

THE NEW MOVIE OF THE BIBLE

By actress Roma Downey

This is not a study so much as it is an opinion of the new movie that is produced by the actress Roma Downey who played the angel in "Touched by an Angel" a few years back. This movie was indeed done with powerful performances, exotic locales and dazzling visual effects. One would think this was the most accurate movie that has ever been made, and it is unquestionable the most violent movie I have ever seen. True, the Bible does present the history of the new nation of Israel as a violent time. However, the reason that God gave Israel permission to destroy both men and women in these wicked nations is not shown clearly in the movie, nor the fact that, because of God's love He had them wiped out to prevent the devastating misery they would spread to Israel, and into the world, if they were allowed to grow. The history of these people were not clearly explained in the movie. I got the impression that the movie showed Israel choosing to be as vicious as the nations around them and that God is cruel and unmerciful. God is love and everything He does is of love, not only for the Jews, or all of Israel, but for all of His children; that includes all of mankind. God's will is for all to be saved from eternal death. Physical life and death, to God, is so different than our version. He knows that physical death is just a temporary sleep and when the time arrives, each in his course, will be resurrected, given a chance to be "called" to understand His plan, then given a choice of choosing permanent, everlasting life or everlasting death, just as we of today are. Most of the nations that were put to sleep, opposed God's plan and would have eventually destroyed Israel if God had allowed them to. Not only that but most of Israel's problems were caused by Israel's not listening and following God's instructions. He promised Israel to protect and bless them, fighting their battles for them "If" they would only keep His laws.

Much of the violence in this movie was overly intensified and totally unnecessary. The story flow could have been just as accurate by use of commentary rather than so much visual bloody performance. We have enough violence demonstrated to our young people without over-playing it in our religious movies. The story of Joseph, one of the most inspiring, and beautiful stories in the Bible was totally dropped from this movie. Was it because there is very little violence in it? The whole book of Ruth and of Esther was not mentioned as were others. These people were very important in the story flow of Judah, but there was little violence to be demonstrated in these books. It seems obvious as to why they were not included or not even alluded to.

The movie is not necessarily correct in following the story flow of the tribe of Israel either. Nothing is mentioned about the majority of Israel following Jeroboam and dividing the nation of Israel, leaving only the tribes of Judah, Levi, and some of Benjamin to continue the present nation of Judah; it is referred to as "Israel" by most of the world today. Read about these events in 1Kings chp. 12.

Below are scriptures showing that ten tribes of Israel were taken into captivity by Assyrian many years before the house of Judah (of Jerusalem) were taken into captivity by the king of Babylon.

2Ki 17:5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

2Ki 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

2Ki 17:23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

2Ki 17:24 And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel:

Those Israelite tribes are not only scattered in Jerusalem but all over the world, and have become nations in their own right. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of "Many nations", not

just “one” nation - Gen. 17:4. The nation called “Israel” today is just one nation, where are the others? We can get a glimpse of the answer by going to Gen. Chp. 29: By studying them can we identify any prophesies with the nations of today? Are not these bits of history more important to know than the graphically brutal battles that glorifies violence? True, the story flow was about the thread of the Jewish family that Jesus came from, but the story began with Adam and Eve and started through all the tribes of Israel. God’s plan involves “the whole House of Israel” not just “the House of Judah” and He still includes them in His plan.

There were a lot of wars between the Gentile nations and Israel, even wars between Israel and the house of Judah. Even so, what results can we expect from our young people by picturing horribly brutal demonstrations between humans in a movie? What positive influence is this supposed to produce? True, this kind of entertainment is what sells and brings in money, but is God pleased by this attitude? Should we responsible parents allow our children to watch such gory movies? Now lets go to the part where Jesus is crucified. That part may be beneficial to some children, as long as there are parents who understands, and can explain each step of why God allowed it all to happen. It would be wise to prepare yourself and the child or children, before allowing them to view this part of the movie. Roma Downey was raised as a Catholic and probably was not encouraged by her religious teachers to deeply search the scriptures. I have been told by people who have come out of the Catholic church that they had read very little, or no Bible at all. That may be why she has missed so many important details and filled in with violence. No scripture references are used to back up any of the events, only suppositions. Some of these suppositions can be accepted as accurate, while some are inaccurate and misleading. Relying on other writers or movies to form your opinions, or teach your children, about the plan of God and what the Bible teaches is very dangerous if you, yourself, don’t know what He teaches or requires of us. This was planned before the earth was formed, to offer Himself for the sins of mankind so that the age of “Grace” would make possible a family. Jesus became “the first born of many brethren” by his death and resurrection. Without this plan we humans would still be subject to eternal death, even if we were able to keep the ten commandments by the letter. But with Jesus’ sacrifice and resurrection, after we repent and are baptized, we now have the ability to keep His laws by the holy spirit which has united with our spirits. In a sense we are given the mind of Jesus. In other words, we no longer hate let alone kill another human. We find it much easier to keep His laws because we love Him and desire to make Him happy. We see the benefits in keeping His laws and begin to love them. With this attitude, we are covered by grace. If we stumble by ignorance, or weakness, our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. We no longer have to go through another priest, Jesus is the High Priest, nor any other person to secure our salvation. God’s spirit in Jesus looked forward to making all of this possible for us. The flesh that He dwelled in was willing, knowing the results would be wonderful, but knew it would be a horrible experience. This is some of the truths parents need to know before allowing a child to view Jesus’ crucifixion, so that he or she can explain what the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus is all about. The violence in this movie should not be viewed as a form of entertainment. To adults it should be taken very seriously, because, according to Revelation, it may very well happen in like fashion again, if not to us, to our children’s children who are not taught the truth, and/or refuse to believe Jesus’ words.