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None of the main characters in the film reflect people that I do know, however, I can identify with and sympathize with some of them. For example, Buck Williams, the reporter who has his sights set on being the most informative, effective, and credible newscasters around. But fails to recognize the agenda that he was confirming to until he was confronted face-to-face with the anti-Christ. Him, I can sympathize with, because we as humans can become so busy trying to achieve things or status, that we enter the room that we long to be in and is unable to read what's actually happening in the room because of our emotions and/or need to be validated.

Rayford steel on the other hand, the cheating husband, I can identify with. There are so many husbands/wives that have decent partners at home, and choose to spend their time being occupied by their lustful desires, and claim to be working hard to provide for their family, while making their spouse feel guilty for having the need to have them at home. Rayford Steele showed no appreciation for his wife until he came home in the height of destruction and noticed that she and their son had disappeared along with so many others. It was during that period that him and his daughter Chloe Steele who I sympathize with realized what they had, and that what the mother/ wife was longing for them to be apart of what actually the right thing and that it was too late. Chloe was the typical young lady, trying to find her own way while trying to support her mother's needs and desires. Chloe appeared to have a good heart, and empathy for others in distress.

Hattie Durham I can also identify with, there are countless men and women that are easily manipulated for one reason or another. For whatever reason unknown to us, Hattie believed that by having an affair with Rayford Steele, that whatever she was doing for him, was enough to make him leave his wife or whatever he was telling her. It wasn't until she so badly needed him

and was rejected that she realized that she wasn't nothing more than a distraction or fling. Not only was she manipulated by Rayford Steele, but we see that she goes to work for the United Nations and she is manipulated again this time by the anti- Christ.

Even though I sympathize and identify with these characters, I would've liked to see them developed a bit more. We have no idea whether Hattie Durham had a family and what her life was like outside of her work. Also, what caused her to be so easily manipulated by these two men. As well as Buck Williams the lead actor in the film. All we know is that he he was striving to be the best at his job, and that he had a close friend that was feeding him information. There was no back story. What caused Rayford Steele to cheat on his wife, was it that he was feeling neglected or was it that he was selfish. How about Chloe Steele, did she have any friends, what was drawing her away from spending time with her mother and brother.

None of these characters in my opinion were fully developed, we were left to assume the kind of people they were based on them being left behind. What made the different from those that were raptured, on what grounds was it determined that they did not have what it took to be raptured. The pastor of all people was not raptured and we have no idea why.

I do believe that *Left Behind* would serve as an ideal film to introduce to those unfamiliar with the Christian faith to Christianity. People receive messages in different forms, and the Holy Spirit can convict us in different ways. So, this film can be used as a form of conviction and/or to educate someone on end time prophecy or the Book of Revelations which will cause their eyes to be opened to Christian doctrine. Even though, they may have a hard time accepting this truth, and the idea of that at some point in the future, whether in our life time or our children's, that these events will occur. However, it'll cause questions to be asked, especially if it's being viewed in the presence of a bible believer(s) that can lead to scripture reading and bible studies. Which

means that they will become aware and as a result, the knowledge received can be life changing or edifying. It depends on what stage of the person's life they're watching this film. Some people may even claim that the film is superficial and lacking real life connectivity, however, there is a message that was delivered and that message is that "a time is coming when the ones you love, or the people you work with or are influenced by that believe in Jesus Christ will be caught up in the rapture and if you're not saved or believe in the Messiah that you can be left on the earth to face the terrible trials and tribulations that are to come." So either way the movie would've served its purpose.

I did find *Left Behind* to be a Christian film. The main characters could've been developed a bit more, and there were scenes that could've gone more in-depth. Even though the story was being told from the bible, they were using real life events. And as such, in order to make it more relatable there could have been more details added to make the film more interesting. There was this one point in the movie whereby Buck and Rayford were headed to charter a plane and just like that they pulled up in a car at Rayford's house. And Buck was seen sleeping on the couch, until he was awoken by Chloe, who then took him to the person for him to charter the plane to get to where he was going to find answers of what was really going on.

Some elements of the plot and story line were missing or wasn't fully developed. There was also no suspense, it was almost like you could read the script and determine what the outcome would be. All of the main characters with the exception of Hattie, surrendered their lives to Jesus without being forced or actually coming to the realization of what was actually happening, they only assumed that it was the rapture and repented. A secular film would've shown more command from the White House and the U.S., armed forces trying to figure out what was actually taking place. There also would've been more UN deliberations among the Heads of

Governments to figure out what was happening, then to find a solution before the anti- Christ was able to kill so many government officials for not accepting his agenda and confirming to it.

The film did not provide much follow-up, towards the end Buck Williams was narrating and stated that “everything that the Bible predicted was coming to pass.” How was he aware what the Bible said, was there a period in his life where he was exposed to scripture? How did he know that the next seven years were going to be challenging? We see that he knelt, prayed and repented while in the bathroom and suddenly the truth was revealed to him. His friend and informant was killed, yet we have no idea how or by whom.

Secular films are usually of better quality in terms of production which includes seasoned directors, actors/ actresses, sound, lighting, and storytelling. This is across the board, whether it’s a suspense movie, action, western, comedy etc., because the films are usually produced with a big enough budget to cover overall cost. Christian films, usually appear to be more on a lower budget, lesser seasoned actors/actresses, and with missing elements that might be present in secular films. For example, you might find the actor of a Christian film being the director and producer of that same film, and would’ve possibly used low budget lighting companies, sound effects engineers, wardrobe people, location managers, script writers, coaches etc., So, as a result of this, the story is told but not at the best quality. With secular films, there’s a market for it. And it’s a booming industry, so there is a lot of competition. Meaning that in order to attract the audience, there’s a lot that goes into making sure that the film is done right and at the best quality possible. It’s not the same for Christian films, there’s no competition, there’s not so much of an industry that pulls people to go out and support these films so that a Huge amount of cash will be pulled in and is generated for everyone working on the film to benefit from. Which in return will

cause sponsors to run to those directors to pump money into their production because they see an avenue to make more money.

There isn't so much of an interest to see a Christian movie, and this is usually due to poor production or marketing. Directors, actors, producers and those involved in putting together the film appear to assume that because it's a Christian film, that Christians will go to the box office and support the movie, and this does not always happen. Hardly do we find Christian films being marketed or publicized in mainstream media. It's usually done on small Christian radio's and television shows with not a lot of viewership, which could also be as a result of the low budget being utilized for the film, or only advertising to the target audience. For instance with this film, outside of what appeared to be in Israel while the war was taking place, the UN headquarters, and in the air, we have no specific identified location of where the film was actually shot.

The presidents that were sitting around the table had no names, and it was not made know what they were actually discussing, however, we are left to assume that they met before since there was a previous meeting that led to this one. There was no back story on the anti christ, but we see that Buck Williams gets a vision of him as the Holy Spirit reveals who he is to him. The lighting design in the film was very poor, the shots were extremely dark, at times very depressing. The sound was also poor, I'm guessing because of the narrative of the story the sound was to put the audience in the mood of feeling fearful. There was no music at any point in the film that was uplifting. Even when Buck Williams, Chloe, Rayford Williams and the pastor was reunited towards the end of the movie the sound pattern was dull.

There was no celebration or feeling of hope. The set elements that I recognized was consistent and provided additional support to the film was the church and the house of Rayford Steele.

Even the scene on the streets were somewhat confusing.

