**Participant 12**

**Research Questions:**

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

*To try to understand the scripture in its context and it is precious to me. To understand to whom it was written, why it was written and what is the message because I believe in the OT and the NT because the God is the God of both. Everything we have in the scriptures tells us bit by bit about who God is.*

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

*My studies*

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

*An open approach to discover what the meaning of everything is. However, it must be a scientific method without just taking things on “face value” because then you will have big problems.*

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

*To see the bid picture.*

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

*When the passage was written it was written for the children on Israel who had just come out of Israel. This passage would be to give them encouragement: “I will be with you, stay with me and I will give you a better future.” A lot of this is a metaphor of the Lord showing them that He will give them a better future. These are not actual events that will take place in the future.*

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

*In the New Testament the Lord when He speaks about Israel, He is talking about the believers in Christ, viz. The Church. In Romans 11 the cultivated olive tree’s branches were broken off and now you, the church, that is the wild olive tree. So don’t be high minded. If I can break off the cultivated olive tree, how much more easier can I place the cultivated braches back again onto the olive tree. In the previous passage Paul cried over his people because they did not want the salvation of God. Then I dream of the day when this cultivated olive tree which is still searching for their Messiah will see the light and discover their Messiah is Jesus. But God said that the church comes out of the cultivated olive trees roots. All God’s presence in the Old Testament over his people and his church is true for you. The day may come when I will restore those old branches back onto the tree. There will not be a future day when God will save the Nation of Israel as a whole. They have to come to God by faith and they have to discover him and the whole nations will not do this. There will be individuals that will believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah from the Old Testament. This the covenant.*

*The Lord says blessed are those who don’t see and yet believe. If God is going to work in some other way with the Jews, then it is up to him. For us it is given to believe in Jesus and to tell others about him. Many Jews today are being saved today. They will be angry if we say to them that they don’t have to believe because they will be saved as a nation. The Lord made the way to believe and God give them a covenant. They broke the covenant so now through baptism we are included into that covenant. We must not break the covenant with God. It will be them and us on that tree. If we don’t bear fruit then the Lord will also cut us off.*

1. **What do you understand or know about how the Church, at various times, interpreted scripture?**

*We cannot separate Millennialism from fundamentalism. The Roman Catholic Church kept the Word of God from the common man. No one could read Latin and few had access to it. The little the common man knew about the Bible was very dangerous and they used it for their own ends. These people took what they wanted. The church at different times used the Bible for their own ends. We live today in times of technology. In the 1600’s when the Bible because available to the common man, they read the Bible literally. They saw how the people were oppressed so the people relocated. The Lord moved with them so the Lord is moving with us. It has taken hundreds of Years now for us to come to the understanding of the correct context of the scriptures. So many people just want to apply the Bible to their situation like chicken’s that feed here and there and everywhere. They don’t understand the big picture of the Bible.*

1. **Have you been exposed to dispensationalism and what are your thoughts of it?**

*I have not been exposed to it.*

1. **Are you familiar with one John Nelson Darby and what is your evaluation of him?**

*NO.*

1. **What do you know about the history of dispensationalism before JN Darby?**

*I just googled it now.*

1. **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:**

*YES.*

* ***God has always had varied and distinct arrangements (called dispensations) with humanity throughout History.***

*We live in a dispensation of the Holy Spirit and God gave us the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit and in our spiritual growth we were groomed in wisdom. God leads us through his Holy Spirit and his word. I am afraid of this dispensational thinking because I am a Reformed Theologian and I can understand why Martin Luther said: “sola scriptura”. If you go with dispensations, then you say that God will come with another version in this new time with something else or with someone else or whatever. Then, we are ruling the word of God out. There was the people of God in the Old Testament but there are the people of the God in the New Testament who must all come to God by faith. In both Testaments because God’s word goes on through his children. There were Jews believing but there were Heathen and Gentiles believers. There is only a new mediator, Jesus Christ, and this is when the new dispensation began.*

* ***Israel, as a nation and the Church, as a whole, have two distinct origins, missions and destinies.***

*This is a strange way to look at this. I believe that the church will be there at the end. There will be a purifying that will come to the church just like it happened to Israel. The problem is that we don’t have the same understanding of who Israel is. Israel is not the people that are in Israel now. Israel was the people of God with whom he made a covenant; the descendants of Abraham. Because they did not have faith in God and God has walked a path with his people, those people of God left him. The New Testament began with the death of Christ so the new dispensation of Christ starts with the crucifixion of Christ. Everything that Jesus teaches us, we must interpret it, in the light of the crucifixion. So when Paul says forgive one another, it is because Christ has forgiven us that we must forgive each other. The Old Testament prayer, through the death of Christ and he says that because you are forgiven, now you go and forgive. The Israel of the Old Testament is not the Jews that we have today.*

* ***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).***

*I believe that the so called rapture will be at the end of time when Jesus comes and not this rapture that takes away some people leading to cataclysm. If we understand the book of Revelation correctly, not fundamentally verse by verse, but the story behind the story of the whole book of Revelation, you will understand that it is a Thousand Years of peace started when Jesus was born into this world. He brought peace through the cross and we are living in this dispensation of peace.*

* ***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.***

*Part of God’s dream for this world is Jesus who is the beginning of the recreation of this world. Everywhere where Jesus changes people’s hearts, he is bringing people together and thus swords became ploughshares. We are living in the time of the already but not yet. The church will never reach this now. With all the bad that is happening in the church, it makes the voice of the church all that more important because we are here to say this the goal we are aiming for. There will never be a literal time of peace. The peace will be the difference that Christ is making in people’s lives. Despite the evil in the world, there are scatterings of hope that the Lord doing. We are a counter balance to the evil in the world and things will not get any better.*

* ***The ultimate purpose of all creation and history, is the eternal Glory of God in His Kingdom.***

*The glory of God is related to the salvation of man and they cannot be separated. God is glorified when people get saved in order to glorify God.*

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

*The problem I have is that the Charismatic Churches are dispensational and they find their proof texts in this type of theology. These people lead people astray from God.*