

Bible Movies #3

We are well on our way, exploring and analyzing Biblical classics from 1923, 1949, 1956 and 1966. The creativity and imagination of the many people involved in these productions, just keeps on impressing us.

It's not too late to join though!!

Each class has its own set of stories, analysis, and information, independent of the class before. You will surely be able to pick right up where we are.

We will begin this week with discussing De Mille's 1949 classic of Samson and Delilah. Most people would rate Victor Mature as a pretty good Samson. He himself, a veteran of several Bible movies, was quoted saying:

I do well with these Biblical movies because I'm good with the "Holy thing."

Watch him as Samson, as he prays for his strength to return. He's got a point. Traditional sources do not exactly paint a Samson with Victor's powerful physique. De Mille did make an effort, not to make Samson look like a bodybuilder. Another actor actually lost the role over that.

As for Hedy Lamarr as Delilah, she won out over a very long list of starlets. De Mille had also wanted her to portray Esther in a Megillah movie. Never happened. Critics seem to have scored her well as the cunning and lethal Delilah. As an Esther, who knows?

Then we will turn to look at John Huston's portrayal of Noah in his 1966 production of The Bible. At 60, Huston shows himself to be a rather calm fellow, all things considered. He looks like an older

man, but is not made up to look 600, like the original Noah was at that time. The animals play their parts well. Oscars are due for both the elephant and hippo performances. Huston really did have a nice size ark built for the movie. Not the 300 cubits in the Bible, though.

Much attention will be granted to the depiction of Moses learning of his own Jewishness....and how much he cared. A stack of classic commentaries will enlighten us on these points. Definitely a generous touch of Hollywood is mixed in on this issue.

Both Moses actors, Charlton Heston and Theodore Roberts are inspiring. I cannot tell you which one looked more like the real thing. The real Moses was quite taller than average. The beard details? We have no idea.

But I'll tell you about Eve's hair stylist. We actually know that!!

This and so much more, is in store for you in our enjoyable Bible movie class.

Please come and visit with us.

Harry