

Oh, Noah!



Not another Hollywood hash of the Bible!

by Jamie Smith

Hollywood has always had a fascination with the stories and characters contained in the Bible. The quality of what Hollywood has produced has generally depended on a number of factors. The first factor is of course which specific story has been chosen to be made into a movie. Some accounts in the Bible contain more information and detail than others, so the choice of the story will dictate how much original material is available to tell the story on the silver screen and how much "artistic licence" is used to fill in the gaps. This is a potential minefield, because the biblical accounts of **real** historical events such as the flood contain just the right amount of information that God intended for us to know. Psalm 119:160 declares, "*The entirety of Your word is truth*" and Jude 3 tells us that the faith has been delivered once for all; it is not developing and it is not missing anything. The fact that it may not be enough material to produce a blockbuster is not really God's concern; He does not need anyone doing P.R. for Him.

The second factor is therefore how faithful the movie has been to the original material provided in the actual biblical account.

The third factor is what material has been used to fill in the gaps; the "artistic licence" used. Does it compliment the known facts of the biblical account, or do the additions put a different slant or emphasis on the original account?

Many movies based on Bible stories are poor just because they do not adhere to the original material; you wonder if some movie producers have just based their knowledge on what they learnt as children in Sunday school.

But what we are seeing more and more is films like Paramount Pictures \$160million blockbuster *Noah*, where it is clear the creators know the original story, but have very deliberately twisted it to tell a different story. For this reason I would regard *Noah* as a most dangerous and **satanically** inspired attack on the veracity of the Bible and **much** more than just another Hollywood hash of the Bible. The creators of *Noah* are guilty of doing something God absolutely condemns and prohibits:

Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.
(Proverbs 30:6)

God provides further instruction throughout His Word regarding this serious issue:

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
(Deuteronomy 4:2)

Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.
(Deuteronomy 12:32)

¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

(Revelation 22:18-22)

The creators of *Noah* are guilty of not only adding to and taking away from the Word of God, but have also been utterly unfaithful to the original account contained in Scripture. They have not even attempted to be faithful to the detail we **are** given in the Bible, but have twisted the known story in order to promote and project their own message and agenda via a "biblical" story. It is a complete revision of the account of *Noah* from start to finish. Yet in spite of this the vast majority of cinema tickets purchased to see *Noah* will be bought by "evangelical" Christians. But why shouldn't they when *Noah* is being enthusiastically advertised and endorsed by "evangelical" Christians. For example, www.GotQuestions.org, one of the most visited Christian websites in the world (at least according to their own website), sent an email link to the official *Noah* film trailer to all their subscribers. This is a ministry whose mission statement declares:

Got Questions Ministries seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by providing biblical, applicable, and timely answers to spiritually related questions through an internet presence.

It is hard to see how the Lord Jesus could be glorified through advertising and endorsing a movie that adds to and takes away from His Word.

Another example of an influential Christian organisation endorsing *Noah* is the review posted on www.movieguide.org by Ted Baeher, Chairman of the *Christian Film and Television Commission*. Whilst acknowledging the environmental agenda in the film and extra-biblical elements, Baeher **still** described *Noah* as "incredibly redemptive" and "God centred".

In contrast to Ted Baeher's favourable review, the following observations were recently posted on www.imdb.com (Internet Movie Database):

It's unfortunate that the director chose to hijack one of the more noble patriarchs in the Old Testament as a vehicle for espousing a world view that is purely his own. Attempting to elevate your personal beliefs to the level of Scripture by essentially rewriting the Bible takes some brass...

[I'm] surprised he [the director, Darren Aronofsky] didn't really go for broke on grabbing big box office and just call it 'Harry Potter and the Really Really Big Boat' instead. What with all the magic bean and magic grandpa jazz thrown into the mix, not to mention Hermione Granger [Emma Watson] in her skinny jeans already aboard.

An unfair assessment of *Noah*? We will see.

This article is not intended to be an in-depth “expose” of *Noah* the movie. For example, the way in which it implies God used evolution to create the world is a whole issue in itself that I have not covered. In fact, there are so **many** additions to, subtractions from and perversions of the biblical account of Noah, it would probably require a volume of work larger than the Bible itself to cover them all. This article is merely intended to provide sufficient information for people to be aware of its danger.

Let us examine just a few issues with *Noah*.

The Reason for the Flood

Why did God flood the world? This is a pretty fundamental point to the biblical account and very well documented in Scripture, leaving absolutely no room for ambiguity or “artistic licence”. However, according to *Noah* the movie, God destroyed the world because of humanity’s lack of environmental action and over-population. The director of *Noah*, Darren Aronofsky, also co-wrote the screenplay (with Ari Handel – with whom he has written other movie scripts), so is completely responsible for the message preached in the film. In an interview with Peter Sciretta posted on www.SlashFilm.com, he has said:



It’s about environmental apocalypse which is the biggest theme, for me, right now for what’s going on [on] this planet. So I think it’s got these big, big themes that connect with us. Noah was the first environmentalist.

Perhaps the “save the planet” agenda forced on the true biblical account of Noah is (at least in part) explained by the fact that Aronofsky trained as a field biologist in his youth. It is certainly a message Aronofsky has wanted to proclaim for many years. At the age of 13 he wrote a poem inspired by the biblical account of Noah that won an award from the United Nations, and was part of a lifelong quest to bring the story (or at least his version of it) to the silver screen; he had been trying to develop the project in Hollywood for ten years before Paramount Pictures agreed to do it. In the movie, Noah’s wife asks him why God is about to destroy the world. Noah is then given a vision by God of the world as it was originally created by God – perfect, before man destroyed the environment. In answer to his wife, Noah then says:

Because it [creation] is dying already. At our hand, all he created is dying... If we work to save it, perhaps he will too.

Then later in the movie, Noah says:

We must change. We must treat the world with mercy so that the Creator will show us mercy... We must respect the ground, respect the rivers and seas. Respect the other beasts of the Earth.

Is Noah channelling Al Gore??? I think it is clear Aronofsky would like him to. He is certainly not being faithful to the biblical account.



The Bible tells us that God destroyed the world with a flood not because of our environmental irresponsibility, but because of man's **sin**; our constant and perpetual breaking of God's moral law:

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

(Genesis 6:5-7)

And in spite of Aronofsky's slant on Noah being an environmentalist, in addition to being a builder of a very large boat, we are told in 2 Peter 2:5 that Noah was a "*preacher of righteousness*"; Noah was the world's first evangelist, **not** environmentalist!

The Greek word used in 2 Peter 2:5 is *kerux*, meaning "*one who announces*". There is no doubt that during the 120 years (Genesis 6:3) that it took Noah to build the ark he would have announced the coming judgment of God on the world because of man's wickedness and rebellion against God, not a coming environmental disaster.

All this is in spite of the claims made on the Paramount Pictures official *Noah* website that *Noah* is "inspired by the story of Noah" and is "true to the essence, values and integrity of a story that is a cornerstone of faith for millions of people worldwide."

In contrast however, the director Darren Aronofsky is at least a little more honest than Paramount Pictures in his assessment of the movie. In an interview posted on www.HuffingtonPost.com (11/3/2014) Aronofsky said of his film:

Anything you're expecting, you're f***** wrong.

He further **proudly** declared on www.DigitalSpy.com (11/3/2014):

Noah is the least biblical film ever made.

I think he could be right. But still www.GotQuestions.org advertised and promoted it, and influential Christian film critic Ted Baehner described Noah as "incredibly redemptive" and "God centred".

In an interview for *Variety* in 2012 Aronofsky said of the biblical account of Noah:

I don't think it's a very religious story... I think it's a great fable that's part of so many different religions and spiritual practices.

Tragically, in my experience, many professing Christians also regard the biblical account of the flood as being just a fable.

The Watchers

Another example of how *Noah* has added to and taken away from the Word of God (otherwise known as "artistic licence" in Hollywood), is the movie's depiction of a group of "fallen" angels called the *Watchers*, who seek forgiveness from the Creator by assisting Noah in both building and defending the ark. Since when did God need the help of "fallen" angels to protect a man He had specifically given a calling to?

In Aronofsky's version of *Noah*, the fallen angels are the self-sacrificing heroes of the movie. This is very Gnostic in origin, and when I say Gnostic, I mean **satanic**. Aronofsky not only knows the original Bible story well enough to deviously twist it, but he also knows the non-canonical *Book of Enoch* and other ancient Jewish writings well enough to twist their themes. But then both Aronofsky and his co-writer Ari Handel are of Jewish heritage, which is interesting when one considers how rabbinic Judaism is or seems more interested in what others say about the Word of God (e.g. in the Mishnah and the Talmud, and scholars such as Maimonides [Rambam], Rashi, et al), rather than the Word of God itself.



In the *Book of Enoch*, an angel called *Semjaza* leads a group of 200 angels to come to earth to marry women, thus rebelling against God and corrupting mankind with their seed. This is of course a non-canonical (i.e. extra-biblical) account of what Genesis 6 tells us occurred between fallen angels and human women. This unholy physical union produced offspring that the Bible calls the *Nephilim*. This act perpetrated by fallen angels was so terrible that 2 Peter tells us that God has already cast those responsible into hell to be reserved for judgment:

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.

(2 Peter 2:4)



However, in Aronofsky's Gnostic vision of *Noah*, he turns the biblical account completely on its head by making the fallen angels the good guys. Rather than the fallen angels leaving their heavenly abode to commit heinous sexual acts with human women, they in fact leave heaven with good intentions to help man. But the cruel Creator God of *Noah* causes them to crash to the ground, and the earth clings to their bodies of pure light, turning them into multi-armed rock giants. Yes, you read that correctly – multi-armed rock giants...

In Aronofsky's version of *Noah*, he has decided that Noah's arch enemy is Tubal Cain, a man in the Bible referred to in Genesis 4:22:

And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

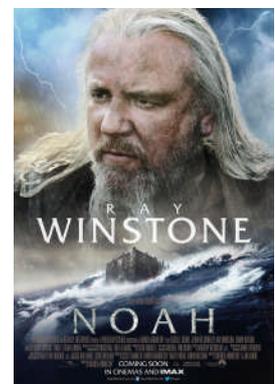
There is absolutely no suggestion in the Bible that Noah and Tubal Cain even met, let alone had issue with each other; Hollywood's "artistic licence" at work again, adding to and taking away from Scripture...

Part way through the film Noah and Tubal Cain (portrayed as the villain of the movie and played by Ray Winstone) square up against each other, because Tubal Cain claims the land Noah is on. He asks Noah if he really thinks one man can stand against (his) army, to which Noah replies:

I'm not alone.

A declaration of Noah's faith in his God, surely???

NO!



At that moment of the movie the fallen angel multi-armed rock giants come to Noah's defence. So Noah is protected not by God, but by fallen angels.

Tell me why a Christian would endorse this film, or even feel comfortable watching it as entertainment...

The fallen angels, led by *Semjaza*, even defend Noah and the ark as the flood begins. As the *Watchers* fall to the onslaught of Tubal Cain's army they cry out to heaven for forgiveness and their rock bodies fall away, revealing them to be pure light again as they ascend heavenward. As each *Watcher* is redeemed by God, the other *Watchers* around them declare, "He returns to the Creator." In contrast, the Bible is absolutely clear that fallen angels cannot be saved and are destined for eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41; Hebrews 2:16; 2 Peter 2:4).

In Aronofsky's version of *Noah*, Tubal Cain features heavily. He murders Lamech, Noah's father before Noah's eyes when he is a young boy. This is of course in spite of the biblical account stating very clearly that Lamech lived until Noah was 595 years old, dying approximately five years before the flood.

As the rain falls and the flood waters rise, Tubal Cain manages to hack a hole in the side of the ark and stows away for months. He manages this with the help of Noah's second son, Ham, who is seeking revenge against his father for allowing his "girlfriend" to die shortly before they board the ark.

Please tell me why **any** Christian would endorse this film...

Noah was a Just Man, Perfect in His Generations

The above is a direct quote from Genesis 6:9. This is merely a comment on his character in comparison to the people of his generation. The previous verse tells us **why** and how Noah was saved:

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD

(Genesis 6:8)

Just like everyone else, Noah was saved through God's grace, not by his own goodness. Grace is undeserved favour; Noah did not deserve to be saved. All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God (Romans 3:23), even Noah.

However, film director and screenwriter Darren Aronofsky again goes much further than what the Bible tells us by claiming in an interview with the *The Guardian* newspaper that Noah was "a dark, complicated character." Certainly the Noah **he** has created is just that, but it is no reflection of what we are told of Noah's character in the Word of God. According to Aronofsky, he did not want his Noah to be based on "grandma's Bible school", but "wanted to smash expectations of who Noah is." Being faithful to the original story would have done that.

As the man responsible for portraying Noah you would perhaps expect Russell Crowe to have done at least some research on what the Bible says about Noah. Alas he clearly has not. Speaking about Noah's character on *Entertainment Tonight* on CBS (June 2013), Crowe said:

This is the dude that stood by and watched the entire population of the planet perish. He's not benevolent. He's not even nice. You know what I mean? At one point in the story his son says, "I thought you were chosen because you were good?" And he goes, "I was chosen because I could get the job done mate." So I think people are gonna be... judging from where their questions come from, I think they're gonna be quite surprised what Noah actually means, what it means to be in that position.

It is clear from Crowe's ignorant ramblings that he is confusing movie script with what the Bible actually says. But then I'm guessing he has only read the movie script...



In response to Crowe's ignorant proclamation, we have already established that Noah did not just stand around and watch the entire population of the planet perish. Noah preached God's message of repentance, but no one would listen except seven members of his immediate family. Genesis 6:3 tells us that God gave humanity 120 years between His first warning and when the flood came. Could **you** preach the same message to the same unrepentant people for over a century? Noah was a righteous man and is referenced as being so in Ezekiel 14:14 and 20; Hebrews 11:7 describes Noah as a man of faith who moved with Godly fear.

Then we have Crowe describing a conversation between Noah and his son that is a complete figment of the screenwriter's imagination. God did not choose Noah because he could "get the job done." God chose Noah because out of all the men in the world at that time Noah was the one man who best represented God's own heart and character: merciful and long-suffering.

A Cruel Creator God

Noah is not the only character that has been changed by the adding to and taking away from Scripture. God is portrayed as being cruel – even evil – more interested in saving the earth and the animals, than mankind. It is interesting to see in the movie that Noah has an animal hospital where he tended animals before the flood, and was prepared to murder three men in order to protect a wounded animal. The premise of the film becomes that God wants Noah to save all the animals ("innocents") in order to populate a new perfect world where man is absent.

As dark as Noah himself is portrayed in the movie, he is still portrayed as being the reluctant servant carrying out an evil God's will of wiping out humanity. The only time Noah prays to God is immediately prior to him resolving to murder his unborn grandchildren, if they are girls. This is because his understanding of what the creator wants from him changes from building the ark to save the animals and his family, who will then repopulate the earth, to just saving the animals, with humanity not continuing in the new world. This directly contradicts Hebrews 11:7, which states:

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

All this drama over his unborn grandchildren takes place on board the ark, so just in case his "wife" (Emma Watson) gives birth to girls, Shem builds a life raft with the intention of escaping the ark with his pregnant "wife". However, Noah destroys the life raft (with a firework no less!) shortly before they plan to leave on it.

When twin girls are born, we see Noah holding a knife over the face of one of the girls. He eventually withdraws the knife and looks upwards and says he cannot go through with it and he has failed God, thus implying that God **wanted** him to murder his grandchildren, but Noah had failed to fulfil the will of God. This is not just "artistic licence", this is utter blasphemy.

It is no coincidence that God is always referred to in *Noah* as the **Creator**. This is really where Darren Aronofsky exposes his Gnostic leanings, because in Gnosticism the creator of this material world is regarded as a pernicious lesser-god called the *Demiurge*, meaning "artisan" or "craftsman"

in Greek. www.thefreedictionary.com describes the *Demiurge* as:

1. A deity in Gnosticism, Manichaeism, and other religions who creates the material world and is often viewed as the originator of evil.
2. A Platonic deity who orders or fashions the material world out of chaos.

Portraying God as evil has of course been the lie on Satan's lips since he tempted Eve with the forbidden fruit. Aronofsky is well versed in Gnostic teaching, as can be evidenced in a number of other films he has made. Consider as just one example his 2007 movie *The Fountain*.



The film begins with a loose paraphrase of the fall of humanity in Genesis 3:24, which speaks of God driving Adam and Even from the Garden of Eden as a result of their rebellion:

So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Just like the ancient Gnostics who sided with Satan and gloried in man's fall, Aronofsky claims that the fall of man was good and that death and separation from God is what makes humans special. In an interview with FILM Magazine in November 2006 Aronofsky stated:

If they had drank from the tree of life [instead of the tree of knowledge of good and evil] what would have separated them from their maker? So what makes us human is actually death. It's what makes us special.

In Gnosticism, Satan is the hero by separating humanity from God and awakening us to our own godhood. This therefore recasts humanity's fall as being our redemption. Aronofsky describes the theme of death within *The Fountain* as:

...a movement from darkness into light, from black to white.

As further evidence of Aronofsky's Gnostic influence, whilst in the ark Noah tells the story to his family about how the serpent in the Garden of Eden shed its skin. This distracted Adam and left Eve to wander off on her own to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This shed snakeskin became like a talisman that Noah and his ancestors wrap around their forearm to use while blessing their children and for working wonders. This is pure satanic Gnosticism: Satan portrayed as good, yet God portrayed as bad. God warns of doing such things:

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

(Isaiah 5:20)

Contrary to the Gnostic *Demiurge* image of God portrayed by Aronofsky in Noah, 1 Peter 3:20 tells us of the "longsuffering" (patience) of God towards the wicked in the days of Noah. Can anyone actually read the Bible and not be struck by God's love and mercy for mankind? He even sent His only begotten Son to die so we may live:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

One of the most repeated truths in Scripture is that:

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
(Psalm 103:8)

We Just Don't Talk Anymore...

Another noteworthy twist inserted by Aronofsky is that in the movie God does not speak to Noah directly. He gets piecemeal instructions through visions and dreams that he has to put together like a jigsaw puzzle. In fact part of the "revelation" Noah receives about the coming flood, **including** the instruction to build the ark, is as a result of a "vision" he has caused by drinking a strange potion given to him by his grandfather Methuselah (played by Anthony Hopkins), who is portrayed in the film as being some kind of witch doctor.



The closest we get in the film to Noah having direct communication with God is a scene in which he has a disturbing dream. Seeing Noah unsettled by the dream, his wife asks if the creator has spoken to him, and Noah responds:

I think so.

If he is not that sure, perhaps it was just something he ate the previous night??

Not surprisingly, the Bible tells us that God **did** speak with Noah direct and personally:

So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.

(Genesis 6:7)

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

(Genesis 6:13)

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

(Genesis 7:1)

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

(Genesis 8:15-16)

Conclusion

Does it matter that *Noah* is not completely true and accurate to the biblical account? I know many Christians who would argue that its accuracy does not matter because *Noah* is just a piece of entertainment.

I would respond to that by asking if the adding to and taking away from the Word of God is an acceptable form of entertainment? If the response to that is yes, then I would suggest they need to take the issue of biblical truth as seriously as God does.

As followers of Christ, we are to walk in the truth (3 John 3), love the truth and believe the truth (2 Thessalonians 2: 10-12). We are to speak the truth, in contrast to "*the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming*" (Ephesians 4:14). Does that not describe perfectly what Darren Aronofsky has done to the biblical account of *Noah*?

The Holy Spirit leads men into truth (John 16:13). Christ's disciples know the truth (John 8:32), do the truth (John 3:21), and abide in the truth (John 8:44). We are commanded to handle the truth accurately (2 Timothy 2:25), and avoid doctrinal untruths (2 Timothy 2:18). The "*belt of truth*" holds together our spiritual armour (Ephesians 6:14).



It is clear that God takes truth very seriously, and therefore so should we.

Noah is without doubt a worldly and corrupted view of the historical event we know from reading Genesis. It goes way beyond just botching a few minor details; it has turned the whole message that God intended to communicate on its head to instead promote a satanically inspired Gnostic gospel. Is that to be viewed as entertainment by Christians?

We as Christians are called to be holy and set apart from this world. 1 John 2:15 warns:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Jesus Himself said the greatest commandment was to:

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your **mind**.*

(Luke 10:27)

Why therefore set your mind – for purposes of entertainment or otherwise – on things that do not honour God? *Noah* most certainly does **not** honour God. Colossians 3:2 instructs us to:

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Furthermore, whilst I **have** seen the film in its entirety, I would encourage people **not** to accept the argument that only those who have seen it for themselves can have a valid opinion of it. This is utter rubbish. You do not have to see pornography to know it is wrong. you do not have to sit through a sermon at a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall to know that what will be preached will contain a little bit of truth, mixed with a whole lot of dangerous error.

The other argument of course put forward in support of *Noah* will be that any film that draws attention to biblical themes is a good thing and can be used as a helpful evangelical tool with non-believers. That is certainly the way it has been promoted by Paramount Pictures to thousands of churches in America. However, based on that faulty logic, you would be just as well giving your non-Christian friends a of copy of the Jehovah's Witness *New World Translation Bible*, because just like *Noah* the movie, the *New World Translation* gets some bits right, but the bits it gets wrong means as a whole it is preaching "another gospel" altogether that will not lead **anyone** to salvation.

In Psalm 138:2 David declares of God:

For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

If God has magnified His Word above His name, should that not give us as Christians a clue about how important **we** should regard God's Word?

Discernment

Christians need to learn more discernment in matters such as the ones addressed in this article. Most Christians treat discernment like it is a special gift from God that only a few can and do exercise. This is simply not so. With the exception of the specific gift of discerning spirits referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, discernment is something **every** believer in Christ can **and** should acquire and develop through becoming mature in the Word of righteousness. This is what Hebrews 5:11-14 speaks of:



¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Discernment is acquired and developed by studying the Word of righteousness; deepening our **knowledge** of God's Word. The Bible speaks a lot about knowledge and how having knowledge can save, but having a lack of knowledge can leave people open to destruction. For example:

*²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate **knowledge**. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.*

(Proverbs 1:22-23)

*...through **knowledge** the righteous will be delivered.*

(Proverbs 11:9)

*...it is not good for a soul to be without **knowledge**.*

(Proverbs 19:2)

*My people are destroyed for lack of **knowledge**.*

(Hosea 4:6)

*Everyone is dull-hearted, without **knowledge**.*

(Jeremiah 10:14)

*Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no **knowledge**.*

(Isaiah 5:13)

The New Testament also places an importance on knowledge:

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in **knowledge** and all discernment.*

(Philippians 1:9)

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the **knowledge** of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue **knowledge**, ⁶ to **knowledge** self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the **knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Peter 1:2-8)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the **knowledge** of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

(2 Corinthians 4:6)

...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the **knowledge** of the truth.

(1 Timothy 2:4)

Paul even makes a point about people who have a zeal for God, but one not based on knowledge:

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to **knowledge**.

(Romans 10:2)

Further, Paul tells us how **learning** the Scriptures gives us hope and peace:

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

(Philippians 4:9)

In spite of the importance that God places on knowledge in His Word, there is a definite weaning of evangelicals away from knowledge of, an understanding of and a dependence upon the Word of God; a dumbing down of the flock that produces biblically illiterate Christians who have no problem in allowing Hollywood to shape their view of God's Word.

Perhaps there are some reading this who think I am being too judgmental. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:15 that:

He who is spiritual judges all things.

My judgment of *Noah* is in fact the same as Darren Aronofsky's. I think *Noah* is quite possibly "the least biblical film ever made." But do not let that spoil anyone's entertainment!