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The first character in the movie is Buck Williams. Williams is the protagonist in the movie.

The film's beginning shows Buck on a mission on a breaking story in Israel. This is also the movie's start of the Rapture taking place. Buck is ambitious and courageous. However, he is also very kind and thoughtful. This is shown by how the characters talk about him throughout the movie.

An example of his generosity is aboard his flight to London, and Hattie, the flight attendant, thanks him for helping her get a job at the United Nations. His coworkers also express his courage as he reports from Israel while planes explode above him. In the beginning, Buck doesn't believe the destruction and the missing persons have anything to do with what is written in the Bible. He refuses to listen to his friends when they tell him about the proof written in the book of Ezekiel. It is difficult for him to see this. However, he slowly realizes the truth and gradually starts believing in God. It seemed that Buck needed to go through every tribulation, to trust God. Every letdown, heartache, loss, and at the end, his witnessing Nicolae turning into the antichrist. This is the turning moment when he finally feels God in his heart. His transformation begins when he witnesses the blueprints in Nicolae's office to rebuild Solomon's temple. Here is the moment everything becomes clear. The film uses special effects on Nicolae's face to show how Buck sees his evil. During the meeting, Nicolae manipulates and brainwashes everyone about the murders he just committed. This doesn't work with Buck because he is under God's care and protection. After realizing this, Buck is in shock and returns to the church. Watching the Pastor's video with Chloe and Rayford brought Buck closer to God. This changed his life. He states that he doesn't have all the answers, but

what he does have is faith. Bucks' character goes through many experiences of his limited power to realize that without God's power, nothing is possible.

The next character is Rayford Steele, also the protagonist in the film, who isn't that likable at first. Steele is a negligent father; he speaks to his daughter in a speedy and abrasive way. He is also about to have an affair with his flight attendant. He agrees to work early on his son's birthday, deliberately missing his big day so he doesn't have to deal with the wife's new conversion. His daughter begs him to be more tolerant of her mom. She, too, has difficulty with her mom's belief system but listens anyway out of love for her. Rayford didn't want to hear it. At this time, you can tell Chloe is a kind soul. God is working inside her. She is just not able to see this just yet.

On the other hand, her dad is very selfish. He is a man suffering from having no faith in God. Once aboard the flight, the Rapture begins, and all chaos erupts. The flight attendant Hattie whom he's been flirting and with whom he is about to have an affair, begs him to stay. He refuses; something shifts at this moment for Rayford. It's the beginning of his transformation. Upon arrival, he finds that his children and wife are gone. This is the start of Rayford's spiritual awakening. At first, his despair is too much, and he cannot understand. Desperate, he goes to his wife's bible and begins to read. He then goes to her church. When he meets Pastor Bruce Barnes, he urges Rayford to do what he has done and receive Christ. They begin to watch the video of the previous pastor who has passed, and Rayford finally realizes that to be free and be saved, he must acknowledge his sinfulness and receive Christ as his Savior in his life. Rayford's transformation is the most significant of all the characters in the movie. His sinful way and rationale behind them cleared away once he received Christ. You could hear his transformation as he spoke and see it in his facial expressions and how he held himself later in

the movie. You could sense the presence of God in him. He had gone through pain in losing his wife and son to realize that his lack of faith and sinful ways weren't working. Rayford's character made me realize even more how powerful God is. God can turn anyone into a believer if He chooses to. Also, pain is the greatest motivator to change. I know many people who don't have God until something tragic happens. Then, they realize their human power is insufficient. They need a God in their lives to be joyous and free. We see this after Rayford accepts God as his savior.

Chloe Steele, Rayford's daughter, is the female protagonist in the film. Her character is one whom I can identify with the most. She is a young lady trying to do the next right thing with her life. Going to school and being a good daughter and sister but is unsure how it all fits with what is happening within herself and her family. She is intuitive and sensitive. She realizes mom and dad aren't happy. Mom is busy with her Church friends, and dad is running from it all. She is remorseful after missing her brother's birthday and calls to tell her mom. Chloe is empathetic and thoughtful. She talks with her dad before he takes off and encourages him to listen to her mom. Chloe sympathizes with her dad but feels he needs to do more for her mom. She also does not believe but listens to her mom because she loves her. On the way to take her exam, she is stopped by a horrific accident. She gets out of her car to help the injured people. This is when Chloe realizes something is wrong as she witnesses the man's disappearance in the truck and the baby from the car seat. Her car is stolen while she is trying to help and figure it all out. She finds a ride home and realizes her mom and brother have also disappeared. Her dad comforts her. Eventually, through much denial and convincing by her father, she accepts that her mom and brother are in heaven. She finally gives in and receives Jesus Christ as her savior. All these happenings were necessary for Chloe to believe there was a God and to accept

that her brother and mom were ok. I feel it's so beautiful that God will use anything and anyone for us to be in a relationship with him, as we see this in all the characters' lives throughout the movie.

Hattie Durham is a supporting character who made Rayford her God. She settled in life by falling in love with a married man. Once the disappearances of all the people upon the flight, Hattie is frightened and wants Rayford to stay with her, but he refuses. After their departure, Hattie started to work at the United Nations. Before she leaves for her new job, she visits Rayford one last time. She tries to convince him to come with her so they can live happily ever after, but Rayford has found Jesus Christ and cannot be convinced to go with her. Hattie continues to look outside herself and never experiences a relationship with God. She becomes seduced by Carpathia and brainwashed by his evil ways. She rejects Christ and continues to depend on others for her happiness. As a result, she has made the antichrist her God.

Bruce Barnes is another supporting character in the movie. His transformation begins when his wife and son are taken to heaven. Barnes begs God to forgive him for not truly believing. Barnes believed and preached the word but never received and trusted Christ as his savior. After he watched the pastor's video, who vanished with the rest of the people, he realized this was made for those left behind so they, too, can begin to trust God with all their hearts. He repented and, in his pain of losing his family, brought him to a closer and a true and faithful reliance on God.

Dr. Rosenzweig is another supporting character in the movie. He is a chemical engineer in Israel. Rosenzweig is a stubborn man, a man of science. He doesn't take his Israeli heritage seriously and believes God is only an idea. Dr. Rosenzweig's development of the Eden Project

promises to end world famine. However, Dr. Rosenzweig's character never realizes God's truth. He is stuck under the control of Nicolae, never realizing the God within.

The main antagonist in the movie is Nicolae Carpathia, also known as the Antichrist. He manipulates everyone into believing he has the world's best interest. His evilness and true nature were revealed at the United Nations conference. The tables are turned. Nicolae ends up killing the two men manipulating him. The killing of Stonagai and Cothran, the two men using Nicolae as their puppet, are tricked by Nicolae. They had no clue whom they were dealing with until their death. Right before the murders, Nicolae states to Johnathan, "It is time to change history" Jonathan replies, "do you have any idea whom you're dealing with" Nicolae responds, "Do you?" and Nicolae continues, "Who is the puppet now?" The movie ends with the Antichrist in power. His supernatural powers controlled and brainwashed all left behind under his global domination. All unbelievers of Christ fall under his spell, disguised by his rhetorical appeal for world peace.

Although it was marketed as a Christian film, it could also be secular. From a Christian perspective, the movie is an ok introduction to non-Christians who want to know more specifics and more accurately about the book of Revelations. Having a Christian friend watch with the non-Christian would help to answer some questions that may arise with the missing material that is apparent throughout the movie from a Biblical perspective. For example, the book of Revelations does not mention rapture. This is an artificial concept. There are other reasons the film would not be a great reference for non-Christians. This has to do with some of the terms they mention that don't exist in the book of Revelations but elsewhere in the Bible. For instance, the Bible does not use the term Antichrist in Revelations. This term is found in Johns 1 and 2. Another is the believers being taken up into the sky comes from Paul's First

letter to the Thessalonians. Paul deals with believers whose loved ones have died and are afraid of what will happen when Christ returns. I felt the movie was based on man's interpretation of the end of times events. The book of Revelations, in my opinion, is challenging to understand. It is a book of mysteries of what is yet to come. I can't imagine a movie being able to depict the whole book of Revelations into a film and especially Biblically accurate. I can't imagine this being done well when it is difficult for the greatest historian to understand what it is all supposed to mean. So, it is all up to interpretation by man and, of course, how Hollywood would like to sell it. Left behind was marketed as a Christian movie. I don't feel that it pulled it off. I felt the film lacked structure. It was constantly bouncing from character to place to place. None of the scenes were followed through. Also, the characters were underdeveloped. I think Buck Williams was the only character that had a strong personality with a strong point of view. The other characters seemed flat and predictable.

Considering the movie's time, the special effects were ok. Some were very computer-looking. However, the special effects needed some of the advanced digital technology we enjoy today. This is apparent in the scene when Buck sees Nicolae as the Antichrist at the U.N. conference. Also, in the first scene, when the planes explode overhead, they are all computerized and easily detected. Overall, it was well made, and I enjoyed it as a spiritual awakening Hollywood movie but not a Biblical Christian one. Especially not a movie, I would refer to those who wanted to learn more about and receive Jesus Christ as their savior.