifices back (the temple was destroyed in 70 AD by Titus and the Roman legion; since then, the Jews have not had a temple to hold sacrifices). Next, this world leader brings in a one world monetary system, issues a cashless society, and elects a spiritual leader who unites all
religions and ends religious conflicts, bringing peace and harmony among all the religious leaders. After an assassination attempt on his life, leaving him nearly dead, he makes a miraculous recovery and performs supernatural miracles. The world marvels over his powers, wisdom, and ability to survive and execute his plans. The stock market is booming, and there is peace, harmony, and joy on Earth. Iraq becomes the world trade center of the Middle East and business is booming.

One day, this world leader will reveal his true colors. He will organize a press meeting broadcasted worldwide from the temple mount. It is midday in Jerusalem. CNN, the BBC, and all other world networks are present to broadcast his speech. Cameras are set up inside the temple and panned toward the podium. This charismatic leader makes his public announcement to the world claiming he is god and demanding the world to worship him. He curses the true and living God and blurts blasphemies unto His name! The world is in an uproar! This charismatic leader, who seemed to be the answer to the world’s problems, shows his true colors, and nations of the world muster their strength to overthrow his government. The kings of the East march 200 million in number, and other nations unite to go against this leader. He sets his sights against Egypt (Dan 11:40-44), yet must retreat and make his way back to Israel when these nations come up against him. The setting now is in the Valley of Megiddo, where the last world war will take place.

Then, from the clouds, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ emerges with His saints, and He supernaturally intercedes. The Lord sets His foot on the Mount of Olives as it splits in two with a great earthquake, and He destroys the armies of the world with His glorious appearance and with the power of the Word of God. Amazing, you might say. Is this possible? Where did you get this information? Let us now refer to Bible passages that expound on these events to come. We begin
with some background of this leader, the names given to this charismatic leader, where he comes from, and what the Bible says about him. Next, we look at “the day of the Lord,” the second Advent! And finally, we will see what is holding him back from coming to power.

**Reading Assignment I: Zechariah 11:17 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3**

This last world leader is referred to throughout the Bible. He has been called various names, such as the prince that shall come (Dan 9:26), the idol shepherd (Zech 11:17), the man of sin, the son of prediction (2 Thess 2:3), and the lawless one (2 Thess 2:8). In the book of Revelation, he is called the beast and the antichrist. Let us recall the word “anti” in Greek refers to a “pseudo” Christ, or an “other-than” Christ, which is also referred to as the “horn” in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

**Reading Assignment II: 1 John 2:18**

“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time” (1 John 2:18). In this verse, John warns the people (little children referred to as new believers in Christ) that evil leaders are already at work, yet a final antichrist will come in the End Times, and that man of sin, the son of perdition, will be revealed (2 Thess 2:3b). These are a few examples of what this leader is referred to in Scripture. It is also interesting that John is the only writer that refers to him as the antichrist.

**Reading Assignment III: Daniel 2:41-43**

As we are told in Daniel 2:41-43 (KJV):

And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.
Where does this world leader come from? The book of Daniel speaks of how this world leader will come out of the divided Roman Empire, where stronger and weaker nations join together to become one. Yet, once this world leader shows his true power, nations will not mingle together, but come against him, leading to the final battle in the Valley of Megiddo. History reveals that the Roman empire was never conquered; rather, it fell apart from within (i.e., a civil war). Daniel tells us that the legs of iron represent the division of the empire and, in the End Times, the empire would come back together. We have already seen Europe unite (smaller and weaker nations joining together). Thus, from the text, we would believe this world leader will come out of the European community or be of Roman descent. The passage in Daniel could also refer to the European community uniting with other nations (nine more) and becoming strong. We know from the text that the Roman empire was divided, with one section returning to Europe, while the other migrated to Assyria, which started the spread of Islam.

Reading Assignment IV: Daniel 8:24-25

Regarding this world leader, Daniel 8:24-25 (KJV) states:

And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hands.

This passage describes the world leader as mighty, yet with powers not of his own. This is speaking of the world leader being empowered by Satan, who will give this man the power to perform miracles and awe the world. He will bring about prosperity for a time, yet the power of our Lord Jesus Christ will prevail at the end!
Reading Assignment V: Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15

As stated in Daniel 9:27: “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (KJV). In this passage, one week refers to seven years, when the world leader will confirm a treaty with Israel by rebuilding the temple. But during that week (three and a half years), he will make his public announcement and demand to be worshipped. Jesus refers to this when he says: “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” (Matt 24:15, KJV).

Reading Assignment VI: Revelation 13:16-18

In Revelation 13:16-18, we learn about the world leader that:

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

We read that this world leader is already at work, yet is being held back. In Scripture, we are told that the restraining force is the body of Christ, or the Holy Spirit within the believer. The church must be removed from the earth before this leader can come to power (i.e., the Rapture of the Church—prerequisite number two). Romans 11:25 speaks about the fullness of the Gentiles. The Lord has a certain number of people He will take out of the earth, just as it was in the days of Noah, when the Lord gave the people of the earth a chance to repent, then He removed or protected the righteous (i.e., Noah and his family). Do not take for granted that Noah preached repentance for 120 years while he was building the ark, yet the people did not repent or believe a
flood would come. In the twenty-first century, are we as ignorant as in the days of Noah? We are promised that, as believers, the Lord will keep us from the Great Tribulation that will be poured upon the earth (Rev 3:10). The Lord spoke this universe into existence. DNA proves there is a creator, yet people still seem to disregard the truth. For He is the resurrection and the life, and those who believe in Him, thou they die, shall live, and whoever believes in Him and lives, shall never die (John 11:25). He is the First and Last, the Alpha and the Omega, and through Christ, there is everlasting life. We, the body of Christ, are the restraining force, and once we are taken out, the world leader will be revealed. The Lord has been 100% accurate thus far, and we need to take these verses at face value to realize the Lord will return. Bible prophecy has been given to us so we may not be ignorant of things to come!

**Session 5- Week 5: The Last Days**

The setting is twenty-first century Israel. The headlines read, “Tension in the Middle East.” The players include Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, and southern regions of the once-Soviet Union, setting their sights to attack Israel! Israel seems to be against all odds and hopeless, yet they overcome their attackers! How can this be? This small country, the thorn in the Middle East, defeated these Muslim nations that have come up against them. Impossible, you might say! Yet this is what the Bible predicts will happen, for the Lord says that, from that day forward, the house of Israel will know He is their God. Let us keep in mind we are living on God’s grace and are waiting for “the fullness of the Gentiles” (Rom 11:25) to take place, and once that happens, the Lord will once again deal with the Nation of Israel. As previously mentioned, scriptures support that the Rapture of the Church is the next prophetic event in the Bible, according to the verses studied in Ezekiel, which refer to Israel dwelling peacefully in the land. Interesting, you
might say. Well, let us review what the God of the universe says about this battle against His people.

We start in Ezekiel 38, where God gives Ezekiel a vision concerning the nations in this battle and what will take place. Keep in mind that the book of Ezekiel was written circa 589 BC. Islam was not established until around 300 AD, yet the countries described in this chapter are Islamic nations!

To better understand our text, let us refer to a list of the genealogy of these countries’ origins:

Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood. The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided into their lands, every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations. And the sons of Ham: Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan. And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth (Gen 10:1-8, KJV).

Now that we have a sense of how these nations were named, let us examine which they represent in today’s world. As a side note, out of Magog came the Scythians in the seventh century, who brought about the rise of Islam.

Magog = Russia and its southern regions  
Persia = Iran  
Cush = Ethiopia  
Put = Libya  
Gomer = Countries north of Turkey  
Togarmah = Turkey
Let us also examine the countries surrounding Israel not mentioned in this battle:

(1) Egypt  
(2) Jordon  
(3) Syria  
(4) Iraq

Interestingly, Iraq was not mentioned. Before the fall of Saddam Hussein, it was very hard to read this verse without questioning why Iraq would not be the main aggressor against Israel. Yet, as we see today, Saddam has been pulled out of office, and Iraq (Babylon) will hold a different role in biblical prophecy, as referred to in the book of Revelation.

To summarize, in Ezekiel 38 and 39, the Lord states He will supernaturally defend Israel and many nations will know He is the Lord! So, the Lord will make Himself known to Israel, as He did in the days of Moses and Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. The Lord will supernaturally intercede for His people, and they will know He is the Lord. Yet, even as the Israelites crossed the Red Sea with Moses and were fed manna from the heavens, they quickly forgot about the miracles God performed. Thus, it could be that the Lord will make Himself known to the Jews, yet the Jews will not embrace Him. The Bible says that the Jews will welcome the antichrist, or the world leader, and accept him as their Messiah, for a short term, until he shows his true colors and demands to be worshipped in the temple he builds in Jerusalem. Entering Chapter 39 of Ezekiel, we get a recap of Chapter 38, insight into burying the dead people, and how Israel will come back to the Lord. Keep in mind that Ezekiel 39 speaks of a nuclear fallout, or perhaps a nuclear bomb, stating that professionals will be hired to bury the dead after this war. The Lord proclaims He will send fire on Magog and them that dwell with them. Interestingly, the Lord judged Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, and here He will do it again. Since, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), with Him all things are possible. When the Lord says He will do something, we can be assured it will happen. The Lord said Israel
would return to their land, and 2,000 years later, on May 14, 1948, it happened. The Lord states in Revelation 13:16-17 that a world leader will force all people of the earth to receive a mark on their right hands or their foreheads, and that no one will be able to buy or sell without taking this mark. Think about that! The Bible talks about a cashless society being established! A book written over 2,000 years ago has foretold a technology certain to take place. And yes, our gracious Lord gives us a way out of the doom that will come upon the earth. The Lord has provided His Son Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for our sins. All we must do is put our trust in Him, confess our sins, repent, heed His words, and we will have everlasting life. Our Lord Jesus Christ died so we can have everlasting life!

**Reading Assignment I: Ezekiel 38: 1-5**

In Ezekiel 38, the Lord gave the prophet a vision:

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the LORD GOD: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords (Ezek 38:2-4, KJV).

In this vision the Lord gave Ezekiel, Gog is the chief Prince or leader of the land of Magog, which represents the former Soviet Union and its southern regions, and Meshech represents Moscow and Tubal (historical maps do not state which city this is). In verse 4, Ezekiel describes weapons of warfare used in his days. If this were modern-day writing, perhaps the writer might have used words such as tanks and Apache helicopters.
Reading Assignment II: Ezekiel 38:8

In verse eight of the 38th chapter of Ezekiel, the phrase “in many days” is translated from Hebrew as “in the latter days,” or the “last days.” Also, keep in mind that the following phrase, “they shall come into their land,” refers to Israel being back in the land, which occurred on May 14, 1948, when the Jews from all over the world returned to their land, thus fulfilling the prophecy in Ezekiel 37. Moving on, we read that the Jews “shall dwell securely.” The word in Hebrew for securely is Betach, which means confidently, implying that a peace treaty could be in place before this event.

Reading Assignment III: Ezekiel 39:1-5

In chapter 39 of Ezekiel, the prophecy from chapter 38 is restated:

And thou, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: and I will turn thee about, and will lead thee on, and will cause thee to come up from the uttermost parts of the north; and I will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel; and I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy hordes, and the peoples that are with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field; for I have spoken it, saith the Lord Jehovah (Ezekiel 39:1-5, ASV).

In the recapitulation of the verses in Ezekiel 38, we read further details on how the Lord will disarm the enemies of their weapons: “And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand” (Ezek 39:3, KJV). In the early century, from the land of Magog came the Scythians, who were well-known for their archery skills, able to shoot a bird from the sky while riding on a horse at full gallop. In today’s world, a modern-day writer would have used today’s weapons to relate this passage!

Reading Assignment IV: Ezekiel 39:6-7

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The Lord proclaims He will send fire on Magog and them that dwell with them: “And I will send a fire on Magog, and them that dwell securely in the isles; and they shall know that I am Jehovah. And my holy name will I make known in the midst of my people Israel; neither will I suffer my holy name to be profaned any more: and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel” (Ezek 39:6-7, ASV). Just as the Lord judged Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, so can He do it again. God created the heavens and the earth, and all things are possible through Him. What the Lord says He will do, we can be assured He will. The Lord promised Israel they would return to their land, and they did, on May 14, 1948.

**Reading Assignment V: Ezekiel 39:8-10**

Ezekiel 39:8-10 warns:

> Behold, it cometh, and it shall be done, saith the Lord Jehovah; this is the day whereof I have spoken. And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall make fires of the weapons and burn them, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall make fires of them seven years; so that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall make fires of the weapons; and they shall plunder those that plundered them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV).

This speaks of how Israel will be able to use the plundered weapons as fuel for seven years. (It is also interesting that the shelf life of a nuclear warhead is seven years.) In the book of Daniel, we are told the last seven years of world history will begin during this time. We know the Rapture of the Church must occur before the world leader, or the antichrist, is revealed (2 Thess 2), then there will be seven years left of world history. For the events in Ezekiel 38 and 39 to occur, the church must be removed before or during this event. Then there will be seven years left before Christ returns with His Church (Rev 19:3).

**Reading Assignment VI: Ezekiel 39:11-16**
The Lord will set up a burial place east of the Dead Sea for the armies to be buried:

“And they shall set apart men of continual employment, that shall pass through the land, and, with them that pass through, those that bury them that remain upon the face of the land, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. . . and when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog” (Ezek 39:14-16, ASV). We read that hired professionals will bury the dead and, if a civilian sees a bone, they shall not touch it, but should put up a flag to mark the spot the professional gravedigger can dispose of the bodies. Before the 1940s, we could not have even imagined what this verse was referring to. Yet, today we can understand the effects of nuclear warfare and biological chemicals. Zechariah 14:12 also describes the nuclear effects that will occur in the last days.

The Lord states in Revelation 13:16-17 that a world leader will force all people of the earth to be marked on their right hands or their foreheads, and one cannot buy or sell without this mark. Again, over 2,000 years ago, a prophecy was foretold that this type of technology was certain to take place. Yet, our gracious Lord always gives us a way out: He sent His Son Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for our sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ died so we can have everlasting life with Him, if we pour our trust in Him, confess our sins, repent, and heed His words. The Lord said in Daniel 12:4 to seal up the book until the end, when knowledge is increased. Could we be living in the last days? Is this what God was speaking of? That knowledge would increase, then we would understand the meaning of His words. The Lord foretold these events thousands of years ago, and now these verses are making sense. Just think about our forefathers, godly men and women who read the Bible 200+ years ago and came across verses like this. It must have been hard for them to understand, yet they trusted in the Lord. We are living in times when the
Bible’s predictions make complete sense to us, yet we do not heed the words of our Lord. Our God predicted the past, present, and future, and all we must do is abide in Him and we will be saved. For God sent His only Son to die on the cross and then arise from the dead in three days so we can have everlasting life (John 3:16). Incredibly, the God of this universe made Himself a man so He could experience the suffering of the flesh to take our sins and crucify them forever at the cross.

**Session 6- Week 6: The Signs of the Times**

It was mid-morning, on or about the eighth of Nisan, the year 32 AD, when Jesus and His disciples were leaving the great temple in Jerusalem and heading towards the Mount of Olives. As they passed the temple, the disciples marveled at its beauty and magnificence. The temple was one of the greatest structures of that day, rising between eight and ten stories high, sculptured in marble and gold. It was King Herod’s mark on society and one of the wonders of the world. As the disciples turned to Jesus in awe, Christ simply stated, “verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matt 24:2, KJV). The disciples looked at each other in confusion and proceeded on their way up to the Mount of Olives. Now, as they reached the Mount of Olives, four disciples, confused and wondering about what Christ had stated, came to Jesus privately and asked Him three questions.

(1) When will these things happen?
(2) What will be the sign of Your coming?
(3) When will be the end of the age?

Before we get started with the overview of Matthew 24, known as the Olivet Discourse, it is important to recognize this is Christ’s overview of end-time prophecy. Yes, Jesus Christ, the Savior, the Healer, the Comforter, and the Prophet will, in His own words, give us a briefing on the End Times: “He who has an ear, let him hear” (Rev 3:22, NKJV).
To better understand the signs of the times, let us refer to when Jesus had just left the temple for the last time. A few days earlier, Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, as well as the prophecy given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel, which foretold Christ’s first coming to the exact day. To recapitulate, we are told in Daniel 9:25 that, from the time the walls are rebuilt to the coming of the Messiah, would be sixty-nine years times seven years, or 173,880 days (to do the calculation, we need to use a 360-day calendar and add the leap years). We read in Nehemiah 2:5-8 that King Artaxerxes signed the decree for Nehemiah to rebuild the city walls on March 14, 445 BC. This ancient document can be found in the British Museum today. If we take March 14, 445 BC and add 173,880 days, we can observe that Christ rode into Jerusalem on April 6th, 32 AD. Keep in mind this was also the first time Christ let the people receive Him as the Messiah. Before this, He always said, “my time has not yet come” (John 7:6, NKJV), and hid away from the crowds. The exact day of His coming was planned, and therefore Christ wept for His people because they did not know their scriptures. The prophets provided the exact day and way in which He would enter the city, yet the Jews rejected Him. For this reason, Christ wept in Luke 19:41, stating, “you did not know the time of your visitation” (Luke 19:44, NKJV). From that point forward, blindness was put on the Jews until the fullness of the Gentiles came (Rom 11:25). Christ wept because His people did not know what His Word had promised. The Creator of the universe arranged the exact day He would appear, yet they did not accept His Word. Are we like that? The Lord has fulfilled history. The Bible has foretold past, present, and future events, yet, are we too caught up with the things of this world to understand He will come again? We are not given the exact day Christ will return, for the Son of Man will come at an hour that we least expect. Woe unto them that do not heed His Word.
**Reading Assignment I: Matthew 24:1-2**

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matt 24:1-2, KJV). Christ stated, “See ye not all these things?” In the Greek language, Christ was saying, “Does it truly matter? Is this what you think life is about?” Jesus further declared that the temple would be destroyed brick by brick. At this point, I would imagine that the disciples whispered among themselves, “How could this be?” Yet, thirty-eight years later, Titus Vespasian and his troops of four Roman legions lay siege to Jerusalem and burned the temple to the ground. In the writings of the historian Josephus, an eyewitness to the event, he states that Titus had the soldiers disassemble each brick to retrieve all the gold that melted between the cracks.

**Reading Assignment II: Matthew 24:3**

We read in Matthew 24:3 that Christ sat on the mount anticipating the disciples’ questions: “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (KJV). In the Gospel of Mark, we read that four of the disciples came to Christ privately: Peter, James, John, and Andrew. Keep in mind it was always Peter, James, and John whom the Lord kept close to His heart, and to whom He had revealed many things, such as the transfiguration.

We notice the Lord spoke to the multitudes in parables, then He would give the disciples a straightforward answer to the parable. Below we have three questions that the disciples asked:
(1) When shall these things be? Or, when will the temple be destroyed?
(2) What shall be the sign of Thy coming?
(3) What shall be the sign of the end of the world?
(This refers to the end of the age or the time of the Gentile rule on Earth)

The answer to the first question is accounted for in Luke 21:20: “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh” (KJV).

Christ referred to Titus and his army as they were to lay siege to Jerusalem. Then Jesus spoke of what the Romans would do to the Jews and their city, and how the Gentiles would tread down the Jews. Jesus finally answered the questions chronologically, beginning with the third question: “When will the end of the age happen?” Our loving Lord started by giving the signs or the seasons of things that must take place before He returns to Earth. Keep in mind that Christ will take His Church from the earth (the Rapture) before His return to Earth to reign and rule.

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matt 24:4-5, KJV). Christ warned to keep watch for false prophets. Satan will always send a counterfeit to deceive many. The Lord predicted wars and rumors of wars, yet He said that we should not be troubled: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matt 24:6-7a, KJV). Nations will rise against nations, which refer to world wars, and will always be the case until the Lord brings in His righteous Kingdom.

Reading Assignment III: Matthew 24:4-5

Christ warned in Matthew 24:4-5 to beware of false prophets: “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” Satan will always send a counterfeit to deceive many. We
have seen these counterfeits rise and preach a different gospel. In Revelation 13:13-14, we see the coming of the final false prophet, who is also alluded to in 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

**Reading Assignment IV: Matthew 24:6-8**

The Lord said we should not be troubled when wars come: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matt 24:6-7a, KJV). Since the garden of Eden, man has been selfish; it is part of our sinful nature to want. So, the Lord said man will want and covet things. Nations will rise against nations, referring to world wars and natural disasters: “And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt 24:7b-8, KJV). We have seen major earthquakes worldwide, epidemics of diseases, such as AIDS and COVID, and tsunamis wiping out parts of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and India. Yet, the Lord delivers His people from trials and tribulations, and always protects His remnant. For example, in Indonesia, the night before the tidal wave hit in December 2004, the Muslim government sent the Christians up into the mountain in a small Christian village for their Christmas celebration. The flood came and wiped out the village, but the Christians were spared. Referring back to Matthew, the Lord said that when you see these things, it is just the beginning, as a woman in labor, which begins with some pain and gradually gets more intense.

**Reading Assignment V: Matthew 24:23**

In these times, we have witnessed various prophecies be fulfilled, but the final days are yet to come, as Jesus tells us: “Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” (Matt 24:34, KJV). This generation could refer to the people who see these things come to pass. For example, the people of Israel returning to their land, the rise of
European nations, and a cashless society becoming established. Thus, we are currently living in a
time when these things are taking place. Let us not lose sight of the fact that Christ warned us to
keep an eye out for the seasons and time we live. The tree is blossoming, and the fruit will soon
appear.

*Reading Assignment VI: Matthew 24:37-39*

Just like the present days, the days of Noah were corrupt, and God had to intercede with
a worldwide flood to cleanse the earth of its wickedness: “But as the days of Noah were, so shall
also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were
eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son
of man be” (Matt 24:37-39, KJV). The Bible tells us, in those days, there were homosexuals and
people worshipping images with no sense of morality. People did as they wished, and God
judged them. The Lord said that, as the days of Noah were, so will it be when the Son of Man
returns. The times we are living in now are far worse than the days of Noah. People have the
same sinful hearts, yet we bring more immoral values into our homes with today’s modern
technology. Between what is broadcast on TV and what is seen on the internet in our homes, I
am sure this generation has more sin than in Noah’s time. Also, note Christ said they *knew not*
until the flood came, meaning they did not believe until it was too late. Their hearts grew cold.
Noah preached repentance, yet the people wanted to live their lives their way, with the pleasures
of this world; so will it be when the Son of Man returns. Will we hearken to His Word? Hasn’t
Christ given us enough warning?

Christ referred to the book of Daniel, written hundreds of years before Christ was born:
“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet,
stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand” (Matt 24:15, KJV). This passage is crucial because it speaks of the abomination of desolation, which means that the temple must be defiled and alludes to the fact that Israel will have another temple. As we study the scriptures, we are told a world leader will come to power, bring peace to Israel and Palestine, and make a covenant with the nation and rebuild their temple. Ezekiel 40 states that a wall will be built between the temple and the outer court, where the Dome of the Rock sits. Christ went on to say, “whoso readeth, let him understand.” Wow, pretty heavy! Christ quoted from the book of Daniel, referring to the temple that will be built, and then told us to understand and acknowledge this. We are advised to understand this will take place. I would like to consider ourselves reading this passage in the year 1940. The people of Israel were not on their land, nor had they been for 2,000 years, since about 100 AD. By 1940, there had already been one world war, with another was on the rise, yet here we read there will be a temple built in Jerusalem. So Christ reiterates, “whoso readeth, let him understand.” Now, we see Israel back in the land, the European Union united, and a cashless society about to unfold and can surely understand what our Lord spoke of. How much more evidence do we need? Remember that the Bible was given to us so we would not be ignorant of the things to come. Our Lord is coming back, and we need to repent of our sins and trust in His Word. We are reminded that God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, and all who believe in him will not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Yes, Jesus paid the price of sins He did not commit so we could be forgiven. Christ rose from the dead and was seen by a great many. His disciples died as martyrs—except John, the beloved, who was banished to the island of Patmos, where the Spirit revealed to him the book of Revelation—due to their conviction after seeing the risen Lord. So, may I say, “whoso readeth, let him understand.”
The course concluded with a final question: Please explain how understanding eschatology has changed your view of the Rapture of the Church and whether this study increased your faith or walk with the Lord?

**Implementation of the Intervention Design**

The course was designed, produced, and administered by the researcher. All outstanding preparation was instituted and completed, including the development of the survey instrument, reading material, and publishing of the website. The study program was administered from October 26, 2020, to December 12, 2020, beginning on a Tuesday evening, after the musician group Bible fellowship ended. Group members were invited to volunteer for the course on the study of eschatology. A consent form was signed; the materials and website login information were distributed to participants. Each participant was provided with an outline of the course material, an estimated length of time to complete weekly sections, and a projection of when each stage of the course was to be completed.

Participants accessed the online material and surveys and were aware of the project’s content. The material included a six-part in-depth series entitled Understanding the Future, designed and developed to help guide them through this comprehensive study. During the six-week period, the intervention was monitored weekly, and results were reviewed and analyzed. Week 1 was a trial test of the progress, allowing adjustments to the instrument as needed. The criteria for evaluation started with developing a tool that allowed the facilitator to identify whether the course material was comprehended without difficulty. Since 85% of participants’ survey questions were in accord at the end of the course, and the body of the qualitative narrative shares the same theme and similar outcomes, we determined the course a success.
Implementations Procedure

The training was given to participants of the Harvest Christian Fellowship Men’s Musicians group on Tuesday night, and the survey was introduced and administered by the researcher. The material and curriculum were carefully researched and chosen by the researcher and approved for the survey by the Institutional Review Board. The researcher included the survey instruments needed (Appendix D), the course setting included a brief introduction on the weekly reading assignment, coursework, and survey questions. Although the initial gathering was for the men’s Bible study, weekly handouts were distributed to each participant after closing prayer, which mirrored the online study. They were designed for those who prefer to read a physical handout versus online reading material.

During the initial Tuesday night Bible study meeting, the researcher distributed and collected the consent forms, and covered an overview of the course while introducing the course outline. This course outline was presented in the form of a visual timeline. The researcher then offered a brief narrative of the timeline and the course in general. Below is a cover of the Introduction handout, as well as the timeline chart.
Figure 1. A Prophetic Look at Past, Present, and Future Events, Course Cover
The introduction was presented to participants, which explained the sequence of events portrayed in the timeline. The researcher presented both a narrative as well as a visual overview to help participants gain a clearer understanding of God’s word, complemented with Bible verses for each sequence, so participants could reference passages and review them at their leisure. The researcher explained that, during this study, the researcher’s view of eschatology was provided, which was supported with Bible passages. Participants were to use discernment, as the Bereans did, and search the scriptures diligently to see what the Spirit says to them.
Session 1- Week 1: Introduction to Understanding the Future

The Week 1 curriculum started with History and the Bible. Participants began their journey in eschatology by first building a foundation on prophecies that have come to pass. History and the Bible builds a solid foundation on physical evidence found in museums and libraries. As previously mentioned, before talking about the future, the researcher’s goal was to justify the past. Below is the cover of the handout for Week 1, the introduction to this section of the course, and an example of the online questionnaire.

Figure 3. Understanding the Future Part I: History and the Bible, Week 1 Course Cover
Introduction:

Understanding The Future is a compiled overview of what the Bible has to say about the past, present and future events of history. A brief synopsis starts with biblical history and then builds a solid foundation on the things, events and people of which God foretells. At this time in history many prophecies have already come to pass just as foretold.

The word of God tells us that we have His sure word of prophecy so that we will not be ignorant of things to come.

He is the Alpha the Omega the First and Last and He knows all things from beginning to end.

The goal of this study is to set a solid foundation on the things that the Lord said would happen that have come to pass. We will then move into events that God prophesies for the future, such as a cashless society, the rapture of the church, the great tribulation and His second coming.

The Key to remember is Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Once you grasp that concept and hold it dear to your heart, the rest is easy!

May this study richly bless you.

Recently we entered a new millennium; it is obvious that man in his emptiness is reaching out and searching for truth. Through the New Age movement, man has turned to meditation, Eastern philosophy and other ways to become self-reliant.

Since man is searching for the truth, I felt it appropriate to start this series by sharing some of God’s prophecies and their fulfillment as recorded in history. I encourage you to go to the library and read up on the early leaders in world history, as well as the nation of Israel. You will learn some very fascinating facts and you may have your eyes and heart opened; then you will look up and recognize that your redemption is near.

History shows that the first world empire was that of Babylon (586 BC), under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, who was then conquered by the Medes and Persians under the command of Cyrus. Next came the Grecian Empire under the command of Alexander the Great. Finally, the last world empire was Rome, headed by Julius Caesar, among others.

Rome in the first century conquered the civilized world. Since the Roman Empire, we have not had a world empire, although many leaders have tried (for example, Napoleon and Hitler). Leaders have come and gone and will do so until the end of this life as we know it. But, the leadership of God has and will continue throughout history. He has provided windows to His plans by putting prophecies into His “map book” — The Holy Bible.
#1. When you read about Bible prophecies written thousands of years ago that have come to pass, how does that make you feel?

- Good
- Amazed
- Astonished
- It doesn't affect me

#2. God foretold the future and wrote History in advance. After reading some of these prophecies, are you encouraged to live each day as if Christ could return at any moment?

- Yes
- No
- Perhaps
#3. There have been 24,633 manuscripts discovered, such as the Gospel of Mark, which is an eyewitness account of Jesus, dating back to 68 AD. Does this strengthen your Christian faith?

☐ Somewhat
☐ Yes
☐ Yes, very much so, I find it amazing
☐ It does not affect me

#4. Dead Sea Scrolls consist of over 500 fragments that date back to over 2,500 years ago and include the entire book of Isaiah.

☐ Good
☐ Amazed
☐ Astonished
☐ It does not affect me

#5. The book of Daniel foretold all the world leaders and prophecies that, in the ladder days, the Roman Empire (Europe, if you will) would reunite to become one. Living in the 21st century, how does this make you feel about History and the Bible?

☐ Amazed
☐ Astonished
☐ Not sure
☐ It doesn’t affect me

#6. The book of Revelation (written around 90 AD) speaks of a cashless society. The Lord tells us that when we see these things begin to happen, to look up because our redemption is near. Does the Bible prediction of a cashless society strengthen your faith?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I have never thought about it
☐ This is an absolutely amazing prophecy, and it strengthens my faith
Session 2- Week 2: The Mystery of the Rapture

Week 2 was an introduction to an event in the Bible known as the Rapture of the Church. Although there are three different viewpoints in the Bible about this event (Pretribulation, Midtribulation, or PostTribulation), this study supported a Pretribulation perspective, for which the researcher provided Scripture to support this view, as well as a narrative of how the other two views do not make sense. The material covered in this session provided Bible verses and a timeline about when these events may happen.
Figure 7. Understanding the Future Part II: The Mystery of the Rapture, Week 2 Introduction

#1. When we read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, we are told to comfort one another with these words. Do you think the Rapture is a comforting doctrine?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure what to think; it’s a confusing doctrine

#2. After reading 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, does the idea of the Lord taking His people from the earth encourage or confuse you?

☐ It encourages me
☐ I am confused
☐ I don’t think this could happen
#3. When you read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, the Lord forewarns us that Satan is at work and his full power cannot be revealed until we are removed. Does this encourage you more to share the word of Christ with others?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I am not sure

#4. The world is corrupt and immoral, yet we still have Christian presence and the Holy Spirit at work. Do you think the world will embrace life without absolutes?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I have never thought about it

#5. Romans 11:25 speaks of the fullness of the Gentiles coming in before the Lord will get His Church. In context, it speaks of the Jews being blinded to Jesus until the church is removed, and then the Lord in the Last days will start dealing with Israel again. Our job as Christians is to plant seeds, evangelize, and let people know that Jesus is coming. How does this affect your thoughts about spreading the Gospel?

☐ Romans 11:25 motivates me to spread the Gospel
☐ I am not sure I can make a difference
☐ I am not sure what my role is

#6. Have you ever studied the doctrine of the "Rapture" before?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I have heard sermons on the Rapture yet do not understand it

#7. Has reading these scriptures helped clarify what the Lord’s plan is about receiving His Church?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I am still confused between the Rapture and the 2nd Coming
Session 3- Week 3: The Wrath of The Lamb

After the Rapture of the Church, we moved to the last seven years of world history. In this sense, Week 3 introduced “The Wrath of the Lamb.” This section started with Revelation Chapter 6 and introduced the coming world leader, the rider on the White horse, and how he enters the scene after the Rapture of the Church to win the world over. Yet, the plot thickens at the three-and-a-half-year mark, when the world leader rebuilds the temple and demands to be worshipped. This section refers to the book of Daniel and the event known as the abomination of desolation.

Figure 8. Understanding the Future Part III: The Wrath of the Lamb, Week 3 Course Cover
Figure 9. Understanding the Future Part III: The Wrath of the Lamb, Week 3 Introduction

#1. When you read about this White horseman (or antichrist coming on the scene), does it give you a different perspective about coming to a one world government?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] I never really thought about it

#2. After experiencing what we have witnessed in America, with looting and rioting, do you see how this world leader could take control of nations?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes, I do, and recent events have clarified how a World leader could come to power!
#3. Jesus alludes to this world leader as being a peacekeeper and winning over the Nation of Israel. Can you see how rebuilding the temple would encourage the Jews to follow him?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I never thought about it

#4. After reading in Daniel about the abomination of desolation, and the fact that there will be another temple in Jerusalem, does this encourage you to know the Bible lets you know about future events?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ A little, yet I am still not convinced

#5. There is strong evidence for the rapture taking place before the tribulation period. If you took a stance of a Midtribulation view of the rapture, you would be looking for the antichrist, not Jesus Christ. Since the Lord is letting us know there are 1,290 days until the end (after the abomination of desolation), can you see why the rapture must happen before the antichrist is in power?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I am still not sure if the rapture could take place

#6. When you read about the days of Noah, do you see a parallel with today’s society?

☐ Yes, there are many similarities
☐ No
☐ I think some things are the same, yet hard to tell

#7. Since the Lord judged the people of Noah’s day, can you see why the Lord needs to judge the sins of our generation?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I am not sure if the Lord would judge or destroy people of the earth
#8. Christ tells us He will come again, and that we should always be ready. Does this change your thoughts towards your everyday lifestyle?

- Yes
- No
- People have been saying for decades that Christ will come; I am not sure

Session 4- Week 4: The Unveiling

Week 3 had introduced the coming world leader and Week 4 presented his attributes, as depicted in Scripture. Participants gained insight into where he comes from, his demeanor, charismatic charm, and ability to lead and rally nations altogether. Scripture reveals how he confirms a treaty to rebuild the final temple and how he has a wall built to separate the doom of the mosque from the newly rebuilt temple to appease both Palestine and the Jewish nation on the temple mount. This section concluded as we discover an assignation attempt on his life, making a miraculous recovery as the world marvels over him.
Figure 10. Understanding the Future Part IV: The Unveiling, Week 4 Course Cover
Introduction:
Imagine a world in perfect peace. No wars or famines, complete economic prosperity, one world government, one world religion, one world monetary system and the perfect world leader. A man who unites countries, leaders, religions and generates world peace. A charismatic man who wins the world over. Elegant in speech, bold, powerful and able to execute plans. The perfect world leader! Yes, the man with a plan; he has all the right answers and is able to charm all. Could there be such a man? Would the world embrace him? Let's take a look at what the Bible has to say about this coming world leader: where he will come from, his nature, what he will accomplish and how he will come to power.

The setting: the twenty-first century; the place: Brussels. The players: ten united countries (the united community of Europe and nine other nations) join together to elect a one-world government headed by a charismatic politician who has gained the world's trust and is elected as the president of this new governed world. His charm, power and demeanor make him the hands-down candidate to get the job done. From European descent, this charismatic man ushers in his reign by confirming a treaty with Israel to rebuild their temple. This treaty includes building a wall between the Dome of the Rock mosque and the new temple upon the Temple Mount. This then gives the Jews their temple to hold sacrifices, while leaving the outer court divided by a wall so that the Muslims can hold their worship. The Jews hail this charismatic man as the Messiah and worship him for bringing peace and their sacrifices back (the temple was destroyed in 70 AD by Titus and the Roman legion; since then the Jews have not had a temple to hold sacrifices). Next, this world leader brings in a one-world monetary system and issues in a cashless society and elects a spiritual leader who unites all religion and puts an end to religious conflicts, bringing peace and harmony among all the religious leaders. He then has an assassination attempt made on his life and left for nearly dead, yet makes a miraculous recovery and performs supernatural miracles. The world marvels over his powers, wisdom and ability to survive and execute his plans. The stock market is booming, there is peace and harmony among all and a joyful time on earth. Iraq becomes the world trade center of the Middle East and business is booming.

The Unveiling:
One day this world leader organizes a press meeting that will be broadcast worldwide from the temple mount. It is midday in Jerusalem, CNN, the BBC, as well as all the world networks, are there to broadcast his speech. The cameras are set up inside the temple and panned toward the podium; this charismatic leader then makes his public announcement to the world claiming that he is god and demands that the world should worship him. He curses the true and living God and says blasphemies unto His name!

The world is in uproar! This charismatic leader that seemed to be the answer to the world's problems has now showed his true colors. Nations of the world muster their strength to overthrow his government. The kings of the east march 200 million in number along with various other nations uniting together. This world leader sets his sights against Egypt (Dan. 11:40-44), yet has to retreat and make his way back to Israel due to these nations coming up against him. The setting now is in the valley of Megiddo, where the last world war will take place. Yet out of the clouds comes our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with His saints, and He supernaturally intercedes. The Lord sets His foot on the Mount of Olives as it splits in two with a great earthquake, and our Lord destroys the armies of the world with His glorious appearance and with the power of the Word of God.

Amazing, you might say. Is this possible? Where did you get this information? Let's now take a look at these events and Bible passages that expound on the events to come.

We will start with some background of this leader, the names given to this charismatic leader, where he comes from and what the Bible has to say about him. Next we look at "the day of the Lord." the second Advent! And finally, we will see what is holding him back from coming to power.

(Dan. 11:21)
"he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries"
Where does he come from?

The Book of Daniel speaks of how this world leader will come out of the divided Roman empire, stronger and weaker nations joining together to become one. Yet once this world leader shows his true power, the nations will not mingle together but come against him (leading to the final battle in the valley of Megiddo). History shows that the Roman empire was never conquered but fell apart from within (a civil war, if you will). Daniel tells us that the legs of iron represent the division of the empire and, in end times, how the empire would come back together. This is interesting because we have already seen Europe unite (smaller and weaker nations joining together), so from the text we would believe that this world leader will come out of the European community or of Roman descent. The passage in Daniel could also refer to the European community uniting with other nations (nine more) and becoming strong. We do know from the text that the Roman empire was divided with one division returning to Europe while the other division migrated down to Assyria (which started the spread of Islam).
#1. When reading Zechariah 11:17, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, and 1 John 2:18, do you find it interesting to learn the names given to this coming world leader?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I find it somewhat interesting

#2. The book of Daniel is the key to end-time prophecy, as it is the most prophetic book in the Old Testament, paralleled to the book of Revelation, the most prophetic book in the New Testament. When you read these verses in Daniel, are you interested in the fact that the Lord has given us many details about the ladder days?

☐ Yes, I find it fascinating how the Lord has foretold the future in advance!
☐ No
☐ I am not sure; some people say this is just a prediction

#3. Daniel 11:21 speaks of this world leader as coming to power peacefully and gaining the world’s respect. Keep in mind that when the world is in an uproar and Chaos is throughout the world; wouldn’t that be the perfect time for the world to accept such a leader?

☐ Yes, I believe this would be the perfect scenario for a world leader
☐ No, I do not see this as a possibility
☐ Not sure

#4. Can you see how the world could marvel over such a man and accept him as the leader of this new one world government?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure how this would be put in place

#5. The book of Daniel speaks of the abomination of desolation. This means a temple must be rebuilt, which Christ addresses and confirms through Daniels’s writings. The Bible, again, predicts what will happen in the ladder days. Does this inspire your walk with the Lord?
#6. Since 70 AD, the Jews have not had a Temple in Jerusalem. Yet, Christ acknowledges there will be another. Do you believe this will take place in our generation?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Not sure

#7. There is much said about this world leader; Zechariah 11:17 speaks of an assignation attempt on his life and he losses the use of his arm and right eye. Revelation 13:14 says he makes a miraculous recovery, and the world marvels over him. We are also told he makes it mandatory for all to join his cashless society by making a mark in your right hand or forehead (Rev 13:16-18). Are you surprised that the Bible gives us so many details about this coming world leader?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] It doesn’t seem like reality to me

**Session 5- Week 5: The Last Days**

Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39 are a big mystery in Bible prophecy regarding when the events in these chapters will come into place. The last days portrays nations that come up against Israel, while Israel is in peace. During Week 5, we examined which nations were either included or omitted from the final battle. Another interesting aspect is that Scripture mentions a nuclear fallout, whereas professional barriers will set out to locate and identify contaminated fallout for seven years, indicating that events in Ezekiel 38 and 39 could happen almost simultaneously with the introduction of the world leader and his seven-year reign.
Figure 13. Understanding the Future Part V: The Last Days, Week 5 Course Cover
Introduction:

The setting: Israel in the twenty-first century. The headline read, “Tension in the Middle East.” The players, Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia and the southern regions of what was once the Soviet Union, have set their sights to attack Israel! Israel seems to be against all odds and hopeless, yet they overcome their attackers! How can this be? This small country, the thorn in the Middle East, has defeated these Muslim nations that have come up against them.

“Impossible,” you might say! Yet this is what the Bible predicts will happen, for the Lord says that from that day forward, the house of Israel will know that He is their God. Let’s keep in mind, that we are living on God’s grace and are waiting for Romans 11:25 “the fullness of the Gentiles’ to take place and once that happens then the Lord will once again deal with the Nation of Israel. As spoke about before scriptures seem to support that the Rapture of the church is the next prophetic event in the Bible and according to the verses that we will be studying in Ezekiel which speaks of Israel dwelling peacefully in the land. “Interesting,” you might say. Well, let’s take a look at what the God of the universe has to say about this battle against His people.

We start in Ezekiel 38, where God gives a vision to Ezekiel in regards to which nations will be in this battle and what will take place. Keep in mind that Ezekiel was written around the year of 589 BC. Islam was not established until around 300 AD; yet all of these countries described in this chapter are Islamic nations!

Figure 14. Understanding the Future Part V: The Last Days, Week 5 Introduction

#1. The Lord speaks of the countries that come against Israel. Do you find it interesting that Iraq is omitted?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I believe that Iraq would be an aggressive force and will be against Israel

#2. The genealogy in Genesis has established where the nations of the world came from. Does this strengthen your beliefs in the Bible, the creation, and the Lord as all-knowing?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ It’s not clear to me that the nations in the Bible represent the nations of today

#3. The Lord speaks of these Muslim nations coming up against Israel. Do you find it interesting that Israel is the only non-Muslim country and is considered the throne in the Middle East?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I am intrigued by the fact these Nations surround Israel and I do not believe it would survive if a war occurred

#4. The Lord states that when these nations come against Israel, He will defend them. Do you think the world will attribute God’s Blessings to Israel’s victory?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I do not think that Israel will prevail

#5. The Lord is accurate in describing the events in Ezekiel. Do you find it fascinating that the book of Ezekiel describes nuclear warfare?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ It is not clear to me that these passages describe nuclear warfare

#6. The Lord states that, in those days, Israel will know He is God. Do you think this miracle of being against all odds victory will be the event that opens the eyes of the Jews?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I think the Jews will attribute this to their efforts and not the Lord’s
Session 6- Week 6: The Signs of the Times

Finishing with Week 6, we looked at the Signs of the Times, as seen from Jesus’ point of view. Matthew Chapter 24 highlights Jesus’ prediction of the Temple being destroyed and not one stone left upon another. In this chapter, three of Jesus’ disciples confront Him privately and ask Him when the signs of His return will be. Jesus refers to the days of Noah, how the earth became corrupt, recalling that, as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the last days.
Introduction:

It was mid-morning, on or about the eighth of Nisan, the year 32 AD. Jesus and His disciples were leaving the great temple in Jerusalem and heading towards the Mount of Olives. As they passed the temple, the disciples marveled at its beauty and magnificence. The temple was one of the greatest structures of that day, rising between eight and ten stories high, and sculptured in marble and gold. It was King Herod’s mark on society and one of the wonders of the world.

As the disciples turned to Jesus in awe, Christ simply stated, “Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matt. 24:2). The disciples looked at each other in confusion and proceeded on their way up to the Mount of Olives. Now, as they reached the Mount of Olives, four disciples, confused and wondering about what Christ had stated, came to Jesus privately and asked Christ three questions.

1. When will these things happen?
2. What will be the sign of Your coming?
3. When will be the end of the age?

Before we get started in this overview of Matthew 24, which is known as the Olivet Discourse, I would like you to be aware that this is Christ’s overview of end-time prophecy. Yes, Jesus Christ the Savior, the Healer, the Comforter and the Prophet will now in His own words give us a briefing on the end times. “He who has an ear, let him hear” (Revelation 3:22 NKJV).

Figure 16. Understanding the Future Part VI: The Signs of the Times, Week 6 Introduction

#1. When we look at history and confirm Titus’s destruction of the Temple, do passages like this encourage your walk with the Lord?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure; perhaps the Bible was written after the fact
#2. What do you think the disciples were expecting to hear from Jesus regarding Him establishing The Kingdom?

- That he would set up His kingdom at that time
- That it would happen while they were still alive
- That it would be a future event they would not witness

#3. Christ tells us to be aware of false prophets and deceivers. Does it seem that the world, and the church for that matter, fall for the lies of the enemy?

- Yes
- No
- I think many leaders tell the truth and have good ideas for world peace

#4. Jesus speaks of the antichrist coming to power and deceiving many. In today’s world, can you see how, with the talk about globalization, the world could accept a one world government and leader?

- Yes
- No
- I don't believe we could ever have a one world government; it does not seem possible

#5. When you read Matthew 24 and then turn on the local and global news, does it seem to you we are living in the “Signs of Times?”

- Yes
- No
- The news is always bad, and nations have always had problems; I do not think it would be hard to predict this

#6. Has Jesus given us enough warning so we would not be ignorant of things to come? Does this change your walk with the Lord?

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure; I don't understand Bible prophecy
#7. As it was in the Days of Noah, so will it be when the Lord returns! Can you see how the
"Days of Noah" parallels with the events of today?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ It seems that the days of Noah were similar, yet I am not sure there is evidence of the
flood happening

#8. Now that we are at the end of this course, would you say you have a different view about the
fact that Christ could return at any moment?

☐ No
☐ I am not sure if Christ could return at any moment; it does not seem realistic to me

#9. Will this course change the way you live your everyday life?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I live one day at a time; although this course introduced Bible passages about the last
days, I am still not sure if it will impact the way I live
Chapter 4

Results

The research project recorded reactions to a curriculum designed by the researcher, delivered to 15 participants, to test the assertion that, if the group comes to understand they are living in partial fulfillment of God’s promises, and that the consummation of His promises is yet to come through the fulfillment of eschatology, they will be able to live a more fulfilling life today.

Outcome of the Intervention

An analysis of the outcome of the intervention in each of the sections delivered in the curriculum supported the thesis of this study. As envisioned, after reading about the fulfillment of God’s ancient and recent prophecies, 13 of 15 participants, 86%, identified with the sentiment of being either “amazed” or “astonished” that what the Lord said would happen came to pass.

This group also concluded that the fulfillment of divine prophecies was supported by tangible evidence: proof they knew was included in world-historical events. Furthermore, 93% of participants (14 out of 15) were either “amazed” or “astonished” about the prophetic accuracy of predictions in the book of Daniel. Of the 15 participants who completed the curriculum, 12 (80%) supported the belief that God foretold the future and wrote history in advance. This same percentage reported that this belief structure afforded them the ability to live each day as if Christ could return at any moment.
The book of Revelation’s vision of a cashless society strengthened the faith of 100% of project participants, fifteen in total. Eleven participants (73%) reported they were comforted by the doctrine of the Rapture, as depicted in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, agreeing that the Rapture was not something to fear. However, 3 of 15 participants, 20%, were confused and unsure about how the Rapture could or would take place.
Figure 18. Participant Reaction to the Rapture as a Comforting Doctrine Not to Be Feared

Figure 19. Participant Reaction to the Rapture as a Confusing Doctrine about an Unlikely Event

Ten of 15 participants, 66%, felt responsible and were motivated to share their faith in response to Romans 11:25, which predicates the return of the Lord upon the gentiles’ converting to accept Jesus as their Lord. However, 8 participants (33%) were unsure whether sharing their faith would make a difference to the Lord’s return. They were either unsure that all like-minded Christians could convince all unbelievers to convert, or that the Lord would return even if
Christians on earth shared their belief about Jesus Christ. This lack of clarity on their part stalled their willingness to commit to conversionary activity.

Figure 20. Participant Reaction to Sharing Faith as a Viable Method to Promote Return of the Lord

The results revealed that participants’ prior exposure to, or study of, Rapture doctrine influenced their engagement and take-away from the project curriculum. Indeed, 60% of participants (9 of 15) stated they had previously studied the doctrine of Rapture, while 40% (6 of 15) confessed they did not understand the Rapture. A follow-up inquiry was required to determine whether those 6 participants, 40% of respondents, had truly never studied the doctrine or whether they had been confused by the message or teaching they had received. It behooves church leadership to account for this research project’s results, namely, that about half the participants, 53%, were confused about the difference between the Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture of the Church.
Figure 21. Participant Reaction to the Second Coming of Christ vs. the Rapture of the Church

The second section of the project course curriculum focused on the coming world leader, a one world government, looting and rioting, and bringing peace to the earth. It must be noted that the church’s perspective on the events in the United States beginning in 2020 might have dovetailed with the delivered curriculum. That is, the resounding results may not be wholly attributable to the curriculum evaluation, wherein 100% of participants agreed that a world leader could take control and impose his plan for a one world government. Regarding that special place in the world, the Holy Land, 9 participants, 60%, favored a world leader who would bring peace to Israel and rebuild the Temple, whereas 6 participants, 40%, were unsure about the possibility of this coming to pass.
Interview questions about the time of Noah produced another universal participant response, namely, that 100% of participants agreed the Lord will judge the earth. Only 13 of 15 participants, 86%, agreed that the Lord would return, and only two participants, 13%, did not believe the Lord would return at all. Those 13 participants who were sure of the Lord’s return
said this does change how they live their everyday lifestyle. This study will prompt church
teachers to investigate whether the 13% (2 participants) who stated they do not believe in the
Lord's return are grounded in the word of God.

Figure 24. Participant Reaction that the Lord Will Judge the Earth

Figure 25. Participant Reaction to Bible-Sourced Attributes of The Coming World Leader
The third section of the project course curriculum focused on the following characteristics of the coming world leader: (1) the names given to him in the Bible; (2) how he brings peace and prosperity to the world; and (3) his miraculous recovery after an assassination attempt on his life. Of the 15 participants, 13 (85%) found this section fascinating and agreed with the prophecies connected to these topics. Two participants, 13%, did not believe in the validity of the prophecy about the assassination attempt and expressed the view that recovery after such an assassination attempt was impossible.

The contemporary events in the Middle East were viewed similarly by all course participants. All 15 participants agreed with the negative prophecies of Ezekiel 38 and 39, which were targeted against Israel, and all found it interesting Iraq was omitted as an aggressor. Moreover, all 15 participants agreed that biblical prophecies about nuclear warfare were fascinating, that the Lord will make Israel the victor against all odds, and that Israel will ultimately give glory to God.

Figure 26. Participant Reaction to Iraq Omitted as Aggressor in the Book of Ezekiel
The final section of the project course curriculum focused on the End Times: (1) the destruction of the Temple of Jesus; (2) the timing of Christ’s establishment of His Kingdom; (3) Satan’s powers, which enable his deception of the world; and (4) the many parallels between the prophecies of Matthew Chapter 24 and the events portrayed in contemporary headline news. One
of the last course evaluation questions was: “Now that we are at the end of this course, would you say you have a different look about the fact that Christ could return at any moment?” While 12 participants (80%) agreed with this view of the End Times, 3 participants (20%) reported having mixed thoughts.

Figure 29. Participant Reaction to Matthew Chapter 24 Alignment with Contemporary Events

Figure 30. Participant Reaction to Christ Returning and Living a Fulfilling Life Today
Participant Feedback

All 15 participants responded with having a different view about whether Christ could return at any moment. They all agreed that, after understanding more about the return of Christ, they would go about life anticipating the imminent return of Christ, which inspires them to live a more ethical and Christ-center life.

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<tr>
<th>Participant Feedback</th>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
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<td>I found it interesting that Christ talked about the days of Noah, and I realize how similar they are to today’s society. I feel that knowing that Christ can return at any time kind of frightens me. It makes me self-examine myself, how I go about my life in general.</td>
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<td>#2</td>
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<td>This has given me a different perceptive on how I conduct my life in public and not just among my church family. The Lord says he will come as a thief in the night, and I need to do some soul searching to see if my life outside the church is pleasing to God.</td>
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<td>#3</td>
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<tr>
<td>We definitely need to be looking UP!!! It is so hard to walk upright and be the man that God wants us to be. I personally struggle with many worldly issues, and I often doubt what would the Lord do if I was living this way when he returns. I pray that the Lord will help me live a life more suitable to Him</td>
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<td>#4</td>
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<tr>
<td>This motivates me to spread the Gospel and to live each day as a witness to him.</td>
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<td>#5</td>
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<tr>
<td>As a musician that makes a living in the secular world, I end up playing nightclubs and seeing that a lot of people are drunk or caught up in the things of this world. I want to be a better witness to people, if the Lord was to come back while I am working, I want Him to see that I am a good and faithful servant. I have been inspired to keep this thought in the forefront of my mind and try to live a life pleasing to him under my circumstances.</td>
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<td>#6</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am still confused between the Rapture and the 2nd Coming, yet in either case, I do believe the Lord will come back soon. I am often discouraged about how I live my life and I know I must work on many circumstances that are hard for me to control. Realizing that Christ will return, I need to change my daily prayer habits to ask Him to work in my life.</td>
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<td>#7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Much of what I read in this course I have read and studied in the Bible studies I have participated in (Community Bible Study/CBS, and others). I have done in-</td>
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depth studies of Daniel, Revelation, Ezekiel, Matthew, and other Scriptures in my 32 years as a believer. I try to live my life in preparedness, according to 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” Maranatha! With this in mind, this refresher course has inspired me to be more diligent about the life I live in the here and now.

#8 Wow, I often get thrown off track each day by work, friends, social media, etc… after going through this course I started ready Revelation and freaked out. What I am doing with my life, I am really living how God would want me to live. I often lie and do things that I know the Lord would not be happy with. I am feeling a conviction in my heart and want to become more Christ-like. If the Lord was to return tomorrow, I want to be ready.

#9 I find it amazing how Bible prophecy has so much depth to it. I did not realize all the prophecies about the world leader were so specific. This gives me a different perspective on life in a sense. The Bible has given us so much information and I am sure that the Lord will return. I am going to try and witness more and share my faith with others and try to be a good example of my faith.

#10 I am a skeptic by nature, yet I think that many of the things in the days of Noah and our days are the same. We live in a world where absolute is questions. The world has created multiple genders and other ethical principles that are much different from what the Lord would like to see when He returns. I want to be inspired by Christ’s return and yes, live as a better person from today forward.

#11 It showed me how living my life everyday should have meaning, on how we need to share Christ with others that don’t know Him. This course made me realize that Christ could return at any time and that I should be aware of what I do each day and do things that honor Christ.

#12 This kind of blew me away… So strange that with COVID happening we have seen the government try to take our Freedom from us. I can see how, in the Last Days, a one world government could come into place, and the world accepts it. Also, with the riots and protests that have been happening, I could also see how martial law at a world level could happen as well. This course has given me more to think about, and I feel that I can become a better witness for Christ now as well as live my life with more discernment knowing that the Lord can return any day.

#13 I have mixed thoughts about the book of Revelation, yet this course did seem to outline End Times better for me. As a musician, my artistic and creative side seems to have my mind wandering, and many times I need a road map to see things clearer. I enjoyed the section on Daniel and the prophecies that were presented. I believe that I am more encouraged to share my faith and live each
day in reverence to God’s word. I am more convicted now about my faith want and to have a better relationship with the Lord and others.

| #14 | Life is too short, and we need to spend every moment doing things that are pleasing to God. I enjoyed this course as a refresher, I have been a believer for over thirty years, and I have studied the entire Bible many times. I think this course came at the right time; we are living in a much different world since COVID came into place. In a sense, I think COVID is God’s way of showing us how the world could come under the control of a single world leader. The section in this course that talks about the coming world leader was good, and it made me think more about the world we are living in. With that being said, I will try to spend more time in prayer, witnessing, and being aware of how I live my life, so that when the Lord returns, he will welcome me as a good servant. |
| #15 | In general, I feel that I am better equipped to live each day prepared for the Lord to return. I often forget about the promises that God has made, and this course has encouraged me to seek the Lord daily. It’s funny how the Israelites left Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and within a short amount of time, doubted God. Also, how the apostles walked with Jesus, saw firsthand miracles, and still let their flesh overcome them and hide when Christ was under persecution unto death. This course laid out prophecy clearly, and I want to walk in the way of the Lord and fulfill my Christian duties to become like Him. |

The qualitative questions at the end of the course prompted inquiries about the extent to which this course would change their perception of the End Times. This substantiates the theory that motivated this research: If the group comes to understand that, as believers, they are living in partial fulfillment of God’s promises, and that the consummation of His promises is yet to come through the fulfillment of eschatology, they will be able to live a more fulfilling life today.
Chapter 5

Conclusion

The evaluation of the project’s delivered curriculum verified that the study of eschatology positively impacts believers when they understand it. Teaching this topic in an accessible manner affords believers the ability to live a more fruitful Christian life in anticipation of Christ’s return. This study encouraged church teachers to uncover and target confusion between teaching and understanding the Second Coming and the Rapture. The awareness and education of the topics included in the study, if done well, afford all the constituent groups of Harvest Fellowship to obtain God’s plan for the future. Having a Pretribulation eschatological view promotes a more fruitful life. Moreover, this viewpoint enhances appropriate ethical behavior, that is, behavior congruent with believers who anticipate the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

When comparing this study’s results to other published works presented in the literature review, they yielded a similar effect. Andrew Walls agrees that a critical examination of historical events reveals the intimate relationship between eschatology and history, positing that faith in Christianity will increase with a firm understanding of eschatology.29 Upon delivering this course, the researcher followed a similar method as Walls, beginning with History and the Bible, providing a solid foundation for a biblical prophecy of the past to explain future prophecies. Therefore, to justify the future, the past must be made evident as the Lord has spoken it, which has—and will—come to pass. Historical evidence for the biblical events and Jesus’ life can be found in the secular writings of the first-century Romano-Jewish historian Josephus. Historical reports by Josephus provide verifiable historical locations and people mentioned in the

Bible, reinforcing the fact that the Bible is more than a book. As such, historical evidence supports facts and events acknowledged and referred to in the Bible.

Additional historical evidence comes from the caves of Qumran, referenced by Geza Vermes in his translation of the dead scrolls, which illustrates how archeological and biblical evidence supports the accuracy of the Word of God. Furthermore, as Mark Hitchcock points out, the Bible has given us hundreds of prophecies that have come to pass, proving it is truly inspired by the Lord. Just as these authors referred to historical prophecies to set forth the stage for future events, the researcher also provided biblical prophecies to show which have already come to pass until this day.

Presenting a course on eschatology with carefully prepared supplemental visual timelines, booklets, and course surveys, provided participants with the material to understand the End Times. John Walvoord advocates for a greater understanding of the role the Rapture plays among Christians. The researcher took the same approach as Walvoord, also including references to Noah’s days and the covenant of the rainbow as a sign of God’s faithfulness. These passages are also supported by Jesus in Matthew Chapter 24, where He elaborates on the way it was in the days of Noah, giving us the signs of the times and things to watch out for before His return. Once the 15 participants completed the course, they expressed how understanding biblical prophecies helped them gain a different perceptive on their everyday Christian living.

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31 Vermes, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English,* 496.

32 Hitchcock, *The End: Everything You’ll Want to Know about the Apocalypse,* 15.

As one of the participants pointed out in response to the qualitative questions, our world today is very similar to how the Bible and Christ describe the days of Noah. In the days of Noah, man was corrupt and lived a life that was pleasing to themselves. We read about homosexuality being prevalent when Lot fled Sodom and Gomorrah; yet, today, we continue to witness the prominence of homosexuality being lifted on a pedestal, with the promotion of Gay Pride month and the LGBT community. The situation continues to grow so perverse that the world has created more than two genders, accepting transgenders openly as a third gender. Although this has been considered acceptable in countries like Thailand for many decades, it is now accepted and supported by governments in many other countries, which offer incentives for operations with special amenities to accommodate people who prefer to self-identify as a third gender. Christ points out that, as it was in the Days of Noah, so will it be at His return. The researcher has thus laid a foundation of the signs we currently live in and provided biblical verses and passages that support our getting closer to the Lord’s return to encourage participants to live each day as if the Lord were to come at any moment.

Other aspects of the study that supported various researcher’s views on eschatology, such as the discussion on the Pretribulation, Midtribulation, and Posttribulation period, allowed the participants to compare and contrast ideas. The researcher used the book of Daniel, one of the most prophetic books of the Old Testament, to support eschatology and a Pretribulation view of the Rapture. The seventieth week of Daniel foretells the last seven years of world history, which Jesus Christ himself refers to in Matthew 24. At some point in the future, the seventieth week will begin; its events will come to pass, and it will conform to the chronology of the seven years of the seventieth week of Daniel. The halfway point of Daniel’s seventy weeks supports the abomination of desolation, whereas the world leader shows his true colors and demands to be
worshipped. Daniel speaks of what will take place during the last seven years, concluding that a Pretribulation view is the only view that supports the church being removed before this period. The Midtribulation and Posttribulation views have believers looking for the antichrist, whereas the imminent return of Christ would have believers looking for Jesus Christ before these events take place. Walvoord writes that Daniel believed the Lord’s Word would result in a literal fulfillment.\(^{34}\) The Pretribulation perspective is closest to the understanding that the Lord could return at any moment. Believers should know, understand, and believe in the Pretribulation view. In Matthew 24:36, Jesus announces that neither the day nor the hour of his return is known by man or angels; only the Father knows the appointed time of His Son’s return. The book of Daniel plays an important prophetic role in eschatology because it presents a pre-described view of world history and offers believers hope for eternity. The researcher used this study to provide hope to believers by presenting a sound biblical doctrine as evidence that the Lord could return at any moment, encouraging them to live a more fruitful life each day in Christ in the here and now.

While implementing the study, the researcher learned that not all participants clearly understood the difference between the Rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ. Moreover, the project results presented an educational goal to the church, since 6 participants (40%) reported they did not understand the concept or doctrine of the Rapture. The researcher adjusted the course outline by assigning reading material to support rapture verses in the Bible and providing timelines as visual aids to help understand the doctrine and the sequence of events.

To exemplify the difference between the Rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ, the researcher presented a narrative describing the events of the Rapture, and how Christ comes for His church, whereas the Second Coming is when Christ comes with His church.

\(^{34}\) Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation*, 205.
The two events are distinct, and the book of Daniel predicts the First and Second Coming of Christ to the exact day. To better understand the content, the researcher provided participants with a concise commentary on the 12 chapters of the book of Daniel, entitled “Mene, Mene, Teckel Upharisin.” We read that we won’t know the hour or the day Christ will come for His church (we are told that we will know the season or signs of the times), yet we can know when Christ will return with His church. For the predictions of Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem, theologian Sir Robert Anderson meticulously reviews scriptures, specifically the book of Daniel, to support the First and Second Coming of Christ. Centuries earlier, the prophets Isaiah and Daniel accurately predicted Christ's first appearance, death, burial, and resurrection.35

To calculate Christ’s First and Second Coming, Sir Robert Andersson used mathematical calculations based on the Julian 360-day calendar, accounting for leap years, using Nehemiah 2:1-9 and a decree date signed by Persian King Artaxerxes. This mathematical calculation predicted the exact day Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Second Coming of Christ is the imminent moment when Christ physically returns with His Church, as stated in Daniel 12:11, when the world leader stops the sacrifices in the Temple, at which point there will be 1,290 days until Christ returns with His Church.

The Rapture is a misunderstood topic, and only 6 participants (40%) had a clear understanding of it, which points to a welcome opportunity for the church to educate its membership. Indeed, the church can hardly be prepared to evangelize nonmembers when its membership is fuzzy about the details of such a central doctrine. The project results aim to encourage further development of additional curriculum studies and surveys that provide an in-

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depth study of the Rapture, including a robust examination of Pretribulation, Midtribulation, and Posttribulation views. The project and supplemental materials were published and delivered to participants. The content was devoted to enhancing the church community by grounding it more firmly in understanding biblical truths.

What emerged from this study, and merits future research, includes the researcher’s recommendation for the curriculum to be delivered to unbelievers and believers from other churches. One might expect different results if this course was offered to unbelievers who may be convinced with historical and biblical facts and perhaps be convicted by the Holy Spirit to see the truth as the church does. This study could be used to educate those curious about what the church’s viewpoint of the Bible has to offer in response to questions about the future.

There is an urgency in the mission to employ educational methods to clarify the belief structure of fellow church believers. Education is a foundation in the ministry of the church. The religious community’s spiritual leadership and its teaching constituent groups—men’s club, nursery school, summer camp, home prayers—are required to transmit its belief structure effectively. Core to the church’s mission is a firm biblical education to increase the quality of life experienced by its believing membership. The strength and longevity of the community are compromised if its fundamental doctrines are not carefully taught. This perspective informs the author’s research project.

Understanding the messaging of a cultural system is vital to the life of that system. Building community and doing what is necessary to align itself with the Return of the Lord is the purpose of the church’s educational efforts. This focused education enables church members to stand firm in central biblical values. The church’s foundational belief structure is strengthened when believers are educated and have a shared understanding of these doctrines. Believers gain
more than mere understanding; they gain the ability to reach for and sustain a moral and fulfilling life.

The eschatological topics of the Second Coming of the Lord and the Rapture are critical for the church curriculum. When asked about what they believe, many members may recite from memory chunks of doctrinal snippets, which they may not have digested or integrated into their spiritual and daily lives. If members cannot make sense of these materials, these doctrines are only random background noises in their lives, rather than meaningful messages to support their faith and guide their lives. A large part of the responsibility of educators in the church is helping individuals understand and appreciate those messages, which they might have heard about, but do not truly comprehend. Understanding is achieved through a process of formal and informal education covering both the realms of cognitive and affective learning.

The curricular project designed by the researcher is guided by sound educational goals and methods. Having identified a need and developed a theory, the researcher proposed developing a curriculum to test the theory and fill an outstanding gap in the church’s educational effort and the lives of its members. Guided by this theory, the researcher measured each participant’s emotional shift. A metric was used to determine whether the group understood the material presented by embracing and measuring cognitive and affective learning categories, not simply by the participants’ ability to recite the lessons by memory. The curriculum supported the theory that participants are now able to live more fulfilling lives under the understandings gained from the project curriculum presented to them in the sessions.

The project’s threefold components included an efficient administration of the ambiance in the group, increasing the confidence in their teacher, and careful consideration and devotion to participants’ spiritual life. The positive results depend, in part, on the sincerity and quality of the
instructor. The researcher humbly and kindly mentions only the quality of the curriculum itself without referring to the quality of the person who delivered the curriculum. The researcher’s devotion to his church, admiration of seminary teachers and colleagues, and concern for the affective learning environment in which the curriculum was delivered led him to provide an educational service that cleared the area of confusion between in two doctrinal concepts: the Second Coming of the Lord and the Rapture.

These sophisticated eschatological doctrines and concepts, presented in a simple yet structured manner, are fundamentally important to evangelical church members; their spiritual survival depends upon assimilating these doctrines, so they inform the quality of their everyday lives. Understanding the correct meaning translates into a more fulfilling life for members and the best outcomes for the church’s mission. For the evangelical church, faithful witnessing is critically compromised unless these doctrines make sense. Thus, these concepts motivate their real-world actions, such as witnessing to those who do not share their beliefs and living a morally stellar life.

This dissertation project involved developing and implementing a curriculum to add to the repertoire of educational tools that speak to the need to understand eschatology, which results in living a more fulfilling life and contributes to the church’s mission. The project ultimately reflects the researcher’s devotion to the mission of his church and the goals of his seminary.
Bibliography


Appendix A: The Project Curriculum

Project Curriculum - Introduction

Living By Gods Grace

Israel Back In The Land
May 14th, 1948

World filled with corruption - The falling away of Moral Values!
"As it was in the Days of Noah" 21st Century

Re-establishing of Europe (Nations Joining Together) 1990s

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES
DANIEL / MATTHEW 24

Christ Comes For His Church
Acts 1:11

Rapture of The Church
1 Thess. 4:15

7 Year Period

Christians are in Heaven with Christ for a 7 year period. "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb"

ROMANS 11:25
"FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES"

World Leader Revealed
Rev. 6:1 & 2 Thess. 2:4

3 1/2 Years of Peace & Prosperity! One World Government / Global Religion

Abomination of Desolation - World Leader Desecrate the temple and starts a global war. God pours out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world!

Jesus Christ returns with His Church and wipes out the armies of the world!

1.) We are currently living on Gods Grace (Romans 11:25)
2.) The Rapture of the Church is the next prophetic Event in the Bible (1 Thess. 4:15 / 1 Cor. 15:51-53)
3.) After The rapture, the world leader will be revealed ( Rev. 6:1 & 2nd Thess. 2:2 )
4.) He will bring peace and prosperity for 3 1/2 years (confirm a treaty to rebuild the Temple) 
5.) After the 3 1/2 year period this world leader will demand to be worship; and the last 3 1/2 years of world history will be Hell on earth. (See Daniel 70th week)
6.) God releases His wrath on a Christ rejecting world (Revelation 6-19)
7.) The Lord returns with His church (Rev.19)
8.) The Millennial reign of Christ on Earth (Rev. 20)
9.) New Heavens and New Jerusalem ( Rev. 21 & 22 )

Prophetic Time Line
Week One: History and the Bible

Week Two: The Mystery of the Rapture

Week Three: The Wrath of the Lamb
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### Session 1 - Week 1: Introduction to Understanding the Future
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- Reading Assignment II: Isaiah 45:1-3 .................................................. 29
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- Reading Assignment V: Matthew 24:1-4 ......................................... 32
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- Reading Assignment V: Matthew 24:37-42 .................................. 41
- Reading Assignment VI: Revelation 22:7 ....................................... 42

### Session 4 - Week 4: The Unveiling
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<th>Q6/W5</th>
<th>Q1/W6</th>
<th>Q2/W6</th>
<th>Q3/W6</th>
<th>Q4/W6</th>
<th>Q5/W6</th>
<th>Q6/W6</th>
<th>Q7/W6</th>
<th>Q8/W6</th>
<th>Q9/W6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

119
Survey Questions for Week 1: Introduction to Understanding the Future

#1. When you read about Bible prophecies written thousands of years ago that have come to pass, how does that make you feel?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 1 / Question 1</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazed</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astonished</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It doesn't affect me</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#2. God foretold the future and wrote History in advance. After reading some of these prophecies, are you encouraged to live each day as if Christ could return at any moment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 1 / Question 2</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perhaps</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#3. There have been 24,633 manuscripts discovered, such as the Gospel of Mark, which is an eyewitness account of Jesus, dating back to 68 AD. Does this strengthen your Christian faith?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 1 / Question 3</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, very much so, I find it amazing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It does not affect me</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#4. Dead Sea Scrolls consist of over 500 fragments that date back to over 2,500 years ago and include the entire book of Isaiah.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 1 / Question 4</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazed</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astonished</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It does not affect me</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#5. The book of Daniel foretold all the world leaders and prophecies that, in the ladder days, the Roman Empire (Europe, if you will) would reunite to become one. Living in the 21st century, how does this make you feel about History and the Bible?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 1 / Question 5</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazed</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astonished</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It doesn’t affect me</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#6. The book of Revelation (written around 90 AD) speaks of a cashless society. The Lord tells us that when we see these things begin to happen, to look up because our redemption is near. Does the Bible prediction of a cashless society strengthen your faith?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 1 / Question 6</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have never thought about it</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It strengthens my faith</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Survey Questions for Week 2: The Mystery of the Rapture

**#1.** When we read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, we are told to comfort one another with these words. Do you think the Rapture is a comforting doctrine?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 1</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure; I'm confused</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**#2.** After reading 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, does the idea of the Lord taking His people from the earth encourage or confuse you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 2</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It encourages me</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am confused</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t think it could happen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**#3.** When you read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, the Lord forewarns us that Satan is at work and his full power cannot be revealed until we are removed. Does this encourage you more to share the word of Christ with others?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 3</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not sure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**#4.** The world is corrupt and immoral, yet we still have Christian presence and the Holy Spirit at work. Do you think the world will embrace life without absolutes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 4</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have never thought about it</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**#5.** Romans 11:25 speaks of the fullness of the Gentiles coming in before the Lord will get His Church. In context, it speaks of the Jews being blinded to Jesus until the church is removed, and then the Lord in the Last days will start dealing with Israel again. Our job as Christians is to plant seeds, evangelize, and let people know that Jesus is coming. How does this affect your thoughts about spreading the Gospel?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 5</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This motivates me to spread the share</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not sure I can make a difference</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not sure what my role is</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**#6.** Have you ever studied the doctrine of the "Rapture" before?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 6</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand the Rapture</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**#7.** Has reading these scriptures helped clarify what the Lord’s plan is about receiving His Church?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 2 / Question 7</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m confused about the Rapture and the 2nd Coming</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Questions for Week 3: The Wrath of The Lamb

#1. When you read about this White horseman (or antichrist coming on the scene), does it give you a different perspective about coming to a one world government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 1</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I never thought about it</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#2. After experiencing what we have witnessed in America, with looting and rioting, do you see how this world leader could take control of nations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 2</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe this is possible</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#3. Jesus alludes to this world leader as being a peacekeeper and winning over the Nation of Israel. Can you see how rebuilding the temple would encourage the Jews to follow him?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 3</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I never thought about it</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#4. After reading in Daniel about the abomination of desolation, and the fact that there will be another temple in Jerusalem, does this encourage you to know the Bible lets you know about future events?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 4</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not convinced</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#5. There is strong evidence for the rapture taking place before the tribulation period. If you took a stance of a Midtribulation view of the rapture, you would be looking for the antichrist, not Jesus Christ. Since the Lord is letting us know there are 1,290 days until the end (after the abomination of desolation), can you see why the rapture must happen before the antichrist is in power?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 5</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not convinced</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#6. When you read about the days of Noah, do you see a parallel with today’s society?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 6</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, there are similarities</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s hard to tell</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#7. Since the Lord judged the people of Noah's day, can you see why the Lord needs to judge the sins of our generation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 7</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure if the Lord would destroy the earth</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
#8. Christ tells us He will come again, and that we should always be ready. Does this change your thoughts towards your everyday lifestyle?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 3 / Question 8</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure if the Lord will return</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Survey Questions for Week 4: The Unveiling**

#1. When reading Zechariah 11:17, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, and 1 John 2:18, do you find it interesting to learn the names given to this coming world leader?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 1</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I find it somewhat interesting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#2. The book of Daniel is the key to end-time prophecy, as it is the most prophetic book in the Old Testament, paralleled to the book of Revelation, the most prophetic book in the New Testament. When you read these verses in Daniel, are you interested in the fact that the Lord has given us many details about the ladder days?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 2</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it is fascinating</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It sounds like just a prediction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#3. Daniel 11:21 speaks of this world leader as coming to power peacefully and gaining the world’s respect. Keep in mind that when the world is in an uproar and Chaos is throughout the world; wouldn't that be the perfect time for the world to accept such a leader?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 3</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I agree</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, it doesn’t seem likely</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#4. Can you see how the world could marvel over and accept him as the leader of this new one world government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 4</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not it could be possible</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#5. The book of Daniel speaks of the abomination of desolation. This means a temple must be rebuilt, which Christ addresses and confirms through Daniels’s writings. The Bible, again, predicts what will happen in the ladder days. Does this inspire your walk with the Lord?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 5</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#6. Since 70 AD, the Jews have not had a Temple in Jerusalem. Yet, Christ acknowledges there will be another. Do you believe this will take place in our generation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 6</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure if there will ever be another temple</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
#7. There is much said about this world leader; Zechariah 11:17 speaks of an assignation attempt on his life and he loses the use of his arm and right eye. Revelation 13:14 says he makes a miraculous recovery, and the world marvels over him. We are also told he makes it mandatory for all to join his cashless society by making a mark in your right hand or forehead (Rev 13:16-18). Are you surprised that the Bible gives us so many details about this coming world leader?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 4 / Question 7</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It doesn’t seem like reality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey Questions for Week 5: The Last Days

#1. The Lord speaks of the countries that come against Israel. Do you find it interesting that Iraq is omitted?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 5 / Question 1</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I thought Iraq would be an aggressive towards Israel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#2. The genealogy in Genesis has established where the nations of the world came from. Does this strengthen your beliefs in the Bible, the creation, and the Lord as all-knowing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 5 / Question 2</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure nations in the Bible represent nations today</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#3. The Lord speaks of these Muslim nations coming up against Israel. Do you find it interesting that Israel is the only non-Muslim country and is considered the throne in the Middle East?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 5 / Question 3</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t think Israel could prosper against these nations</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#4. The Lord states that when these nations come against Israel, He will defend them. Do you think the world will attribute God’s Blessings to Israel’s victory?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 5 / Question 4</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not think Israel will prevail</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#5. The Lord is accurate in describing the events in Ezekiel. Do you find it fascinating that the book of Ezekiel describes nuclear warfare?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 5 / Question 5</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is not clear that nuclear weapons are mentioned</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#6. The Lord states that, in those days, Israel will know He is God. Do you think this miracle of being against all odds victory will be the event that opens the eyes of the Jews?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 5 / Question 6</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think the Jews will believe their success comes from their own works</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Questions for Week 6: The Signs of the Times

#1. When we look at history and confirm Titus’s destruction of the Temple, do passages like this encourage your walk with the Lord?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 1</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure; perhaps the Bible was written after the fact</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#2. What do you think the disciples were expecting to hear from Jesus regarding Him establishing The Kingdom?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 2</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That he would set up His kingdom at that time</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That it would happen while they were still alive</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That it would be a future event they would not see</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#3. Christ tells us to be aware of false prophets and deceivers. Does it seem that the world, and the church for that matter, fall for the lies of the enemy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 3</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many leaders have good ideas for world peace</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#4. Jesus speaks of the antichrist coming to power and deceiving many. In today’s world, can you see how, with the talk about globalization, the world could accept a one world government and leader?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 4</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't think there will be a one world government</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#5. When you read Matthew 24 and then turn on the local and global news, does it seem to you we are living in the “Signs of Times”?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 5</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t think it would be hard to predict this</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#6. Has Jesus given us enough warning so we would not be ignorant of things to come? Does this change your walk with the Lord?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 6</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure; I don't understand Bible prophecy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#7. As it was in the Days of Noah, so will it be when the Lord returns! Can you see how the “Days of Noah” parallels with the events of today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 7</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah’s days were similar, yet I don’t believe that flood happened</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
#8. Now that we are at the end of this course, would you say you have a different view about the fact that Christ could return at any moment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 8</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure Christ could return at any moment</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#9. Will this course change the way you live your everyday life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK 6 / Question 9</th>
<th>Raw Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not sure I will live differently</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix E: Participant Consent Form

Consent

Title of the Project: How Understanding Eschatology Leads to a More Fruitful Christian Life.
Principal Investigator: John Michael Mendola, EDS, Liberty University
Co-investigator: Robert Stacy, Ph.D., Liberty University

Invitation to be Part of a Research Study
You are invited to participate in a research study. In order to participate, you must be eighteen years of age or older. Taking part in this research project is voluntary.

Please take time to read this entire form and ask questions before deciding whether to take part in this research project.

What is the study about and why is it being done?

The purpose of the study is to assist and educate the men’s worship team, a small group of musicians & or men’s group that belong to the worship at Harvest Christian Fellowship. In order to educate this group on the topic of eschatology, a course has been designed to provide material on the second coming of the Lord so that this particular group will have a better understanding of the end times. The proper attention and understanding of eschatology could make these believers better Christians and stronger in their faith.

What will happen if you take part in this study?
If you agree to be in this study, I would ask you to do the following things:
   1. Log into website at www.eschatologytruthtocome.com. The course has six section, one section per week and each section will take 10 minutes to complete the session and survey.

How could you or others benefit from this study?
The direct benefits participants should expect to receive from taking part in this study include the fact that with a proper understanding of eschatology could make these believers become better Christians and strengthen their faith.

Benefits to society may include the fact that if the participants live a better life as a Christian, then they could share their faith which could improve the lifestyle to benefit others. Such as kindness, love, compassion, etc.

What risks might you experience from being in this study?
The risks involved in this study are minimal, the only breach would be the potential risk of a breach in confidentiality if the data is lost or stolen in some way.

How will personal information be protected?
The records of this study will be kept private. Research records will be stored securely, and only the researchers will have access to the records.
   • Participant responses will be anonymous and will be kept confidential through the use of secure website.
• Data will be stored on a password-locked computer and may be used in future presentations. After three years, all electronic records will be deleted.

Is study participation voluntary?

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Harvest Christian Fellowship. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

What should you do if you decide to withdraw from the study?

If you choose to withdraw from the study, please exit the survey and close your internet browser. Your responses will not be recorded or included in the study.

Whom do you contact if you have questions or concerns about the study?

The researcher conducting this study is John M. Mendela. You may ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, you are encouraged to contact John at [email protected] or [email protected]. You may also contact the researcher’s faculty sponsor, Dr. Robert Stacy at [email protected].

Whom do you contact if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher, you are encouraged to contact the Institutional Review Board, 1971 University Blvd., Green Hall Ste. 2845, Lynchburg, VA 24515 or email at irb@liberty.edu

Your Consent

By signing this document, you are agreeing to be in this study. Make sure you understand what the study is about before you sign. You will be given a copy of this document for your records. The researcher will keep a copy with the study records. If you have any questions about the study after you sign this document, you can contact the study team using the information provided above.

I have read and understood the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

x __________________________ x __________________________
Printed Subject Name Signature & Date

Printed Subject Name

Printed LAR Name and Relationship to Subject

LAR Signature Date
Appendix F: Institution Permission Request

August, 6, 2020

Ron Case
Pastor

Dear Pastor Ron,

As a graduate student in the School of Liberty University John W. Rawlings School of Divinity at Liberty University, I am conducting research as part of the requirements for a doctorate degree. The purpose of my research is to educate believers on the topic of eschatology, the study of the last days. The title of my research project is “How Understanding Eschatology Leads to a More Fruitful Christian Life” and the purpose of my research is to educate believers on the topic of end times.

I am writing to request your permission to contact members of “HCF” Tuesday night men’s worship group organization to invite them to participate in my research study.

Participants will be asked to www.eschatologytruthtocome.com and click on the link provided/complete the attached survey.

For education research, school/district permission should be on approved letterhead with the appropriate signature via email. Thank you for considering my request. If you choose to grant permission, please provide a signed statement on official letterhead indicating your approval, please respond by email to official letterhead indicating your approval.

Lord Bless,

John Michael Mendola
Doctor of Ministry Candidate
Appendix G: IRB Approval

August 24, 2020

John Mendola
Robert Stacy


Dear John Mendola, Robert Stacy:

The Liberty University Institutional Review Board (IRB) has reviewed your application in accordance with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations and finds your study to be exempt from further IRB review. This means you may begin your research with the data safeguarding methods mentioned in your approved application, and no further IRB oversight is required.

Your study falls under the following exemption category, which identifies specific situations in which human participants research is exempt from the policy set forth in 45 CFR 46:

101(b):

Category 2.(iii). Research that only includes interactions involving educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior (including visual or auditory recording) if at least one of the following criteria is met:

The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects can readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects, and an IRB conducts a limited IRB review to make the determination required by §46.111(a)(7).

Your stamped consent form can be found under the Attachments tab within the Submission Details section of your study on Cayuse IRB. This form should be copied and used to gain the consent of your research participants. If you plan to provide your consent information electronically, the contents of the attached consent document should be made available without alteration.

Please note that this exemption only applies to your current research application, and any modifications to your protocol must be reported to the Liberty University IRB for verification of continued exemption status. You may report these changes by completing a modification submission through your Cayuse IRB account.

If you have any questions about this exemption or need assistance in determining whether possible modifications to your protocol would change your exemption status, please email us at irb@liberty.edu.

Sincerely,

G. Michele Baker, MA, CIP
Administrative Chair of Institutional Research
Research Ethics Office