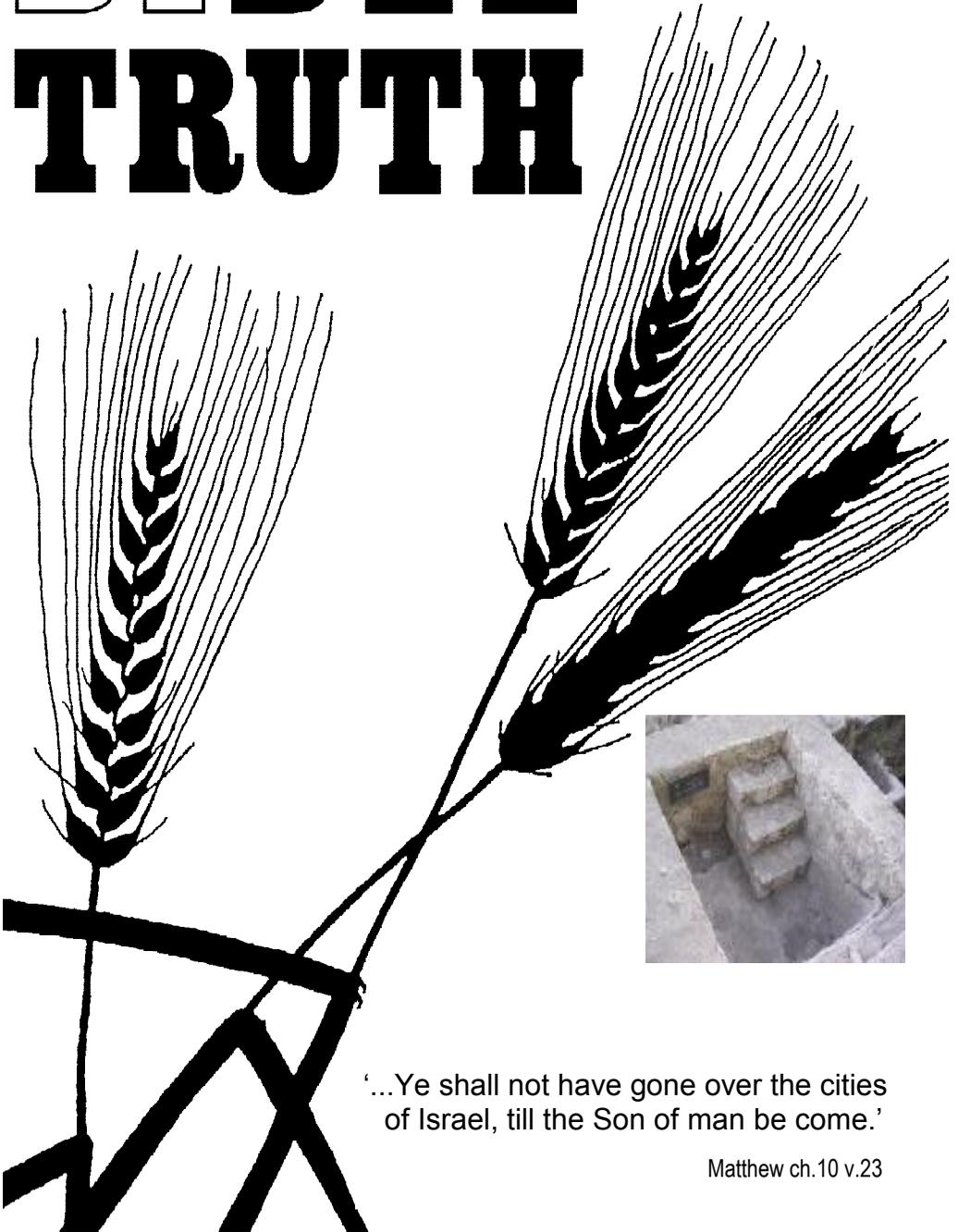


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'...Ye shall not have gone over the cities  
of Israel, till the Son of man be come.'

Matthew ch.10 v.23

# The Exodus – ‘Read all about it!’

by Dr Michael D. Bennett

*From time to time Hollywood produces epic films whose subjects are taken (we could say ‘stolen’) from the Bible. They often use awesome special effects to illustrate their story. Such films frequently capture the public imagination, make big profits, and build the reputations of their Oscar-winning creators and stars. Cecil de Milne’s last film ‘The Ten Commandments’, released in 1956, which cast Yul Brynner as Pharaoh and Charlton Heston as Moses and won an Oscar for Best Special Effects, was an outstanding example of the genre.*

The Bible has very strong words for those who meddle with its content, and forbids all human additions or omissions on pain of Divine judgements.

‘Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.’

Deuteronomy ch. 4 v. 2

‘For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:’

Revelation ch. 22 v. 18

The Divine author is very jealous of His copyright, so any people daring to make a copy are wise to ensure they get the copy right! Sadly however, the makers of ‘biblically-inspired’ epic films make many changes. Indeed, most indulge freely in robbing, embellishing, twisting and perverting the facts and truths of the God-given original. This practice has long been offensive to Bible students, but is now noted as a negative even by some professional film critics. Thus, a review in the *Guardian* (Thursday 10 April 2014), written by Alex von Tunzelmann of the film ‘Noah’ (released in 2014 and directed by Darren Aronofsky) was headed: ‘Noah: an unholy mess drowning in unbiblical detail, ... sunk by preposterous embellishment’.

Late in 2014 a new 'biblically inspired' epic film 'Exodus: Gods and Kings' was released. Directed by Ridley Scott, it cast Christian Bale as Moses and Joel Egerton as Pharaoh. The film is dedicated to Scott's younger brother and fellow director Tony Scott, who committed suicide in 2012. It too has striking special effects but it suffers seriously from the syndrome of errors outlined above. Ellen White, a senior editor at the Biblical Archaeology Society, highlighted the Biblical inaccuracies in her review. She summarised her assessment: 'Their story was so different that if they didn't use the Biblical names and released the movie with a different title, I might not have even recognised it'. In December 2014 the film was banned in Egypt because of what the censors described as historical inaccuracies (including that the Israelites built the pyramids, which were actually built many centuries before the Exodus). Interestingly, it was also banned in other Muslim countries including Morocco, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates where authorities noted 'We found that there are many mistakes not only about Islam but about other religions too'.

The Exodus story is a key event in world history, and Bible Christians need to be clear in understanding its details. The Exodus was promised at a time fixed in God's plan to make a nation from Abram's seed. Before the Exodus God had no nation of His own. After it He did. The Bible account calls them 'the children of Israel', whilst the film mistakenly speaks of 'the story of Moses and the Jewish Exodus from Egypt'. In fact, the Jews were only ever a small part of the Children of Israel, and the name Jew is not used in the Bible until the time of Ahaz king of Judah and Pekah king of Israel (c. 730 BC) fully seven centuries after the Exodus.

'At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.'

2 Kings ch.16 v.6

The Bible puts the Exodus 480 years before the fourth year of king Solomon and hence about 1445 BC while modernists (and the film 'Exodus: Gods and Kings') put it about two centuries later near the time of Rameses I.

‘And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.’

1 Kings ch. 6 v.1

The Bible account of the Exodus puts Israel's safe crossing of the Red Sea at night, while the film 'Exodus: Gods and Kings' shows it happening in daylight. The Bible states that Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry land, while the film shows them wading across in shallow water.

Given the erroneous imaginations of Hollywood script writers it is impossible to gain a truthful understanding of the Exodus story by watching the epics they produce. Films like 'Exodus: Gods and Kings' might be enjoyed as entertainment by those who don't care about accuracy. However, all those seeking true understanding of the Exodus story must consult the Bible and read all about it.

The book of Exodus is the only source of information on the subject, and it contains a detailed, accurate eyewitness account of the events prior to, during and after the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, written by their leader Moses himself.

### **'The Exodus'**

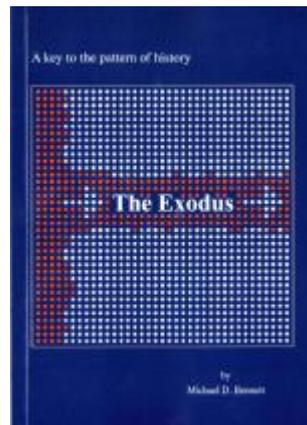
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*The Exodus*, advertised overleaf and published by Michael D. Bennett in 2010 is a readable study providing analysis and commentary on the timing, significance, symbolism and modern implications of the Exodus. It is based on a series of articles on 'The Exodus' which were published in *Bible Truth* magazines between 1985 and 1987.

Anyone disappointed by the biblical inaccuracies of the film 'Exodus: Gods and Kings' will benefit from reading this analytical study, which is faithful to the original biblical account and encourages faith in it. Those seeking a true understanding of the Exodus are strongly urged to read and study this unique paperback book.

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