**PARTICIPANT 6**

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

*My approach would be that I have to understand that I am not the original recipient of the Bible and that the Bible has different literary types and the different literary types have to be interpreted differently and that the Bible was written in a different context and a different situation. My approach would therefore be to come as close as possible to how the original recipients understood it and then make the application of that message to our situation today.*

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

*My studies and my personal working with the text. I am still working with Veritas College to interpret the Bible responsibly.*

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

*Inspired (Understanding the Bible comes from a Divine origin: “God’s Word in human language”)*

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

*The principles mentioned above including submission to the Holy Spirit and the place of prayer in interpreting the Word of God.*

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

*We have to understand who the original recipients were and then to understand that there are more than one author of the Book, especially the last section of Zechariah, which was added subsequently, that we have today.*

*The book was written to a greatly disappointed and disillusioned people who had just come out of captivity. Their return to the land and their circumstances brought great disappointment to them.*

*The message of this passage is that God is still in control even in these “end times” and that he is present with his people in their difficult times.*

*Dealing with the actual content of Zechariah 14 would be best understood from a New Testament point of view looking back in time. My understanding of God shaped by my understanding of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I see the content as symbolic (Hyperbole) and it would have made more sense to the people living in Zechariah’s time. The way I see it and from where I stand I cannot see it happening. Thus the idea would be to show God’s ruler-ship and punishment of his enemies.*

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

*This is a difficult passage indeed because there is so many different ideas of this passage. I believe that the church is the new Israel. I believe that because salvation came through Jesus, I have become a part of the new nation of Israel. In Christ we are part of God’s Nation or people.*

*In Romans 11:26, the all Israel is not the church (I am making a leap) but about the nation of Israel missing their purpose and what God had intended for them. Now God is taking this message to the nations (like Paul mentioned making them jealous) and the plan is through Christ mow because there is no salvation outside of Christ.*

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

*I am aware that approaches to scripture have changed over the Years. During the enlightenment there was a new focus on reason so different approach like a more historic approach to scripture. There was a lot of good and bad that came out of the different approaches to scripture. There were those who used to hold to the inspiration of scripture, that the Bible is the word of God rather than words about God. (28:00)*

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

*He asked about the origins and if dispensationalism existed in its form today.*

*Dispensations sounds to me (and I am not an expert) like an era that starts and ends at a specific time and then another dispensation starts and ends. I don’t see or have an understanding of this how God deals with his people. I see it as a continuous history of God with his people with different episodes and emphasis in that story with progressive revelation and how God acts in that story like Hebrews says in the last days God has fully revealed Himself in Christ. I have discovered that there is not one form of Dispensational Theology*

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

*No. I have only looked him up recently*

1. **What do you know about the history of dispensationalism before JN Darby?**
2. **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.***

*I would not necessarily see the differences between the Old Testament rituals and the Church has a different dispensations but rather as a growing revelation and a growing of our understanding of how God works with his people in a cyclical or an unveiling revelation.*

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

*Right or wrong, I don’t see Israel as a nation playing a big role in the future. I think through Christ, you become part of the church. It does not matter from what tribe or language or nation you come from. Christ is the entry into the church, his body, and part of his body we become part of the people of God.*

* ***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 don’t accept that the rapture as something that would happen before the coming of Jesus. My understanding will be that there will be a second coming. That will be the end. The passages like I Thess. 4:16-17 and I Cor. 15:51-53 are passages that deal with events of the second coming of Christ, not the rapture.*

* ***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.***

*I think it is for his pleasure and glory*

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