

Bible and the Movies

By John Malham • Study download 9

SESSION 2 — CHAPTERS 1-4

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Transformers / Prometheus / The Matrix / The Mummy

Theme: Ancient wars, fallen beings, simulated reality — all pointing to the same Source.

READ FIRST — Open your Bible to these passages before continuing.

Genesis 6:1-4

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose... There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

This is the account that every culture's giant mythology is echoing. The myths are not the source — they are the memory. Genesis 6 is the source. When Transformers or Prometheus reaches for ancient beings who came from outside, they are reaching, without knowing it, for this.

2 Corinthians 4:4

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

The Matrix asked: what if the reality everyone accepts is a constructed system designed to keep you compliant? Paul described the same mechanism 2,000 years earlier. The film gave millions of people who would never read Paul the language to describe exactly what he was describing.

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Neo's awakening in The Matrix is a picture of genuine conversion — seeing what was always true but hidden by the system you were living inside. This is what the gospel does. Not metaphorically. Actually.

THE TEACHING

Transformers and Prometheus draw from a well that predates Hollywood by thousands of years: the account of beings who came from somewhere else, who fought a war older than

human civilization, whose rebellion shaped the world that human beings inherited. This is exactly what Genesis 6:1-4 describes. The bene Elohim — the sons of God, divine beings — crossed a boundary they were not authorized to cross, and the result was corruption so catastrophic that God responded with a flood. Michael Heiser spent his career as an Old Testament scholar showing that this is not mythology borrowed from pagan sources. The ancient pagan myths are echoes of the Genesis account — distorted retellings of something that actually happened.

The Nephilim account explains something that puzzles historians: why does every ancient culture on earth — with no contact between them — have stories about giants, half-divine heroes, wars in the heavens, and beings who came from above? The Maya, the Greeks, the Sumerians, the Egyptians, the Norse — all of them. The explanation is not that ancient people had overactive imaginations. The explanation is that they all descend from people who remembered. The myths are the echo. Genesis 6 is the source. When Prometheus or Transformers reaches for that mythology, they are reaching for something their creators may not even understand — the actual historical memory of a world that existed before the flood.

The Matrix asks the most important question any film has ever put on screen: what if the world you see is not real? What if the reality everyone around you accepts is a constructed system designed to keep you compliant? Neo's awakening is not an allegory for political consciousness. It is a picture of genuine conversion — the moment when the scales fall from a man's eyes and he sees what was always true but hidden by the system he was living inside. Paul calls it 'the god of this world' blinding 'the minds of them which believe not' (2 Corinthians 4:4). The Matrix gave millions of people who would never read Paul the language to describe exactly what Paul was describing.

Use these films as bridges, not replacements. The goal is not to make people fans of the films — they are already fans. The goal is to show them that what the film is reaching for already exists in documented form, in a text older than any of these stories, in a Person who is the original source of every pattern the culture keeps recycling. Once a person sees that the story they love is an echo, the natural question is: what is the original? And that is the door.

- Transformers and Prometheus draw from Genesis 6 — the account of the bene Elohim and the Nephilim — whether their creators knew it or not.
- Every ancient culture has giant mythology with no contact between them. The explanation is not imagination — they all descend from people who remembered.
- The Matrix is a picture of genuine conversion: seeing the real world after years of living inside a system designed to blind you. Paul described the same mechanism in 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- These films are bridges, not replacements. Once someone sees that the story they love is an echo, the natural question is: what is the original?

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." — John 8:32

1. Why do you think stories about beings who came from outside — the ancient giants, the half-divine heroes — appear in every culture on earth with no contact between them?
2. How does a biblical understanding of the spiritual realm make these stories more coherent rather than less? What does Genesis 6 explain that mythology alone cannot?
3. In what ways are you still 'in the matrix' — living according to a framework the world gave you rather than the reality Scripture reveals? Where does the constructed system still have a grip?
4. How could you use a film like The Matrix or Prometheus as a real bridge into a conversation with someone who would never read the Bible? What would that conversation look like?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Describe the moment when the 'matrix' of your old worldview first cracked — when you first saw something true that you could not un-see. What let the light in? What changed in you after it did?

Prayer and next step

What will you put into practice before your next meeting? Who will you pray for?
