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The film left behind is a classic in the Christian faith and as I've heard about the story from family, friends, pastors, and teachers I never found the time to actually watch the film. As much as I heard it was a well-done retelling of the end times, I could never get myself to watch it because I felt that it wasn't truly going to be an entertaining film.

There are plenty of films that centralize the Christian faith and I've felt that they were done in a way that was too unrealistic to how people would behave and react to said situations. They often overdramatized the content which made it overly complicated and even uncomfortable. This film however I do believe had characters that were truly realistic and believable.

I found that the struggles of the characters did reflect people I personally know, people I sympathize with, and even personally relate with. I found Buck's character to be one that most people could relate to. This is because he is in the center of the action. As he witnesses chaos erupting in the world and in the government he looks to what is the logical answer. I found it interesting at the beginning of the film when he first broadcasted the old man who came from the desert, and was later recorded as speaking in Hebrew, Brad had understood and heard what he said in English. His reaction to this wasn't denial because he knew he witnesses him speaking

English. He was confused but the logical answer was not faith at the time, it was exhaustion, and confusion because of all he was witnessing.

Then later again when he was sitting in the meeting where the “antichrist” (Nicolae) had murdered his partners, just as everyone else seemed to be brainwashed and left following him, Buck knew the truth and decided not to conform and follow the lies. Instead, once he was able to realize that this man was in fact the Antichrist as everything from the Bible was coming into place he knew better and left to return to the church, the one place with truth and answers.

Again it wasn't just a simple blind faith. Buck's character was one that fought for truth and justice as he spent his life being a reporter. Although the film ends when he returns to the church I'm sure he combined both faith and passion for justice and freedom to give him the ammunition and guidance that would save himself, those around him, and hopefully the rest of the world. From the beginning, he was someone who stayed loyal to not only the truth but to what was “good”. When he realized that he was looking in the wrong places he went to what he knew was right. I feel like this is a response that anyone could have. Some people are easily persuaded while others need proof and this is something we see in society every day as there are some who are quick to come to faith while others need miracles or experience after experience to make sense of the world around them.

There were also characters like Rayford Steele who changed drastically. I feel as though he was the least realistic. This is because his character development wasn't very believable. I do believe it makes sense that this experience changed him and opened his eyes to the truth that his

wife was telling him and hoping for him all this time but I feel like it was done in a way that just wasn't very believable. I enjoyed the scene where he first read the Bible and said it was a little too late to start at "In the beginning." I thought that was realistic response or reaction to what he had just experienced. It was when he went to the church and cried with the pastor about being used by God that didn't make much sense to me. It seems that in this moment he began to choose faith and then after watching the tape from the previous pastor all of his doubts were gone. This didn't seem believable to me because I do find it true that people change quickly when they experience trauma or go through events that are life-changing but I found his change unrealistic. It was as if he received a new personality. The way he would talk and express himself was just not effective.

I would say that the film didn't do the best job of representing the Christian faith. I wouldn't recommend this film to an unbeliever. The book of revelation discusses the rapture and this movie brought a visual to the story as we know it, however many of the accounts weren't accurate. They do get some of the biblical scripture correct for example the mentioning of Daniel 7 about the antichrist controlling ten kingdoms, that will control the rest of the world, 2 Thessalonians 2:4 about the anichrsit rebuilding the temple and proclaiming to be God, and Daniel 9:27 about a covenant for seven years. However, they fail to represent scripture correctly

when they don't mention Christ and leave it simply at God. They also fail to present the information in its correct order as the film shares that the rapture began before the start of the antichrist's seven year covenant (Daniel) and the tribulation (Matthew) and other events that scripture clearly states.

Another misrepresentation of scripture is seen when the whole nation of Israel seems to be under attack as the film begins. There is an unknown enemy that results in a hopeless battle with bombs coming from all sides. Suddenly the planes explode or self destruct by what something that is again unknown. However in scripture Ezekiel 38 gives reason being Israel's protection provided by the Lord. The attack was not random but specifically from the antichrist who surrounds the nation and looks to "seize" and "spoil" his enemies.

For example as Rayford and Buck discuss the video, Rayford says that he must believe in God or he would be deceived and although Buck does pray, he simply asks for forgiveness from God not for a new life with Christ. The film fails to incorporate the whole redemptive aspect of Christianity. I also feel as though they misrepresented Christians as those who were believers and had gone to heaven seemed to be the least developed characters when the film began. For example Rayford's wife was supposed to represent a dedicated Christian but as she was trying to lead her daughter Chloe to faith she failed to mention Christ and didn't seem to have a good basis for her faith.

When I first began watching the film I felt it was a Christian film but I do believe it to be a secular film with a Christian narrative. I say this because although the film does tell a story that

is known in the Bible there does not seem to be a redemptive narrative. I would compare this to the Noah and the Ark films like Evan Almighty, which although share a well known Christian narrative, are done in a way that relates more with the secular world.

The point is to tell the story in a funny, relatable, realistic way that make it comfortable for every viewer. I would say that Christian films do want the films to be enjoyable but the end result is for people to leave and desire to learn more about the story and take a closer step towards God. As viewers watch these films, and see characters take steps of faith, and miracles performed only by the hand of God, they leave inspired to do the same. Although we did see some characters that turned to faith, the emphasis was more so on what seemed to make sense rather than emphasizing themes of the Christian faith such as trust, obedience, love, sacrifice, or freedom.

I believe for a film that was released in 2000, this movie was produced decently well. The shot selections were thought out and coveyed the story in multiple perspectives which made it more enjoyable. I personally liked how the included shots where we saw what was happening from live perspectives as well as through film or video cameras. I really enjoyed the scene where as Nicolae was giving his speech we were able to see a visual of him as the Antichrist. This helped us understand how Buck was coming to see him and understand him after thinking he was good for so long. I believe the video quality and camera work to be well done.

I didn't love the action scenes as the special effects didn't seem quite believable but for being in the early 2000s the CGI at this time was not as nearly as developed as it is today. The subtitles seem to be randomly inserted and the soundtrack was decent and expected. I like watching films and being shocked by a good song that plays in the background. I didn't experience this but the soundtrack wasn't bad, just not special. I found the editing to also be decent.