

The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession Study Guide

The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession by Tim LaHaye

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Plot Summary

The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins begins where the former book in the series, "Assassins," ends. There are millions of people gathered at a gala to honor Nicolae Carpathia, the man who is believed to be the Antichrist. Members of the Tribulation Force, believers in Christ, are in the audience. A shot rings out and Carpathia collapses.

Buck Williams, a member of the Tribulation Force, braces himself against the platform. Chaos ensues as two million people stampede and rush to get away from the area in which Supreme Potentate Nicolae Carpathia has just been murdered. Thousands of people rush by Buck who struggles to find safe ground. Buck had heard a gunshot 100 feet to his right. It sounded like a rifle or perhaps the small gun Carpathia had used when killed Moishe and Eli at the Wailing Wall three days before.

Characters from other books are reintroduced, including Captain Rayford Steele, leader of the Tribulation Force. Steele is in the audience at the gala. Steele has planned to kill Carpathia but the plan goes awry. Instead, Chaim manages to stab Carpathia through the skull, killing him instantly. The crowd goes wild and the entire world falls into chaos.

Hassid and Annie try to gain as much information as possible as the entire GC headquarters is in a frenzy preparing to view and eulogize the Supreme Potentate. Additionally, millions of people worldwide flood into New Babylon for the occasion, leaving Hassid and others to make arrangements while keeping the members of the Tribulation Force informed. Despite evidence to the contrary, Steele is being blamed for Carpathia's death.

The GC learns about the Tribulation Force's safe house in North America. Tsion barely escapes GC forces and is rescued by Albie, Steele and others. Hassid has found a new safe house in Chicago if the TF can manage to get there.

Informants keep the TF ahead of the GC just barely by minutes. Meanwhile, Carpathia's second in command, Leon Fortunato, is glad to take over his mentor's role as Supreme Potentate. Hassid's beliefs about Carpathia's role as the Antichrist are confirmed when Carpathia's life-like statue speaks to the crowd and Carpathia is resurrected.

This part of the series ends quickly and dramatically with the resurrection of Carpathia. Even the believers are frightened of the man's power. If any believers had doubts that Carpathia is the Antichrist, those doubts disappear in this section. The ensuing events do not bode well for the Tribulation Force. Carpathia has all but issued a declaration of war on the believers.



Chapters 1-4

Chapters 1-4 Summary

In Chapter 1, Buck braces himself against the platform. Chaos ensues as two million people stampede and rush to get away from the area in which Supreme Potentate Nicolae Carpathia has just been murdered. Thousands of people rush by Buck who struggles to find safe ground. Buck had heard a gunshot 100 feet to his right. It sounded like a rifle or perhaps the small gun Carpathia had used when killed Moishe and Eli at the Wailing Wall three days before.

Buck searches frantically for his friends Chaim and Jakov. Buck climbs up onto a crossbar to see the surrounding area and to avoid the stampede. A large speaker falls from its stand. A woman nearby is crushed to death. No one can hear Buck calling.

Carpathia is surrounded by guards. There is an argument about what to do to try to save Carpathia. A helicopter tries to land. It is the only logical way to remove Carpathia from the scene.

Buck locates Chaim. He sits motionless in his chair. Buck wonders if Chaim has had another stroke or perhaps a heart attack. Buck watches as Jakov is hit by the butt of an Uzi. Jakov is tramped to death.

Buck seeks out Chaim only to find his chair is empty and crumpled. Chaim is nowhere to be found.

The helicopter lands and four EMTs take Carpathia away. Buck longs for the madness to end.

Rayford is still in the crowd, trying to get away.

"Rayford felt like a fool, running with the crowd, the hem of his robe in his hands to keep from tripping. He had dropped the Saber and its box and wanted to use his arms for more speed. But he had to run like a woman in a long skirt." Chap. 1, p. 19

Rayford had to get away. He is not sure if he shot Carpathia. His arm had been bumped and it could have caused the gun to go off. All Rayford can think about now is how to get to Tel Aviv and then to Israel where he will be safe.

Mac and Abdullah are in the back of the crowd. The crowd had begun to stampede before they heard the shot. The men prepare to flee and arrange to meet at the airport in one hour.

Fortunato wails from the platform, urging someone to do something to help Carpathia.



"Mac peeked past the panicky Fortunato to see Carpathia's normally tanned hands and face already pale. No one could survive this, and Mac wondered if the bodily movements were merely posthumous reflexes." Chap. 1, p. 22

The men on the platform argue about where to take Carpathia's body. Fortunato wants to go to New Babylon but it is too far away. Carpathia flatlines.

Buck runs to the hostel. He continues to try to call Chaim but the phone is busy. Finally, Hannelore answers. Buck reminds her that the phones are not secure. Hannelore says she does not care any more. Buck tells Hannelore that Jakov is dead. The GC arrives at the door.

Carpathia is finally loaded onto the Phoenix 216 where he is pronounced dead by the court's doctor.

Fortunato goes to Hassid and breaks the news. Fortunato insists that the information will remain top secret until Security Chief Walter Moon specifies otherwise. Fortunato tells Hassid to scramble the satellites. The landline phones will still work but nothing else. Fortunato also says he wants an autopsy and a cast of Carpathia's body.

In Chapter 2, Annie and Hassid meet in his office. Both are scared. Hassid is told that he must prepare for the arrival of the body and the goods needed to make the cast.

Steele makes it to Tel Aviv. His new identity is Marvin Berry. Berry looks nothing like Steele after his makeover. Steele has a conversation with a guard as he hurries to take off before being grounded. As Steele prepares to take off the call comes in that all aircraft must be grounded. Steele talks his way out of the situation and manages to get off the ground without being interceded by the GC. Steele pretends that the radio is breaking up and he cannot hear the tower. Steele does hear that all satellite communications are down. This means that he will be flying blind. Steele is relieved as he has enough experience to manage a flight without aid and it also means that he cannot be tracked by the GC.

Buck is angry with Steele. There has been no contact. It is impossible to reach anyone. Buck goes to Chaim's house and breaks in. He finds the bodies of Hannelore and her mother.

Guy Blod calls Hassid, demanding attention. Hassid has no idea why Blod is calling with demands.

"David had seen him scurrying around a few times but had never spoken with him. His reputation preceded him. He was the temperamental but lauded painter and sculptor, Carpathia's own choice for minister of the creative arts." Chap. 2, p. 43

Hassid learns that Hattie is gone.

Blod calls back, demanding Hassid's attention. Hassid tells Blod that he should come to the director's office; Hassid should not have to bow to Blod's demands.



In Chapter 3, Steele has a two hour flight to Greece. The phones are still inoperable. Steele thinks about life before the Rapture.

"Life since the Rapture, or what most of the world called the disappearances, had been different as night and day from before - and not just spiritually. Rayford likened it to a death in the family. Not a day passed when he didn't awaken under the burden of the present, facing the cold fact that though he had now made his peace with God, he had been left behind" (Chapter 3, p. 48).

Steele wonders if the whole world is experiencing grief. Everyone had lost someone and there is not a moment that goes by that can be forgotten. There have been good times in the three and a half years since the Rapture, like the birth of Kenny and the fact that Steele and Chloe had finally developed a solid relationship.

Steele needs to speak to Tsion. He feels that he cannot fully confide in Buck or Chloe. There is time for introspection. Steele realizes that he cannot run - he must face God.

Buck is in turmoil. He does not know what to do. He must find Chaim. Buck also wonders if Chloe and Kenny are safe.

Tsion watches news coverage while Kenny plays nearby. Tsion and Chloe leave most of the lights off just in case the GC is nearby. Tsion expects that Carpathia will be resurrected literally any minute. Meanwhile Tsion and Chloe take turns trying to contact the others. They discuss Hattie's disappearance. Neither thinks Hattie would deliberately give away the location of the safe house.

Chloe asks to speak to Tsion. She is fearful that the GC will catch up with them. If that should happen, Chloe says she will commit suicide. She will also commit infanticide. Chloe expects Tsion to argue with her regarding sin. Tsion surprises Chloe by saying that she must not love him or else she would never deprive him of her presence and that of Kenny.

Hassid finally meets Blod and his entourage: "David found Guy Blod more outrageous and flamboyant in person" (Chapter 3, p. 60).

Blod outlines his task of creating a sculpture of Carpathia. It will be four times life size, au naturel, and be posed outside the palace. Hassid tells Blod that two days is not enough time to import materials and that he will have to use whatever is on hand. Blod agrees and demands that certain things be delivered immediately.

In Chapter 4, Steele thinks about Greece. The GC had rendered Greece virtually invisible when Carpathia named it as one of the Holy Land States. It was above suspicion. Ben-Judah believes that many of the people in Greece are a part of the 144,000 witnesses who will convert people to Christ. Greece's presence is also explained.



Steele arrives in Ptolemais and immediately contacts Laslos. Steele feels guilty about calling his "brother" in the middle of the night but it must be done. Steele is calm. He feels that he has communicated directly to God.

Steele questions his ability to lead the Tribulation Force. There were smarter and more capable people in the group than he. Steele had become selfish and left the Tribulation Force in danger. Steele asks for forgiveness. Steele also asks why he is angry and asks God for instruction.

Steele reaches Laslos' wife. Her English is not good but Steele learns that his fingerprint was found on the Saber.

Buck hides in the house as GC forces surround the house. Buck waits. Buck checks out Chaim's workshop before escaping the scene. Buck tries to figure out where to find Chaim.

Steele's face is all over the television news broadcasts. Tsion prays for Steele. Tsion knows he will have to tell Chloe what has happened. Tsion thinks about how he can ask for intercession on behalf of Steele.

"Tsion mentally examined his own willingness to truly intercede for Rayford." Chap. 4, p. 77

Tsion kneels and shows humility. Tsion breaks the news to Chloe.

Hassid gets a list of volunteers to help at the service and procession for Carpathia. Hassid is in Ivins's office and notices a map of the world on her desk. Hassid notices that what used to be the United Holy Land States are now being referred to as the United Carpathian States.

Carpathia's body arrives from the morgue.

Mac calls and says that there is evidence that is being off-loaded.

Laslos calls and arranges to pick Steele up at a designated location. After a near miss with the GC, Laslos takes Steele to a cabin in the woods where he can sleep.

Buck knows that he needs a miracle but feels that his faith is weak. Buck prays for calm. Suddenly, a possible meeting place with Chaim occurs to Buck.

Chapters 1-4 Analysis

A great deal happens in this first section. At the end of the last book, "Assassins," Rayford Steele was preparing to kill the Antichrist Nicolae Carpathia. Carpathia is holding an event during which he will speak to the masses. It is the only way that a member of the Tribulation Force - or anyone else - can get close enough to him to pull the trigger.



Steele does not murder Carpathia although for a while he thought he might have when a congregation accidentally bumped his arm and the Saber fired toward the platform. There is a major shock to learn that Chaim Rosenzweig is the killer and that he had planned it for months. Chaim is known as a fragile old man with supreme devotion to Carpathia.

Something has happened to Chaim that has changed his beliefs in many ways. Chaim was always known as a scientist, particularly after he developed the much coveted Eden Project, an irrigation system that revolutionized agriculture in the Middle East. Suddenly, Chaim, a non-Christian, takes it upon himself to kill the Supreme Potentate Carpathia whom everyone in the Tribulation Force believes to be the Antichrist. Chaim is pleased with his plan although he has not thought through some of the consequences, such as being forced to be on the run for the remainder of his years. Instead, Chaim believed he would be killed; a consequence he was prepared to accept. It will be up to Buck to save Chaim at this point and to protect the man he has come to love as a faithful friend.

Steele also goes through great changes in this section. Steele was always known as the devoted leader of the Tribulation Force. In the last book and in the beginning of this one, Steele has given in to his ego and has alienated some of the Tribulation Force's members. This makes Steele rethink his position and God's plans for him. Steele, like Buck, feels that his faith is weak. The epiphany experienced by Steele puts him back on the right path.

Buck also feels weak in his faith. Still, he has left Chloe and Kenny in Tsion's care to travel half way around the world to participate in the execution of Carpathia. Buck's fortitude returns when he is forced to search and care for Chaim.

Chloe is losing hope. At one time, Chloe was a staunch believer. While Chloe still believes in Jesus, she thinks that the GC might find her and Kenny. Chloe tells Tsion that she would rather die. Tsion surprises Chloe as well as the reader by not presenting the typical argument. Chloe expects to hear that suicide and murder are mortal sins. Instead, Tsion appeals to a more personal side of Chloe by saying that he loves her and cannot believe she would deprive him of her presence.

David Hassid continues to play a pivotal role in the Tribulation Force as a director in the Global Community headquarters. Hassid often worries about getting caught but is very cautious about making contact and passing along information.

The roles of the missing Hattie and Leah are yet to be seen.

The importance of Greece as a safe location continues to be extremely important as it is a stopping point for many of the Tribulation Force, including Steele. The reader may wonder if something bad is going to happen to Laslos if the GC maintains power.



Chapters 5-10

Chapters 5-10 Summary

In Chapter 5, Tsion waits for Chloe's reaction to the news about her father and the fact that he is wanted for Carpathia's murder. The author describes the scene: "Difficult as it was to inform her, Tsion was oddly still reeling from what to him had felt almost like an out-of-body experience while praying. He had heard of those and pooh-pooed them as fabrications or drug-induced hallucinations on deathbeds" (Chapter 5, p. 87).

Tsion is reminded of a verse from the Old Testament - Joel 2:28-32.

Chloe says she should have seen it coming. Steele has changed so much, almost as much as he had after the Rapture. It was almost as if he had reverted to his previous self.

Tsion and Chloe begin to wonder if Steele might be guilty.

Mac and Abdullah meet Hassid in an airport hangar. The men talk briefly before going off to bed.

Steele's fingerprints are found on the Saber and are confirmed. Fortunato believes Steele is part of a conspiracy. Fortunato quickly assumes Carpathia's role and shows paranoia.

Steele waits on the road for Laslos. After a near miss with the GC, Laslos and Pastor Demetrius Demeter plan to take Steele to a cabin in the woods where he can sleep.

Buck goes to a place where he had met Chaim once before. Buck is stunned to find Chaim sitting in a tree. Chaim has never seemed to be stronger or in better health. This is a shock to Buck since he has only known Chaim to be infirm and crippled after his stroke.

Tsion reads passages in his Bible. He believes that everyone will return unharmed.

Leah arrives in Baltimore. She wonders how she is going to find Hattie and compares it to finding a needle in a haystack. Leah is unsure what to do next. Leah will have to beat Hattie to Mount Prospect in case the GC is following Hattie. Leah makes arrangements to fly to Kankakee, the closest location to the safe house.

Hassid begins to search out potential places in Chicago where the Tribulation Force might be safe if the Mount Prospect house is discovered. Chicago is well known to have been contaminated by radiation however, there are studies that show it is completely untrue. Hassid finally locates the Strong building, which seems to be perfect for the Tribulation Force's needs.



Satellite communications are restored.

In Chapter 6, Steele fights to stay awake in the car but exhaustion wins and he falls asleep temporarily. The group arrives at a cabin in the woods. Demeter talks about evangelism and how it has brought thousands to the faith. Demeter says he understands that Steele has sinned.

"We are all sinners, of course, battling our old natures every day. But yours was a sin of pride and selfishness. It was not a sin of omission but of willful commission. It was not a onetime occurrence but a pattern of behavior, of rebellion. It was an attitude that resulted in actions you regret, actions you acknowledge as sin, practices you have confessed to God and have repented of." Chap. 6, p. 110

Buck and Chaim stand on the street and talk about what has happened. Chaim comments on his health and is proud that he has fooled almost everyone. Buck is offended that he, too, has been tricked. Buck tells Carpathia that he saw what really killed Carpathia. The men look for a cab and a place to stay for the night.

Leah receives a call from Miklos. She tells Miklos to tell Steele that everything is okay. Leah has calls to make now that communications have been restored.

Tsion takes catnaps while watching the news. He waits to see Carpathia's resurrection. The phone wakes Tsion. Leah is on the line. Leah tells Tsion that he and the others should go underground. Tsion reaffirms that he is responsible for Chloe and Kenny. Tsion continues to watch the news.

Buck and Chaim talk about how they found each other. They find a cab. The cabdriver is unpleasant and panicked. He charges an exorbitant amount for the fare. The men arrive at Night Visitors, a place where they'd had a reservation. The owner will not let them in until Buck threatens him.

In Chapter 7, Laslos calls Buck and warns him that Steele is wanted for murder by the GC.

Tsion hears a phone ringing. Tsion realizes that the phone is Chloe's and that she must have forgotten it when they went underground. Tsion answers the phone and speaks to Buck.

Buck and Chaim settle into their room. Buck wants to talk but Chaim is tired and falls asleep.

Steele wakes up. He meets a man named Adon. Adon does not speak English. Adon prepares a new set of identification for Steele in less than one hour.

Hassid directs the results of the autopsy to be sent to his computer. Other evidence will be sent to Mac. Hassid continues to consider the Strong building as a new location. Hassid decides to plant information about Chicago to secure the location. He says, "The longer everyone remained convinced the place was radioactively contaminated, the



better for him and the Tribulation Force. At every cybergateway along the path, he planted warnings of high radioactive levels" (Chapter 7, p. 132).

Bakar calls Hassid about retrieving videodiscs from the gala. Hassid arranges for transport of the discs. Hassid also arranges for Mac to copy the discs once they are on board his plane.

Steele has a near miss with his new identity but is eventually cleared for flight.

Hassid continues to snoop for more evidence. Hassid visits Jim Hickman and discusses the shooting of Carpathia. Hickman believes that the gun was nothing more than a diversion and that Carpathia did not die from a gunshot wound. Fortunato is eager to blame Steele, a former GC employee, for the crime.

In Chapter 8, Leah waits in Kankakee. Steele calls and tells Leah to call T or to wait for him to arrive. Leah is still clearly irritated with Steele. The pair talks about the current whereabouts of the members of the Tribulation Force.

Dr. Eikenberry receives the crate with housing Carpathia's body. The body has bled out because it was not prepared for transport. Eikenberry is angry. The weapon that killed Carpathia - a large blade - is still stuck in his skull. Eikenberry becomes furious as she could have been mortally wounded. The doctor confirms that there is no bullet wound in Carpathia's body. Eikenberry says the doctor is an idiot.

Buck wakes up and is stiff and sore. Buck wakes Chaim and the pair makes plans for their next steps. Buck bribes a young man to buy new clothes.

Abdullah speaks to Hassid on the phone. The man transporting the videodiscs would not let them out of his hands, so Mac could not copy them.

In Chapter 9, Seven hours later: Hassid hates that he does not get to spend much time with Annie but knows they will have time together once they go into exile, which should be soon. Their exile would take place a long way from New Babylon. The author describes the city and its beauty despite the lack of religious architecture and artifacts. Overall, the city is magnificent, particularly at night.

Hassid listens to the chatter from Carpathia's office. The people in the room are Fortunato, Hickman and Moon. Hassid wonders if Fortunato has taken over Carpathia's chair. The men watch the tape of the assassination. Hassid is called into the office. The men believe they see Hattie in the crowd but then one of the men says that she is on her way to her sister's funeral. Hassid calls and informs Steele. They men discuss Hattie and Leah. Hassid tells Steele that he did not kill Carpathia. Steele has become the GC's scapegoat.

Buck sits with Chaim while the old man sleeps, weeps, and threatens to commit suicide. Buck arranges to have food delivered. Hassid calls and asks if Chaim is dead. Buck says that everyone knows he is with Chaim. Buck also says that he needs to get out of the area. T has agreed to bring his plane to pick up Buck and Chaim.



Chloe leaves Kenny with Tsion. She feels the need to leave and wants to make sure that she can trust Tsion with Kenny.

There is some question about Carpathia's final words. He supposedly said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Chapter 9, p. 172).

However, due to the nature of Carpathia's wound, it would have been impossible for him to speak. Dr. Eikenberry says no one had better ask her if it was possible.

Steele arrives in Kankakee. He finds Leah sleeping in the airport. Steele says that T is unavailable and he is tempted to call Albie for help. The pair apologizes to each other for their behavior.

Hassid and the other directors are called to a meeting to discuss preparations for Carpathia's viewing and funeral.

Chapters 5-10 Analysis

Everything seems to go haywire after the murder. Fortunato is very quick to assume the role of Supreme Potentate, not hesitating to sit in Carpathia's chair and order people to bow to him and kiss his yet-to-be-present ring. The reader may surmise that Fortunato's eagerness to take over Carpathia's role can be seen as a type of traitorous behavior as Carpathia is not yet buried or viewed by the people. If Carpathia is resurrected, Fortunato may be in for some big trouble.

The protection of Chaim is logical in that no one would believe that the infirm doctor and adviser would be able to pull off the murder. Even Buck is surprised to learn of Chaim's plan and the fact that the older man was able to act it out in front of millions of people.

Chaim is a puzzlement in his new behavior. Previously, Chaim was interested only in his work and chose not to be involved with Carpathia or politics in general. Becoming Carpathia's adviser was a means to an end and Chaim never believed in Carpathia or Jesus. Buck takes issue with Chaim's current state of mind. In Buck's eyes, the answer to all of Chaim's grief, stress and problems can be easily relieved if only he will convert and take Jesus as his savior. Chaim is on the verge of breaking down but is not ready to take that final step.

Steele has finally returned to his former self and has renewed his dedication to the Tribulation Force. This comes at a crucial time as he will be tracked by the GC for the murder of Carpathia. It also seems that Steele will have to play referee between Chloe and Leah, whose issues are not yet known.

Dr. Eikenberry's statement and Hassid's treatment by Fortunato are troublesome. Eikenberry may have been brainwashed or threatened like the cameraman. Hassid worries that Fortunato is trying to brainwash him in some way. Hassid also worries that Fortunato may have powers similar to Carpathia's powers.



Chapters 11-16

Chapters 11-16 Summary

In Chapter 11, Leah calls Ming from her new phone and explains the new identity. Ming gives Leah information from BUFFER regarding Chaim's death and the possibility that Buck's family will be killed. The conversation is interrupted when Leah is caught by the GC. Leah manages to talk her way out of the situation. Leah meets up with Steele and Chloe again.

Annie goes to Hassid's office. The couple discusses Carpathia and if he is really dead. Hassid is summoned by Fortunato.

Buck and Chaim wait for T to arrive with the Super J plane. Buck speaks to Steele briefly and is pleased that Steele sounds like his former self.

Hassid goes to Fortunato's office where he is speaking with a cameraman. The cameraman lies about the murder. Hassid watches a second video which shows an odd angle with Steele firing the Saber.

Steele, Chloe and Leah wait until dark. Chloe and Leah continue to bicker. The plan is to follow the tracks into the city as the roads have been destroyed.

T and Buck communicate while T is in the air. T says it is not possible to land on the road.

Hassid and Annie view Carpathia's body. Hassid wonders if it is real. Hassid speaks to Blod and learns that the real murder weapon is going to be placed inside the giant statue.

In Chapter 12, the GC stops Steele and asks if he is Ken Ritz. Steele says he is not and manages to get away. Meanwhile the GC lean against the Suburban and it cannot be safely retrieved. Chloe expects to be blamed for losing the vehicle.

T manages to land the plane on the road. Buck and Chaim climb on board and the group takes off. There is a long scene in which Chaim struggles with his faith and finally converts. The plane had been damaged in the landing and T tries to figure out how to land the plane a second time.

Tsion continues to hold vigil and to pray for his friends.

In Chapter 13, Steele drives to the Chicago city limits and the vehicle is ignored by the GC. Steele drives through parking lots and parks beneath an L station. Chloe apologizes for acting in a rash manner. Chloe says there is no way they can walk the twenty miles to the Strong building. Leah argues that they have no choice. Steele says



he will drive and hope that he can outwit the GC. Steele is also worried that he has to tell Buck that his father and brother are dead. Chloe says she will break the news.

Buck calls and tells the group that he, Chaim and T are safe. Steele says T can land the plane on one wheel but that it will be tricky.

Tsion has an out of body experience in which he meets Archangel Michael. Tsion does not want to return to earth.

Hassid watches the funeral procession. Fortunato approaches Hassid and begins asking questions about Carpathia's funeral and possible sainthood. Hassid is careful to go along with Fortunato and to avoid suspicion.

Chaim continues and completes his conversion to Christianity.

In Chapter 14, Ming calls Leah and says that she and her family are going to the funeral. Ming worries about her parents and the fact that they are not Christian. Ming says it is not confirmed but strongly suspected that Buck's father and brother are dead but that they had become believers. Leah knows that this will give Buck comfort if it is true.

Hassid and Blod continue to be at odds.

Hassid thinks about his future with Annie and tells her that he still wants to get married. Hassid is relieved that his friends are accounted for and safe.

T manages to crash land the plane but dies in the process. Buck and Chaim are mostly unharmed.

Steele's group moves forward at a slow pace.

Hassid decides that it is wise to make peace with Blod.

In Chapter 15, Buck wakes to sun streaming through a window. Miklos and Albie are nearby. Buck asks where he is and about Chaim's condition. Chaim will be fine. Miklos had already arranged for a new identity as Tobias Rogoff, a retired librarian.

Buck calls Chloe and learns about his family. Chloe also tells him that they have reached the Strong building and that it can be their new home.

Steele learns about T's death and wonders if he still has the ability to mourn the deaths of his loved ones.

Blod shows off his creation to Hassid. Hassid hears a voice from the statue and things that Blod may have inserted a tape recorder or a similar device. Blod thinks Hassid is hearing things or is crazy.

The crowd gets its first glimpse of Carpathia's statue and roars with approval.



Steele calls Hassid to tell him that the Strong building is locked down. Hassid tells Steele he will open the locks remotely at the first opportunity.

Fortunato continues to make adjustments to the funeral gathering as millions more are on their way and no one has an intention of leaving the site.

Hassid manages to unlock the Strong building for Steele.

In Chapter 16, Tsion puts Kenny to bed and relishes alone time. News about Steele continues to play on screen. Tsion has another out of body experience in which he speaks to Archangels Michael and Gabriel. Tsion received assurances but there are some unclear riddles that he will have to contemplate.

Hassid is approached and asked to find Ming who has recently arrived from BUFFER. Hassid calls Annie and learns that Ming is with her. Ming relays that the GC has found the North American safe house. Annie will call Tsion while Hassid calls Steele.

Tsion receives the news and panics. He gathers necessary belongings and tries to make a plan. Tsion calls Chloe to deliver the news. Tsion waits.

Buck prepares to move and makes arrangements.

Albie calls Steele and tells him to get to Palwaukee as soon as possible.

Ming's family arrives. Annie summons him to the site.

Chapters 11-16 Analysis

Things begin to come together as the Tribulation Force finds that the Strong building is suitable for a new safe house. There is alarm when Ming states that the GC knows about the current safe house. Chloe is intent on having Kenny die rather than fall into the hands of the GC but Tsion will not comply. The reader is led to believe that Tsion's visions will save the Tribulation Force and to give them faith in times of weakness.

Hassid treads carefully around Fortunato, Blod and the other people at GC headquarters. Hassid is alarmed when he hears Carpathia's statue speak.

For now the majority of the Tribulation Force is safe but not out of danger. Hassid will have to continue to be the group's eyes and ears, with the help of Annie.



Chapters 17-20; Epilogue

Chapters 17-20; Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 17, Steele is worried. He trusts Albie with his life but worries about going to Palwaukee and stranding Tsion and Kenny.

Buck calls Hassid. Hassid speaks to Albie and gives him a code that will get him and the others past the GC at the airport.

Hassid meets Ming's father. The man is enraged because Hassid did not meet him at the airport.

Steele arrives in Palwaukee. The group argues over what to do next. Steele says they must trust Albie.

Hassid takes the Wong family to their seats. Mr. Wong continues to chastise Hassid for rude behavior. Wong insists on sitting while all others stand. The funeral procession begins. Hassid watches as his fellow believers weep.

Steele arrives in Palwaukee with Leah and Chloe. They pick up Albie, Chaim and Buck. Albie prepares to lay out his plan.

In Chapter 18, Hassid is surprised that Fortunato seems emotionally moved by the ceremony. Still, Fortunato takes the opportunity to "milk the moment." Fortunato stands up and begins to recount Carpathia's history.

Albie discusses his plan. He asks Steele about the safe house and asks for the particulars. Everyone weighs in with facts.

Steele calls Tsion and introduces him to Albie. Albie tells Tsion that they are on the way.

Various potentates speak at Carpathia's funeral. Hassid notes that not all of the potentates seem to be loyal.

Albie gives Leah directions. Albie, Steele and Chloe prepare to enter the safe house.

The funeral continues. Suddenly, a booming voice rings out as the sky turns dark. The voice, coming from the statue, proclaims that he is the only god and that people should worship or beware. Fortunato tells the people not to fear. Fortunato tells the non-believers that they should prepare to die.

Steele, Albie and Chloe get closer to the house. There is the sound of vehicles coming closer. The group moves and Leah prepares to drive in and rescue them before the GC arrives.



In Chapter 19, people are shy about approaching the bier. Fortunato and the seven loyal potentates laugh.

The GC arrives at the safe house. Steele and Chloe doubt Albie's plan. Albie says they have no choice now but to move forward as they are outmanned 12-3. Albie calls out to the GC leader announcing himself as a commander.

Albie and the GC leader face off. Albie heavily chastises the man for lack of awareness regarding the moratorium on creating any publicity during the funeral. Albie says the occupants of the house have been apprehended and that the GC could return after 1000 hours if it was deemed necessary. The GC leaves.

The crowd at the funeral is still in awe of the talking and glowing statue. Carpathia is resurrected and addresses the crowd. Hassid knows that the Indwelling has come and that Carpathia is truly Satan incarnate.

Steele and the others reach Tsion and Kenny. Chaim is left to monitor the happenings at the funeral while the others pack up to leave the safe house.

Carpathia addresses his people. He says that he is a forgiving potentate and that his would-be murderers are forgiven. He calls people to worship.

In Chapter 20, Hattie calls Steele and relays the news of Carpathia's resurrection. Hattie also tells Steele that the GC knows about the safe house. Steele tells her to call back tomorrow.

Steele asks Albie to prove that he is a believer. Albie is insulted and explains how he had all of the pertinent information regarding the GC. The rest he made up on the spot.

Wong is insulted that he cannot meet Carpathia.

Albie tells Steele that he could not be more insulted. He also tells Steele that now is not the time for simpering leadership. Tsion announces the resurrection of Carpathia. The group at the safe house watches the news and prepares to leave.

Buck worries about his injuries and wonders how he can possibly feel so old.

Steele calls Hassid and asks if Albie can be trusted. Hassid is surprised. Steele says he has no choice at this point but to trust his old friend.

Carpathia addresses the crowd once more, saying he is grateful for their presence at what turned out not to be his funeral. Then he issues a warning to non-believers: "If you insist on continuing with your subversive attacks on my character and on the world harmony I have worked so hard to engender, the word tribulation will not begin to describe what is in store for you. If the last three and a half years are your idea of tribulations, wait until you endure the Great Tribulation" (Chapter 20, p. 3).

The Epilogue contains a quote from Revelation regarding the arrival of the devil.



Chapters 17-20; Epilogue Analysis

This part of the series ends quickly and dramatically with the resurrection of Carpathia. Even the believers are frightened of the man's power. If any believers had doubts that Carpathia is the Antichrist, those doubts are gone. It does not bode well for the Tribulation Force. Carpathia has all but issued a declaration of war on the believers.



Characters

Nicolae Carpathia

Nicolae Carpathia is a charismatic religious leader who intends to take over the world. Carpathia was born in Romania. Through a series of political movements and works with the devil, Carpathia managed to rise very quickly among the political ranks of the world. Carpathia secured a position at the United Nations which led him to become the supreme potentate of a new One World Order. For all intents and purposes, Carpathia is the Anti-Christ. He bears the mark of the beast and forces his fellows to do so as well. Like many world leaders, Carpathia is charismatic, commanding, and seems to be unconquerable - that is until he is shot and killed.

Part of Carpathia's plan is to appear to the world as being a kind ruler - one that has the world's interests at heart. In truth, Carpathia is an evil man who will kill without flinching. Carpathia's main goal, aside from world domination is to locate the members of the Tribulation Force and other believers and to have them extinguished so that they will not undermine his command or power.

Jesus

Jesus is considered to be the living embodiment of the Supreme Being of the universe, most commonly referred to as God. Jesus may also be seen as belonging to the Holy Trinity - the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Jesus was born in Nazareth, in the province of Galilee circa 5 B.C.E. Little is known about Jesus' life as a child except that He was the son of a carpenter and also practiced the same vocation. In Jesus' late twenties, He met John the Baptist and was baptized. Jesus claimed to have seen the light and began His own ministry.

The story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, are common knowledge to most people. Jesus taught the word of God in Carpathia before being ousted. Jesus' purpose on earth was to teach the world about the Kingdom of God and one's place in it should one choose to embrace the Father and follow the doctrine of Christianity. This is often a conflicting role due to the fact that Jesus was Jewish and therefore, the concept of the Son of God is quite confusing to some.

In the "Left Behind" series Jesus is a controversial figure in that Nicolae Carpathia is trying to get the masses to denounce Jesus in favor of a new world order. Christians become targets and Christian figures, both political and theological, become targets of the new regime.



Rayford Steele

Rayford Steele is one of the main characters in "The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. Steele is a former Air Force pilot turned commercial pilot for Pan-Continental Airlines.

Steele was raised to go to church and try to live a good life. However, Steele had never truly accepted Jesus as his savior. A big turning point for Steele is the Rapture. After the event, which occurred while Steele was in flight, Steele realizes that his family is gone, proving that his wife's beliefs about being "called home" by Jesus were true. Steele seeks refuge with Bruce Barnes, and together, the doubting men become saved. As a result, Barnes, Steele, Williams and Chloe form the Tribulation Force.

Cameron

Cameron "Buck" Williams is a 30 year old hot shot reporter who interviews Chaim Rosenzweig and becomes deeply involved in the protection of Christians under attack by Carpathia. Buck is married to Chloe Steele. Together they have a son, Kenny.

Chloe Steele Williams

Chloe Steele Williams is the daughter of Rayford Steele, wife of Buck Williams and mother to Kenny Williams. Like Rayford, Chloe had not accepted Jesus as her savior before the Rapture and was left behind. It was Chloe that named the Tribulation Force.

Chaim Rosenzweig

Chaim Rosenzweig is a scientist credited with creating a revolutionary fertilization and irrigation system. Chaim is a double agent of sorts. Although he is on the side of the Tribulation Force, he is trusted by Carpathia and is above suspicion.

Hattie Durham

Hattie Durham is a former flight attendant and the object of Rayford Steel's affections. Hattie became involved in the Tribulation Force somewhat by accident. She ended up in a relationship with Carpathia, became pregnant and was imprisoned. Hattie lost the baby, got away, and went rogue.

Tsion

Tsion is a well respected scholar and often the voice of reason in the Tribulation Force.



Leon Fortunato

Leon Fortunato is Carpathia's right hand. He is named potentate after Carpathia's death.

David Hassid

David Hassid is one of the directors in the Global Community palace. Hassid is a double agent as he supports the Tribulation Force. David is engaged to Annie, another believer.



Objects/Places

The Tribulation Force

The Tribulation Force is a group founded by Rayford Steele, Bruce Barnes, Cameron "Buck" Williams, and Chloe Steele. Rayford Steele acts as the group's leader. The name for the group came from Chloe Steele, referring to the seven year period following the Rapture known as the Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus would return to the earth and uphold His promises to Israel.

The Tribulation Force was formed shortly after the Rapture when it became clear to the group that the world was nearing its final days. The Force strongly believes in scripture and quickly realizes that Nicolae Carpathia, the new head of the United Nations, is the Antichrist. Carpathia intends to take over the world, denounce Jesus Christ and force his followers to accept the Mark of the Beast. Carpathia is a cold-blooded killer and megalomaniac.

Based in Chicago, the Tribulation Force will do what is necessary to stop Carpathia, even if it means breaking one of the commandments and murdering the man. Each member of the Force has special skills to lend such as Steele's role as a pilot and Williams' talents as a senior writer and publisher with Global Weekly and eventually, publisher of the underground webzine, "The Truth."

The main goal of the tribulation Force is to protect the new believers, known as "Tribulation Saints" and to stop Carpathia the Antichrist.

Rapture

The Rapture is considered to be the foremost futuristic event in Christianity as predicted in Revelation. The Rapture is said to be when Jesus Christ will return to the earth amid great fanfare and triumph to "call home" his people - Christians who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior. According to Revelation 1:7 in Biblical scripture, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (King James Version)

There are different beliefs regarding the Rapture. While some believe that the second coming will be one event during which Jesus will descend to the earth among angels and the glory of Heaven, other believe that the event will take place in two parts. The latter is the belief of the Tribulation Force.

According to the Tribulation Force, Rapture will begin with Jesus calling home His people. This occurs fairly early on in the book and is the impetus of converting several main characters. After the Rapture will come a seven year period called the Tribulation, during which the Antichrist will rise. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus will make the



second coming and call forth all of the saints so that they may experience eternity in Heaven.

Israel

Israel is considered to be the center of the religious world by many. The country changed dramatically after being turned into an agricultural nation. Israel is also the site of many religious confrontations.

Greece

Description

Wailing Wall

Description

Israel

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Chicago

Chicago is one of the main locations in the story, home to the main characters as well as the Tribulation Force.

The Truth

The Truth is the name of the webzine written by Buck and TSION.

BUFFR

BUFFR (Buffer) is the name of the rehabilitation center where Hattie was held prisoner.

Greece

Greece is one of the main meeting points for the Tribulation Force. Greece is considered to be a neutral zone and is above suspicion by the GC Peacekeepers.

New Babylon

New Babylon is the home to Carpathia's palace and the New World Order.



Themes

Antichrist

The references to evil can be seen in many places throughout "The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. Mainly, evil refers to the actions of those who are against Christ, such as Carpathia, the Antichrist.

The concept of the Antichrist may be somewhat confusing in that some believe it is a person, others believe it is a group of people or a movement, still others see it as a set of principles to deny the existence of Jesus. The book is written in such a way that all of those beliefs can be held true. The Antichrist, the purest form of evil on the earth, is seen in Nicolae Carpathia, the Supreme Potentate of the United Nations, which is turned into the Global Community. Carpathia embodies the essence of the Antichrist in that he is willing to commit any act in order for the world to denounce Jesus and to follow in his path of a new religion. The authors employ many characteristics attributed to the Antichrist, such as a convincing and charismatic personality, one that mesmerizes people worldwide.

As a group, Carpathia's people and their principles can also represent the Antichrist. In the Bible, the Antichrist is typically not capitalized and is often pluralized. The authors create an inner circle around Carpathia that carry out his wishes and can also be seen as being a part of the core of evil.

Rapture

The Rapture is one of the main themes in the story. The Rapture, considered to be the foremost futuristic event in Christianity, has a profound affect on the characters in the story. Although the Rapture had occurred in an earlier volume, its ramifications are extensive and all pervasive. The characters are deeply affected by being left behind, even now. As Tsion says to Chloe, what might have happened if she had been taken during the Rapture? She would not be facing her current problems.

As predicted in Revelation the Rapture is said to be when Jesus Christ will return to the earth amid great fanfare and triumph to "call home" his people - Christians who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior. According to Revelation 1:7 in Biblical scripture, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (King James Version)

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Style

Point of View

"The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins is a work of fiction written in the third person and omniscient point of view. The third person omniscient is appropriate for this book because it is able to reveal a wide variety of happenings and to allow the reader to witness all of the action in the story. This is a typical point of view for a fiction work, rather than using a first person point of view. A first person point of view tends to delve deeper into the emotions of the narrator or main character but often leaves much unseen.

In "The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession," there is a great deal going on worldwide. Through the third person omniscient point of view, the reader can be everywhere at once.

The objectivity afforded through this point of view is also beneficial considering the book's controversial religious material. The authors have written the book so that the reader can see the viewpoints of the believers as well as the non-believers; the Christians as well as the Tribulation Saints.

This is especially helpful in regards to the Bible's numerous prophecies mentioned throughout the book. If the point of view was more subjective, the reader would surely be confused by the interpretations and beliefs of the characters.

Setting

The settings used in "The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins vary according to which character and/or group is being referenced. The main settings used are Chicago, Israel, and New York.

The members of the Tribulation Force are formed on the outskirts of Chicago and the group will maintain its headquarters in that city. Many main characters come from the Chicago area including Rayford Steele, Chloe Steele, Bruce Barnes, Hattie Durham, and Cameron "Buck" Williams. Chicago is also the location of the New Hope Village Church, where Bruce Barnes serves as an assistant pastor.

New York is the home to the United Nations, recently renamed as the Global Community under the direction of the new Supreme Potentate, Nicolae Carpathia.

Israel is an extremely important part of the story in several ways. Israel is representative of Judaism and Christianity and thus becomes a target for Carpathia who wants to establish a new world order with one religion. There are many references to Jesus' covenant with Israel following the Rapture. One of the main characters is also from Israel. Chaim Rosenzweig, noted scientist, has literally changed the face of Israel by



developing the Eden project. The Eden project allows the ground, including the sand, in Israel to become fertile and therefore excel as an agricultural state.

Under Carpathia's rules, many existing locations have undergone name changes. For example, the United States of America became the North American United States. The location of Carpathia's palace and the seat of the world government are located in New Babylon.

Language and Meaning

"The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins is set mainly in Chicago, Illinois, a major metropolitan area in the Midwestern United States. The Midwest is known as being more or less neutral in its speech and regionalisms, which allows the reader to understand the characters without having to muddle through terms and speech patterns that may differ wildly from the rest of the country.

Much of the book regards the prophecies as they are written in the Bible. The authors are careful to relay the prophecies and their supposed meanings without a great deal of theological vernacular. This is helpful when the characters refer to various teachings, including those of Tsion Ben-Judah, a rabbinical scholar turned Christian.

There are few terms that require an explanation to those not familiar with the end of the world. Those include the Rapture, which is the beginning of the end; the signifier that Jesus is preparing to return to earth to collect His people. Another term used is "Tribulation Saints," a moniker given to those who were not Christians before the Rapture but have come to believe. Additionally, the Antichrist is also used to refer mainly to a single person, which is not always the case.

In regards to specific professions, such as science, publishing and airline operations, the authors are careful to use enough jargon to be convincing without being overly showy or verbose.

Structure

"The Indwelling: The Beast Takes Possession" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins is a work of fiction. The book is part of the "Left Behind" series, detailing the end of the world from a religious and political perspective.

The book is comprised of 389 pages, broken into 20 chapters. The shortest chapter is 1 page in length; the longest chapter is 37 pages in length. The average length of the chapters is 19 pages.

The structure of the book is largely chronological. Most references to background material or flashbacks are set within a modern time frame, usually through the thoughts or speech of one or more of the characters.



The authors use a great deal of historical reference to support the religious context of the book. Dr. Tim LaHaye, the Biblical scholar that conceived the series, is a prophecy expert as well as being a minister and academician. LaHaye's background ensures that the references are accurate and yet there are some allowances for interpretation.

Because the book is one in a series, the Tribulation Force is set into motion but does not complete their mission. The Tribulation period will last seven years, leaving room for the sequels.



Quotes

"Rayford felt like a fool, running with the crowd, the hem of his robe in his hands to keep from tripping. He had dropped the Saber and its box and wanted to use his arms for more speed. But he had to run like a woman in a long skirt" (Chapter 1, p. 19).

"At first he resisted the intrusion of reality" (Chapter 3, p. 49).

"David found Guy Blod more outrageous and flamboyant in person" (Chapter 3, p. 60).

"TSION mentally examined his own willingness to truly intercede for Rayford" (Chapter 4, p. 77).

"Buck couldn't remember the name of the place, but it was one spot he and Chaim had been together where no one would expect to see either of them" (Chapter 5, p. 96).

"Shut the window, Chaim. I'm not going to kill you, and I won't let you kill yourself" (Chapter 8, p. 160).

"TSION was alarmed. Chloe was proposing madness" (Chapter 9, p. 170).

"Buck was having a crisis of conscience" (Chapter 10, p. 183).

"I don't know how you keep your sense of humor. This is too dangerous, too frightening for me" (Chapter 11, p. 199).

"Chaim's bravado had finally cracked. Buck thought it might have been due to exhaustion from running, but for whatever reason, the old man was in a panic" (Chapter 12, p. 220).

"Yes, but with mounting evidence that Potentate Carpathia deserves sainthood, and the possibility that he himself was divine, I believe there's a place for worshipping and even praying to our fallen leader" (Chapter 13, p. 252).

"The image froze under Nicolae's benevolent gaze, and the roar from the crowd was deafening" (Chapter 17, p. 330).



Topics for Discussion

What might have caused Chloe to begin to lose faith? What does Tsion mean when he says Chloe is proposing madness? Who might be able to talk to Chloe about her future in the Tribulation Force?

How do you think Chaim survived the massacre at the scene of Carpathia's death? How did he get away? Why did he and Buck pick that particular spot to meet? What might the two men do next?

Discuss ways in which the TF might be able to communicate while there are no satellites in operation. How did the black out affect members of the GC? Was it worth the effort to lock out all communications?

What is Guy Blod's role in the story? What is his position in the GC? What gives Blod authority to order around other members of the GC? Is Blod's task successful?

Discuss the death of Carpathia. Why is it questionable? How might Carpathia be resurrected? What do the prophecies say about the death and resurrection of the Antichrist?

It has been 3.5 years since the Rapture. Buck wonders if he can last another 3.5 years. What major events are supposed to take place during the next 3.5 years? Which characters might not survive?

What was the purpose in killing Hannahlore and her mother? Who was intended to find the bodies? Who found them? Was the message received? Explain.