

Bible Movies #2

This week we will spend much time assessing how well, Cecil B'Demille's films of 1923 and 1956 match up to the Book of Exodus. Each version of the "Ten Commandments" has plenty to offer, even when they are somewhat inaccurate. One must appreciate the special effects of each era and their ingenuity. When possible, we will discuss some of the visual magic of Demille and his staff.

The costumes of the performers are amazing, whether the Jews and Egyptians looked exactly like that or not. Wardrobe was an important factor in the survival of the Hebrew slave. We plan to cover that.

Just how distant did the Jews feel from the Egyptians? Were they interested at all in their styles and culture? We plan to cover that as well. Could they admire their tormentors at some level?

The portrayal of Egyptian cruelty in both movies, is from the more accurate points of the productions.

As bad as it looks in the movie, our sources teach, that it was that bad and worse. DeMille depicts well, the torment and torture of Hebrew mothers, as the Egyptians tore away their baby boys for death.

Samson and Delilah of 1949 will get plenty of attention this week. A very young, Angela Lansbury portrays Samson's heartthrob, as "the woman from Timna." How many dates had Samson taken her on?

We will actually answer that!

Samson appears fairly awed by his mother in the film. That is fairly accurate. Tzilponis was a mother to be reckoned with." Smiting the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass," is one of the most dynamic

scenes in the film. Victor Mature is most impressive. He bowls down those Philistines like a pro. DeMille scored some accuracy points on that one.

Then we turn to Director John Huston from “The Bible: The Beginning.” We will get to know him well. If you like Humphrey Bogart Movies, then you will like Huston. Very much.

In his movie, he himself portrays a jovial Noah. A very calm Noah, considering he was saving the planet on a never before tried ark. He seems to take talks with G-d in good stride. We plan to tell you his favorite part of his Bible movie. Hint- it was a part of the Noah epoch.

By the way, the turtle scene in the Noah part is adorable!!

Huston sure hired an amazing cast for his movie. As a Myerberg member pointed out, “compared to other movies these people would be in, they certainly had some range of talent.. Here they were Biblical personalities of reverence, yet in many of their other movie roles the players could run the gamut of society.”

Ava Gardner, for instance, was a film queen of all kinds. Yet, she enjoyed playing the many faces and ages of our Matriarch Sarah. I do not know yet, if the Adam and Eve folks enjoyed their roles as much as Ava did. They did complain that the botanical garden used was not really what the director wanted.

So join us for great memories and learning at YOUR MYERBERG CENTER!