

Bible and the Movies

By John Malham • Study download 10

SESSION 3 — CHAPTERS 5-11

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Battlefield / Star Trek / Home Alone / Avatar / Book of Eli / The Giants

Theme: The hunger is real. The source the culture offers is wrong. The Book is worth your life.

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

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

The Book of Eli imagines a world where the Bible has been nearly destroyed and one man carries it at all costs. The film's power comes from a truth its creators may not have intended: the Word outlasts every empire that has ever tried to silence it. It is still here. It will still be here.

Numbers 13:33

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

The Israelite spies encountered the descendants of the Nephilim in Canaan. The giant mythology across every culture is not coincidence or imagination — it is the echo of an actual historical event. The myths are the memory. Genesis 6 is the source.

Matthew 16:18

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Every film that reaches for the theme of light overcoming darkness is echoing this. The gates of hell are under assault — not from the world, but from the church advancing. The outcome is already declared. The wall holds.

Colossians 1:16-17

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Christ is not one option among many. He is the organizing logic of the universe — the one by whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. Every story that

reaches for ultimate meaning is reaching, whether it knows it or not, for Him.

THE TEACHING

Avatar's vision of connection — to the earth, to each other, to something larger than yourself — taps a hunger that is genuine. The audience does not weep at the end of Avatar because the CGI is beautiful. They weep because the film brushed against something real: the longing for communion, for belonging, for a world where you are known and connected and not alone. God made that longing. It is the echo of Eden — relationship with God and with creation the way it was meant to be before the fracture. But pantheism cannot deliver what only covenant relationship with the Creator can. The film touches the longing and then hands you a religion that cannot satisfy it. It is the counterfeit thread in cinema form.

The Book of Eli imagines a world where the Bible has been nearly destroyed and one man carries it at all costs across a ruined landscape. The power of that film comes from a truth its creators may not have intended: the Word is worth dying for. In a world where Bibles are free and available on every device you own, it is easy to treat them as decoration. The Book of Eli asks what you would do if the Word cost you everything — and in asking that question, forces you to examine what it actually means to you right now, when it costs you nothing.

The giant stories that appear in Jack and the Beanstalk, in every culture's mythology, in blockbuster films about ancient wars — these are not coincidences of imagination. They are the echo of an actual historical event. Genesis 6 records a real incursion. The flood narrative in cultures across the world — Mesopotamian, Chinese, Native American, Greek, Norse — records the real aftermath. The Nephilim account explains the giants of Canaan that caused the Israelite spies to report 'we were in our own sight as grasshoppers' (Numbers 13:33). The mythology is not the source. It is the memory. And when films reach for that mythology, they are reaching, without knowing it, for the event that actually happened.

The three audiences this book was written for: the believer who has never been given permission to bring his love of film into his faith; the man who is searching but would never walk into a church; and the skeptic who needs a case made from evidence he already carries. You now have the framework. You have the bridge. You know the Source these stories are echoing. Use it. Not as a debate tactic. As a door. The moment someone leans in — the way the man leaned in when you connected Prometheus to Genesis 6 around the fire at Grace Farm — that lean is an invitation. Walk through it with them.

- Avatar taps a real longing — for communion, connection, belonging — but hands you a religion that cannot satisfy it. The counterfeit offers the feeling without the covenant.
- The Book of Eli forces you to ask what the Word is worth to you right now, when it costs you nothing — because the film shows what it would look like if it cost you everything.
- Giant mythology across every culture is not coincidence. It is the echo of an actual historical event — and Scripture is the primary source, not the derivative.

- You now have the framework and the bridge. The goal is not to win debates — it is to walk through the door when someone leans in.

"And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." — Matthew 16:18

1. What is it about Avatar's vision of connection that resonates so deeply, even in people who reject Christianity? What true hunger is it touching — and why does pantheism ultimately fail to deliver?
2. The Book of Eli asks what you would die to protect. Sit with that question honestly. What is your answer today — not what you think the answer should be, but what it actually is?
3. The giant stories across all cultures point to an actual historical event. How does that change the way you read Genesis 6 — and how might you use that connection with someone who loves mythology but has never opened the Bible?
4. Who is the specific person in your life you want to give this guide to — the one who is spiritually searching, who loves film and stories, who asks the big questions? What would you say to invite them in?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Write out who you want to hand this guide to. Name them. Write what you know about what they are searching for. Then write what you would say to them — not a sales pitch, just the truth about what this study did for you and what you think it might do for them.

Prayer and next step

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