Biblical Noah vs. Hollywood Noah

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 18th, 2021

Text: Genesis 6:8-9; 7:1

### Intro

1. Much buzz was made about the ‘Noah’ movie that was released March 28th, 2014.
   1. Critics have praised it as an epic masterpiece. “With sweeping visuals grounded by strong performances in service of a timeless tale told on a human scale, Darren Aronofsky's Noah brings the Bible epic into the 21st century.” (<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/noah_2014/>)
   2. Some “religious leaders” from the Jewish and denominations even endorsed it, “including Leaders from organizations like the *American Bible Society, National Catholic Register, The King's College, Q Ideas, Hollywood Prayer Network, and Focus on the Family.*” (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/22/noah-film-evangelicals_n_5009259.html>)
   3. *Focus on the Family* president Jim Daly said of Aronofsky’s ‘Noah,’ “Noah is a creative interpretation of the Scriptural account that allows us to imagine the deep struggles Noah may have wrestled with as he answered God’s call on his life. This cinematic vision of Noah’s story gives Christians a great opportunity to engage our culture with the biblical Noah, and to have conversations with friends and family about matters of eternal significance.” (<http://time.com/35667/noah-movie-religious-leaders/>)
   4. Most religious groups have panned it, calling it, “innacurate” and an “affront to the Biblical account.” Ken Ham, president of the Creation Museum in Kentucky, said, “It is an unbiblical, pagan film from its start.” (<http://time.com/42274/ken-ham-the-unbiblical-noah-is-a-fable-of-a-film/>)
2. Is it something we ought to go see then, and support with our going? We know creative license will be taken, but overall, will it be a good conversation starter about the Bible?
   1. The director, Darren Aronofsky, is a self-avowed atheist (1st red flag), and publicly stated before the film’s release that ‘Noah’ was to be both an environmentalist propaganda piece, and the “least Biblical” Bible film ever made (2nd red flag). (*He pulled it off!*) (<http://p.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/24/atheist-noah-director-brags-film-least-biblical-bi/>)
   2. It depicts evolutionary creation, “one that is presented through an evolutionary lens, albeit a theistic one.” (<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/02/26/some-of-you-youre-going-to-cringe-insiders-unveil-theological-themes-in-noah-movie/>)
   3. It never mentions “God” but instead refers to a “Creator,” and Noah isn’t quite sure if the “Creator” spoke to him or not.
   4. The reason for the flood is changed: the sins of mankind are depicted as strip-mining the earth for its natural resources and eating animals. “Sins against creation.”
   5. In fact the only similarities to the Scriptures account of the flood and this movie are: a man named Noah, a flood, some animals, and an ark.
   6. These are more than just “creative license” (IE: Noah’s wife’s name, dialogue, etc.), but are deliberate changes to promote an environmentalist, evolutionist point of view.
   7. Producer Scott Franklin told *Entertainment Weekly*, “Noah is a very short section of the Bible with a lot of gaps, so we definitely had to take some creative expression in it. But I think we stayed very true to the story and didn't really deviate from the Bible, despite the six-armed angels*.” (“Hollywood Finds God (Again),” Entertainment Weekly, January 25/February 1, 2013, p. 22 by Grady Smith)*
3. Perhaps the worst change to the account (to me) is their depiction of the character of Noah!
4. He is depicted as hating mankind, even so far as shown valuing a flower and animals over human life; in fact he runs an animal hospital and stops poachers.
5. He decides the “Creator” wants all humanity wiped out for their sins against creation, even his own family, and he plots to kill his granddaughters when they are born.
6. While Hollywood portrays Noah as the “first environmentalist,” and a violent sociopath who wants to end all of humanity, the Scriptures portray Noah very differently!

#### Noah

* 1. Gen. 5:29: His father Lamech named him Noah saying he will “give us rest” from work.
     1. Noah means “Rest” *(H5146: “to rest, to comfort”).*
  2. Gen. 6:8-9: He found favor in the eyes of the Lord, was a just man, and walked with God! *(Knew God spoke to him! – Gen. 6:13; 7:1)*
     1. Gen. 6:5-7, 11-13: He stood in contrast to the world around him!
  3. We may think our day and times are evil, but it was a lot worse in the days of Noah:
     1. Gen. 6:5: “The wickedness of man was great on the earth.” (Not to the earth or animals – Gen. 9:2-3: Prior to the flood man was vegetarian!)
     2. 6:5: “Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
     3. 6:11-12: “Was corrupt.” (Sins against God)
     4. 6:11, 13: “Filled with violence.” (Not to the earth or animals – Gen. 9:6: God condemned murder because man, not animals, was made in the image of God!)
     5. Gen. 6:6: So bad that “The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.”
  4. II Pet. 2:5: Noah didn’t ignore the world around him while he built the ark, but had to exhibit great patience to build the ark while preaching to a wicked, unrepenting audience!
  5. Heb. 11:7: Noah was an “heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
     1. Basis of faith – things not yet seen: “Being warned by God about things not yet seen!” *(Remember Heb. 11:1)*
     2. Obedient faith: “In reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household.”
        1. Gen. 6:22: Noah followed directions *(Gen. 6:14-16)* and did “according to all that God had commanded him.”
     3. Result of faith: “He condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
  6. Good examples will either convert sinners or condemn them by their example!
     1. He became an heir of righteousness through his faith!
     2. He was a righteous man before the building of the ark, but by building it as God commanded, he exemplified his faith!
     3. He didn’t “condemn the world” as in it was his judgment, but by his example he left them without excuse – God closed the door (Gen. 7:16)
  7. Gen. 7:1: Noah stands out in stark contrast to the people of his day.
     1. They were corrupt, wicked, and filled with violence.
     2. Noah was a just man, walked with God and found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
     3. Used later as an example of righteousness to shame Israel! (Ezek. 14:14, 20)
  8. God was patient with men even during those wicked conditions, and He is with men today, and warns of a judgment coming!
     1. II Pet. 2:5: Noah was “a preacher of righteousness,” which means the people didn’t listen to him and thus were unprepared!
     2. I Pet. 3:20: “The patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark” – we may not know how long it took (Gen. 6:3), but we know God was patient during its construction!
     3. II Pet. 3:9-12: Even today, God wishes for all men to come to repentance!
  9. Noah’s faith was an obedient faith – caused him to do the will of the Lord and saved his family!

#### Noah’s Example of Faith

* 1. Noah is a man of great faith and example for us today – to CONSTANTLY face the pressures of a corrupt society and remain pure requires a great and awesome faith!
  2. Christians are held to the same standards as Noah during his time:
     1. Phil. 1:27-28: One may have the tendency to lose heart and become terrified, but must remain faithful! *(Remember text of Heb. 10:34-39)*
     2. Phil. 2:15-16: Christians are to be lights, to remain pure, no matter how perverse or crooked the world is around us. (*Noah was just such an example!)*
  3. I Pet. 2:11-17:
     1. We are “strangers and aliens” and will appear “strange” to the world around us – need to be conscious of our example.
     2. Our conduct needs to be righteous, and we need to “do right” (NKJ: “good”) in order to silence those who oppose us (I Pet. 2:15)
     3. We need to be in subjection to those in authority – be good citizens!
     4. Christians are to take the “high road,” while not compromising truth, but “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).
  4. Like Noah, we live in a “crooked and perverse generation” and like Noah, we can be found righteous, and appear as “lights in the world!” *(Phil. 2:15)*

## Conclusion

1. Noah’s character: Righteous
   1. Noah was a righteous man who walked with God – *Gen. 6:8-9; 7:1*
   2. He was a “preacher of righteousness” – *II Pet. 2:5*
   3. He was married to one wife – *Gen. 6:18; 7:7; II Pet. 2:5:* Noah, 7 others *(Mt. 19:4-8)*
   4. His sons each had one wife – *Gen. 6:18; 7:7, 13; I Pet. 3:20:* “8 persons”
   5. He was obedient in everything God asked him to do – *Gen. 6:22; 7:5*
   6. Noah was prepared! *(Gen. 7:11-13)*
2. God teaches throughout the Scriptures that He is merciful, loving and patient, but that there is a judgment coming…
   1. He gave the people of Noah’s day till the ark was constructed to repent. *(I Pet. 3:20)*
   2. He has given us an undetermined time and said, “Be ready.” (Mt. 24:36-37, 42)
   3. *II Pet. 2:1-11: Judgment happened before, it will happen again!*
3. II Tim. 2:15: We are to “handle accurately the word of truth” (KJV: “rightly dividing”) and that means to separate truth from falsehoods.
4. Few would want to know that God destroyed the world because of man's wickedness. That thought would make us wonder about today. It could lead to changed life styles and righteous living. But it's easier to change the message than to change our hearts! *(Remember: going to go see this pagan drivel of a movie is supporting the studio and men who produced it!)*
5. As Noah had to be in the ark to be saved *(Gen. 7:1),* people must be “in Christ” to be saved today! *(Rom. 6:23; 8:1; Gal. 3:26-27; I Pet. 3:21)*
6. Despite the wicked world of his day, Noah was prepared to serve God – What about you?
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!