

# Darren Aronofsky's Noah: Environmentalist Wacko

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*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: This article is a critique of the movie script for "Noah," due for release at the end of March 2014. If the movie is anything like this late-2012 version of the script, then I encourage Christians to not waste their money by going to see it. If we refuse to go to these movies, Hollywood might get the message and stop making films that distort the true account of the flood, as recorded in the Bible.*

Okay, here is the full article I wrote analyzing the Noah script. More here than where it was published online.

As a screenwriter of films like *To End All Wars* and *Alleged* which deal with faith, and as the author of a [novel called Noah Primeval](#) about what led up to the Great Flood, I am especially conscious of issues relating to the intersection of Hollywood and the Bible and I've been keeping tabs on a film that lives at that intersection, a film called *Noah*, written by Darren Aronofsky and Ari Handel. I've also watched with great anticipation as a post-Passion of The Christ Hollywood tries to come to grips with how to reach the massive faith-friendly audience and I'm concerned about the phenomenon that I see, which is films being developed for that audience by people who don't understand it and are thus destined to fail. Then when they do fail, as expected, smug Hollywood executives declare "See, that audience doesn't really exist." I don't want that to keep happening. I want films to be properly developed so that they can succeed. It is in that spirit that I offer my analysis of Aronofsky and Handel's *Noah* script. I believe that it's never too late to right a ship that is heading in the wrong direction.

Having got a chance to read an undated version of the script for *Noah* I want to warn you. If you were expecting a Biblically faithful retelling of the story of the greatest mariner in history and a tale of redemption and obedience to God you'll be sorely disappointed. *Noah* paints the primeval world of Genesis 6 as scorched arid desert, dry cracked earth, and a gray gloomy sky that gives no rain – and all this, caused by man's "disrespect" for the environment. In short, an anachronistic doomsday scenario of ancient global warming. How Neolithic man was able to cause such anthropogenic catastrophic climate change without the "evil" carbon emissions of modern industrial revolution is not explained. Nevertheless, humanity wanders the land in nomadic warrior tribes killing animals for food or wasteful trophies.

In this oppressive world, *Noah* and his family seek to avoid the crowds and live off the land. *Noah* is a kind of rural shaman, and vegan hippy-like gatherer of herbs. *Noah* explains that his family "studies the world," "healing it as best we can," like a kind of environmentalist scientist. But he also mysteriously has the fighting skills of an ancient Near Eastern Ninja (Hey, it's a movie, give it a break).

*Noah* maintains an animal hospital to take care of wounded animals or those who survive the evil "poachers," of the land. Just whose animal rights laws they are violating, I am not sure, since there are only fiefdoms of warlords and tribes. Be that as it may, *Noah* is the Mother Teresa of animals.

Though God has not spoken to men or angels for a long time, *Noah* is haunted by recurring dreams of a rainstorm and flood that he surmises is God's judgment on man because as *Noah* says, "At our hand, all he created is dying." The trees, the animals, and the environment. "If we change, if we work to save it, perhaps he will too [save us]." Or as grandfather Methuselah reiterates, "We have destroyed this world, so we ourselves will be destroyed. Justice." Oh, and I almost forgot, they kill people too, but it's not really as important. In another place, "We have murdered each other. We raped the world. The Creator has judged us." The notion of human evil is more of an afterthought or symptom of the bigger environmental concern of the great tree hugger in the sky.

*Noah* seeks advice from his grandfather, Methuselah, the oldest man alive, who lives in a cave. Unfortunately for fighting pacifist *Noah*, he has to go through the Watcher's Land to get there. The Watchers are angels who

came down from heaven to help fallen humanity by granting them wonders of knowledge from magic to science to stars, metal, and fire. But when mankind turned that knowledge into weapons of war and tools of environmental devastation, God banished the Watchers to earth and turned his back on them. Now, they reside as 18-foot tall, six-armed grumpy angelic complainers who resent mankind.

Through tricky movie dialogue, Noah convinces the Watchers to help him and he receives a magic seed from Methuselah that blooms a magical forest in the desert. It's really a quite imaginative and powerful scene that shows God's miraculous provision. Noah uses this timber to build his boat (Wait a second. Wouldn't that make him an evil clear cutting lumberjack?). So the Watchers help him build the craft. Followed by another beautiful sequence of a magical thread of water that spreads out from the forest into all the world that calls the animals two by two to come to the ark.

Like a magical Mesopotamian Dr. Doolittle, Noah has the ability to "lead" the animals peacefully into the ark as they come from every corner of the earth. And yes, even the insects. Well, they finish building the ark, the rains start, the evil mobs try to get on the ark, but the Watchers fight them off, blah, blah, blah, movie action and we are at the midpoint of the movie, with Noah and his family on the ark, weathering out the flood.

What Noah doesn't know is that evil warlord Akkad snuck his way into the boat and plans to kill all the men and rape all the wives to start civilization as his own brood of evil minions.

Meanwhile, Noah has himself become ...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

<http://godawa.com/movieblog/darren-aronofskys-noah-environmentalist-wacko/>