

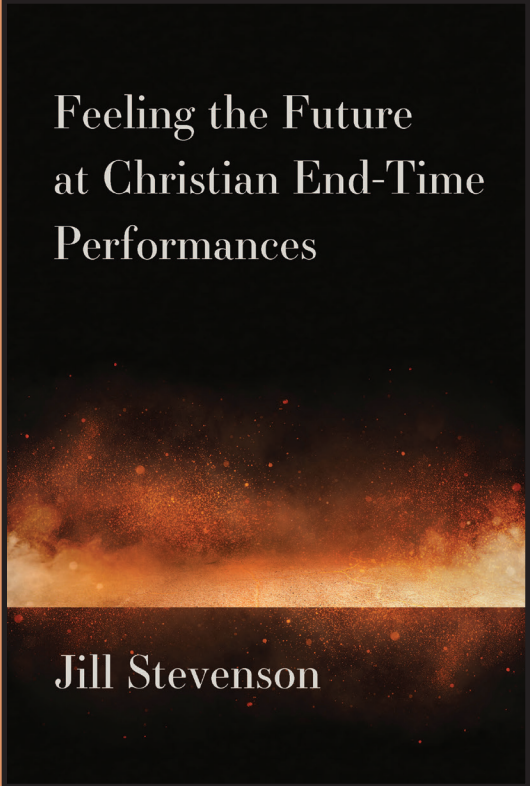
# Feeling the Future at Christian End-Time Performances

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The End is always near. The Apocalypse has sparked imaginations for millennia, while in more recent times, highly publicized predictions have thrust End-Time theology briefly into the spotlight. In the 21st century, fictional depictions of various apocalyptic scenarios are found in an endless stream of films, TV shows, and novels, while real-world media coverage of global issues including climate change and the migrant crisis often features an apocalyptic tone. *Feeling the Future at Christian End-Time Performances* explores this prevalent human desire to envision the End by analyzing how various live End-Time performances allow people to live in and through future time.

The book's main focus is contemporary Christian End-Time performances and how they theatrically construct encounters with future time—not just images or ideas of a future, but viscerally and immediately real experiences of future time. Author Jill Stevenson's examples are Hell Houses and Judgement Houses; *Rapture House*, a similarly styled “walk through drama” in North Carolina; *Hell's Gates*, an “outdoor reality drama” in Dawsonville, Georgia; Ark Encounter, a full-size recreation of Noah's Ark; and *Tribulation Trail*, an immersive thirteen-scene drama ministry based on the Book of Revelation. The book's coda considers similarities between these Christian performances and secular survivalist prepper events, especially with respect to constructions of and language about time. In doing so, the author situates these performances within a larger tradition that challenges traditional secular/sacred distinctions and illuminates how the End Times has been employed in our current social and political moment.

**Jill Stevenson** is Professor of Theatre Arts and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, Marymount Manhattan College.



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Jill Stevenson

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