**PARTICIPANT 10**

**Research Questions:**

1. **How would you describe your personal and chosen approach to scripture?**

*For me the Bible is the Word of God that comes to us through the Bible writers and prophets to mankind. It is not just man’s testimony about God but it is God’s Word about Himself through man through the Holy Spirit.*

1. **What has led you to adopt this approach to scripture?**

*This is how God reveals Himself to us. If a person reads the Bible, then one discovers that it is God that is speaking to us. It is personal when one opens the Bible, it is God speaking to us personally.*

1. **What one word best describes your approach to scripture besides the answer in Question 1?**

*Belief*

1. **What principle(s) would you consider as important to all biblical interpretation?**

*Never read the Bible outside of its context. If one wants to explain a passage to someone, then one has to read the entire Book, Chapter and the verse itself. Another factor is to consider the genre. For example: Is it prose, poetry, Historic, prophecy or apocalyptic etc. One cannot interpret the entire Bible literally because one would end up with a wrong interpretation. For example, there is a difference between prophecy and apocalyptic literature because the prophet spoke of the times he lived in but also deals with a theme like the Day of the Lord which was fulfilled at the first coming of Christ. Apocalyptic Literature has to do with end time events.*

1. **For example, how would you understand Zechariah 14 from the Old Testament?**

*I understand that this has to do with the second coming. The prophet Zechariah here does what some prophecies do, viz. A partial fulfilment. The prophecy was partly fulfilled in the Captivity and will partially be fulfilled in the second coming. This is passage is not necessarily to be taken literally because God is a spirit. Ultimately, even if this passage were to be taken literally it does not change the meaning that the Lord will return in Judgment to the Mount of Olives. Many prophecies have multiple fulfilments and may be repeated in the second coming. One has to be quiet before the Bible and not read it piece meal neglecting the bigger picture and the whole story including the second coming. The Bible is not just a Historical account but it still speaks to us today.*

1. **For example, how would you understand Romans 11 in particular V26-27 from the New Testament?**

*All Israel has to do with everyone who is a believer from every nation through Abraham and not of the nation Israel itself. Because Abraham is the Father of all who believe this is promise has to do with all who believe in Jesus. The Jews have not advantage over any other people group because we are all equal in Christ (Cf. Note Romans 3:1-3). For God, Israel was not more important that another.*

1. **What do you understand or know about how the Church, at various times, interpreted scripture?**
2. **Have you been exposed to dispensationalism and what are your thoughts of it?**
3. **Are you familiar with one John Nelson Darby and what is your evaluation of him?**
4. **What do you know about the history of dispensationalism before JN Darby?**
5. **If you were made aware of the history of dispensationalism, would you be willing to discuss and give your personal perspectives on the following claims of dispensationalism:**

* ***God has always had varied and distinct arrangements (called dispensations) with humanity throughout History.***
* ***Israel, as a nation and the Church, as a whole, have two distinct origins, missions and destinies.***
* ***There is a future, physical removal of the church (called the rapture) prior to the coming wrath of God on the Earth (called the tribulation).***
* ***There is a coming literal 1000 Year kingdom reign of Jesus Christ on Earth (called the millennium) fulfilling God’s covenant promises to Abraham and his descendants.***
* ***The ultimate purpose of all creation and history, is the eternal Glory of God in His Kingdom.***

1. **Are there any questions or concerns you have with the dispensational approach to scripture?**