

Lightbeacon Ministries Newsletter

May 2002

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Shalom from us here at Lightbeacon Ministries. The current newsletter consists of two e-mails, which I recently sent to two different prophetic ministries, which have produced motion pictures about the end times. While I commend them both for their efforts in spreading the Gospel, both movies had major scriptural errors. My goal in these letters is not to create animosity in the body of believers but to truly communicate what the Lord has shown me- that in these end times the Church must use wisdom when representing itself when it comes to events of prophetic significance. I hope that what has been written does not offend anyone but that we can all come to an agreement as to what the will of God is for us in these end times. Shalom!

From: Benjamin H. Cassutto cassutto@home.com

Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2002 10:48 PM

To: comments@tbn.org

Subject: Meggiddo

Dear TBN,

I just finished watching "Megiddo", and I am very disappointed. I am a daily viewer of your Network and I am typically very pleased with its programming. I have been a student

of Bible prophecy since childhood. My father was a Hebrew Christian minister and our family grew up studying both the Old and New Testament scriptures. Then as an adult I had read all of Dr. Lindsay's books, as well as those of John Ankerberg and John Waalvoord. Most currently I have been reading the "Left Behind" series and accompanying books. Nowhere in scripture does it say that the United States and China will all of a sudden be on the other side against the anti-christ. First of all from Revelation itself it states in Rev. 16:12-16 that the river Euphrates will be dried up to make way for the Kings of the East. Three frogs come out of the beast and the false prophet to deceive the kings the WHOLE world to gather them for battle on the Day of the Great G-d Almighty. In Joel 3, it clearly states that when the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem are restored (that may be a reference to when the Temple is rebuilt) G-d will gather ALL the nations and bring them into the Valley of Jehosephat, and G-d will judge them there. In Zechariah 12:1-9 it states that ALL the nations will gather against Jerusalem, she will become an immovable rock for all the nations. Again in Zechariah 14 it states that all nations will gather to fight against Jerusalem, and then the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives. NOWHERE in these passages does it state that the Kings of the East will suddenly change their minds. Nor does it say anywhere, that a small group of Americans will lead the Battle. The emphasis in this movie should have been about belief in Jesus. That the scriptures clearly state in Rev 19:14 that the armies of heaven will follow Jesus, the rider of the white horse, riding on their own white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. According to Dr. LaHay in his book, "Revelation Revealed", this consists of the angelic hosts, the Old Testament saints, the Church and the tribulation saints. What your film almost completely ignored was that there will be many saved during the tribulation who will be killed by the anti-christ. However they do not fear death because they know they will return with Jesus, as will we believers who will be raptured before the tribulation starts. I found the acting and special effects in the film first rate, but if you were trying to "tie things up" into one film, or make a hero figure out of one character, it should not have been done so at the expense of scripture. This only makes believers look like we don't know what we are talking about. Also, if you were trying to take a stance about what America should do in order to escape the tribulation by sticking to its principles of freedom and self government, your intentions were well meaning, but once again scripturally incorrect, which once again hinders the body of believers.

If you wanted the movie to assist in the task of bringing people to faith in Jesus, what should have been portrayed, is the TERRIBLE suffering, those who are not raptured as believers will have to go through in the tribulation. If there was a political statement that you wanted to make, it should have been that ever since he was thrown out of heaven, but especially after Jesus death and resurrection, Satan's final desperate act has been to deceive man into destroying the Jewish people and the Nation of Israel. Satan has read the words of the Bible but he doesn't understand their true meaning. So because Jesus has saved

humanity by his death on the cross and resurrection, Satan is finished. But he knows that Jesus must come back to rule for 1000 years and that reign will be from Jerusalem. One day the Jewish people WILL believe in Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah and Jesus will be King over them. But if they are destroyed before Jesus can return his victory at Armageddon will be meaningless if the Nation of Israel, Jerusalem and the Jewish people are destroyed. Your film could have easily portrayed Jewish people becoming believers, and Stone Alexander becoming infuriated at this. Your film could have easily portrayed an actual Jesus, coming back to earth Moses and Elijah to set up his kingdom. Your film could have easily portrayed believers being killed by the antichrist and then MIRACULOUSLY coming back with Jesus. I would request that your company and other Christian filmmakers in the future, try to make films which are scripturally accurate. If it means that the story line and characters, may not have as much of dramatic role, such as what you tried to portray with the US vice presidents' character, so be it. Finally, I am surprised that Dr. Lindsay was a promoter of this movie. Is he affirming what your movie portrays? Does he have a scriptural basis for it? If he does, I would appreciate a response from you in which you share it with me.

In closing I would like to say that In general I find the programming on TBN (Joyce Meyer Ministries, Jack Hayford, Charles Stanley) excellent. I am disappointed in this film, because it does not live up to your usual best. I pray that the Church will in the future come into greater agreement as to what the scripture says, and that those with the opportunity to share these events in motion pictures will use wisdom when doing so

Shalom,

Dr. Benjamin H. Cassutto

Benjamin H. Cassutto

To: jvimi@jvim.com

Subject: "Apocalypse"

Dear Dr. Van Impe,

I have been a frequent viewer of your program for 20 years. My father who was a Dutch Reformed and later a Presbyterian minister used to watch your show when we were kids. He and I both loved your program because of your amazing knowledge of scripture and how your program is able to link current events to the what the scripture tells us about what will happen in the last days before Jesus' return. That is why I am perplexed at the film which your ministry just put out called "Apocalypse".

According to everything I have ever read in the scriptures, and from what bible scholars such as yourself, Tim LeHaye, and others have taught, the "Rapture" which Paul speaks about in 1 Thessalonians 4, happens first, and then the "great tribulation" begins. I do not have to tell you that in 1 Thessalonians 5, verse 9, Paul even says that God did not appoint us to wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, and that we are to encourage each other with these words. Also, in the sequence of events in Revelation itself, the Church is the subject of the first three chapters, and then the scene switches to Heaven, but the church is nowhere mentioned after that until verse 22. The battle of Armageddon does not occur until the seventh bowl judgment in chapter 16. I am outlining all of this because I am perplexed as to why the movie would depict the battle of Armageddon happening BEFORE the rapture. This is extremely troubling to me. My wife and myself have our own small ministry, so on a few occasions I have preached on the end times. One of the points I have always made in my discussions is that one of the missions of the body of believers is to save the world from the coming judgments. That if they believe on the Lord Jesus NOW, they will not have to go through the "Great Tribulation" or the battle of Armageddon. What I did not mention before is that my family is Jewish, and my parents became Christians during the Holocaust in Holland. The ministry which my wife and I have is to the Jewish people and the Church, and in discussing the end times with non believing Jewish people I must be very clear about what I am saying. It would be foolish to explain to them that the battle of Armageddon is the great battle at which Jesus or Yeshua will return to earth and fight as is prophesied in Joel and Zechariah, but that even though they have become believers, they will have to suffer through it. As a matter of fact what I tell them is the opposite, that as believers in Yeshua, they will have the privilege of coming back with him and ushering in the Messiah's 1000 year reign on earth, something which all Jewish people are waiting for. I do not know why the writers or producers of this film decided to

do this but I feel that it could have been better portrayed. Not sticking to scripture, does have some consequences for the body of believers. First, it could confuse new believers when they watch this movie and read or watch other sources such as the “Left Behind” books, which clearly make a point of putting the “Rapture” first. Second, you must realize that there are people in the world, who are not believers, but they follow our, movements, what we say and do. They are knowledgeable on what we teach, and when they see these errors they will accuse us of not knowing what we are talking about, in which case we lose credibility.

In summary, I realize that produce a movie on a topic with this much breath of subject and time period is difficult, But as a fellow brother in Yeshua I hope you will consider these comments. If it was your intent through the film to “tie everything together” by depicting the rapture and Armageddon in the same movie your intent was well grounded but not according to scripture, in my opinion. I would support and watch a series of movies, which covers the subject in the correct sequence, one movie at a time. I pray that your ministry will take these comments to heart and that major ministries like yours and TBN will pray for wisdom when communicating these important end times events

Shalom,

Dr. Benjamin H. Cassutto

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