



Advisory: *The Passion of The Christ*; Theology of Neurology: Brain's Electrochemical Filing System; Repetition Develops Paths of Least Resistance

Advisory: *The Passion of The Christ*

On Wednesday, February 25, the movie, *The Passion of The Christ*, will open in theatres throughout the St. Louis area as well as nationwide. I would like for this movie to be your homework while I am out of town but it is unlikely that you will be able to view it. Churches have sold out the showings throughout the country and it will probably be a couple of weeks before walk-up customers can get into a theatre, but you can try. Nevertheless, I recommend this film to you. The production is the culmination of what I had always hoped someone would undertake: an account of the life of Christ from a strict biblical perspective.

I of course have not seen this film. But the hue and cry that is being hurled against it and its producer, Mel Gibson, is a fair indication that he has put truth to celluloid and the guardians of the Dark Side are bound and determined to vilify it.

They cannot destroy its message. The Scripture is absolute truth and, as you know, truth always prevails. Thus, if they cannot discredit the message they either attempt to distort it or destroy the messenger. The opponents of this movie are involved in both these tactics.

There have been false accusations that an accurate rendition of the Gospel accounts of the Passion will foment anti-Semitism. It is true that those with no doctrine have on occasion throughout the Church Age asserted that the Jews killed Christ. This is ludicrous. Jesus Christ could not be killed without his own consent. In fact, as a perfectly formed human being—even called the Last Adam in 1 Corinthians 15:45—the human body of Jesus was not capable of natural death. His perfect body is what enabled Him to physically endure the persecutions executed against Him. The real reason His physical death occurred is because He dismissed his human spirit to the Father and His soul to the care of the Holy Spirit. Thus, *He* chose the moment of His physical death. Neither the Jews nor the Romans had anything to do with it.

What the pundits, critics, and self-appointed theologians are missing is that the death pertinent to this story is His spiritual death. He died spiritually for the entire human race—Jews and Gentile alike. He endured this indignity motivated by unconditional love for mankind and under the principle of personal love for God.

All mankind is responsible for the spiritual death of Christ. The Lord Himself chose to dismiss His spirit and soul following His declaration from the cross of “Τετέλεστοι: It is finished!”

With His mission accomplished in Operation Reconciliation, our Lord's work on this earth with regard to man's sin problem was over—finished.

Therefore, it is interesting that once again, some 2,000 years later, those who are in such vociferous opposition to the revelation of Christ, His Word, and His work are the progeny of those who opposed Him so violently during the three years of His public ministry. A small number of Jewish authorities and theologians, blinded to the truth that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of Israel and the promised crucified Savior prophesied by Isaiah, now find themselves imitating their forebears. They are modern-day scribes and Pharisees who were the arch enemies of The Christ during His incarnation.

It is this hierarchy of religious tyranny that our Lord addressed in:

Matthew 23:13 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men [**through legalism**]; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are trying to enter in.

v. 15 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of Gehenna [**twice as legalistic**] as yourselves.



v. 33 - "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of Gehenna?"

v. 34 - "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

v. 35 - that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Able to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

v. 36 - "I am telling you the truth, all these things shall come upon this generation."

"This generation" insisted on the crucifixion of Jesus, and later murdered His disciples, Apostles, and many believers. They, and those who followed them, suffered the judgment the 5th cycle of discipline in A.D. 70 under the siege of Titus.

The leaders of today's Jewish hierarchies and those who minister in their synagogues carry the same responsibility once again. Jesus has been reincarnated by means of drama. Through the miracle of modern technology our Lord's substitutionary sacrifice is visually depicted for this entire client nation to see. Those who attend will witness our Lord confront the arrogant authorities of both the Jewish and Roman establishment and not flinch. They will watch both these legal systems fail miserably as they each become complicit in the Lord's crucifixion.

These truths, for two millennia graphically depicted in the writings of the Old and New Testament, are now portrayed visibly in all its bloody carnage. Will present-day naysayers, who are so concerned about non-existent anti-Semitism, pause to see the reality of the Person portrayed as their Messiah? Or will they remain blinded by the myth concocted by those who, influenced by Lucifer's minions, dare call themselves Christians but who on the day of reckoning will hear the Lord's chilling words, "I never knew you."

This is a rare opportunity for the Jewish people to see a presentation of their Messiah being rejected by a misled, legalistic hierarchy. It is about these blind guides and those led astray by them that our Lord speaks in:

Matthew 13:14 - In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; and you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

v. 15 - for the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I should heal them."

Orthodox Protestant Christianity has always been pro-Semitic. We have such a proclamation in our doctrinal statement. All Jews must be both respected and protected, including those who now have created such a duplicitous distraction to the powerful message *The Passion of The Christ* presents. This movie's message brings unvarnished truth to the attention of a desperately ill client nation which needs some catalyst to reorient its masses to the reality of Christian thought beginning with the Gospel of salvation.

Our mandate is to pray for these Jews who have been co-opted by Lucifer to fear the anti-Semitism that he invented and promotes. Be prepared to mollify the fears of your Jewish friends who may express an unwarranted fear of anti-Semitic backlash from this film. Inform them that the movie's message is not about what Jews may or may not have *done* to Jesus. It is about what they *thought* regarding to Who He said He was, exemplified by this exchange between Caiaphas and the Lord at His trial before the Sanhedrin:

Matthew 26:63 - Caiaphas, the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that you tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God!"



v. 64 - Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself and you have spoken the truth; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

v. 65 - Then the high priest tore his robes, saying, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy;

v. 66 - what do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death!"

v. 67 - Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him,

v. 68 - and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hits You?"

I recommend you get the Colonel's books, *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* and *Anti-Semitism* and brush up on these subjects before you go to the movie and take a few extra copies to hand to those who may want to know more.

There is some concern about whether to take small children to this movie. What happened to our Lord was the ultimate in hatred and brutality concentrated upon one Man, especially when His complete innocence is considered. What is portrayed is as accurate as cinema can depict. The facts regarding our Lord's Passion are consistently taught in our Prep School. However, the tender souls of young children might not be prepared to witness the bloody horror of these events. I therefore caution you to give prayerful thought as to whether your child is ready to objectively view this film.

Those who have completed Prep School should have the academic background required. But the Scripture provides written descriptions of these events while the movie adds the stark visual reality of the brutality inflicted. You might therefore want to see the movie first before making your decision.

Some have expressed concern that Gibson's version might contain some distortions of Scripture and therefore question whether we should go see it. First of all, of course there will be distortions. Mel Gibson is not an apostle nor did he produce this film under the principle of divine revelation. But should you go see it? Of course! You have enough doctrine to discern the imperfections that are assuredly in the movie. But the power of the film resides in the fact that its script was built substantially on the text of the four Gospels. The power of the Word will override the few distortions that are inevitable when such efforts are attempted.

Mel Gibson has put his reputation and his capital on the line to make this film. He gave an honest effort to a project no one else would consider. Now that it is finished those who would not even attempt to make such a film now vilify him for doing so. This speaks volumes. The progressives do not want the historical event that created the foundation of traditional values made available to the vast audience to which they have had unfettered liberty to propagandize over the past three decades.

But now the truth is now out. A high tide of biblical reality is about to be unleashed upon the American public. Questions are going to be coming in rapid-fire order. You need to see this movie if for no other reason than to prepare yourself to take advantage of the interest it will create. When comments and questions occur, you will be able to respond with the power of doctrinal truth and do so in such a way that will challenge the volition of the curious. You've been learning these doctrines for years. You are fully prepared to respond to such situations with the doctrine you know.

It is my belief that this movie will peak great interest in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, His vicarious work on the cross, and in the immutable Word of God from which Mr. Gibson fashioned his version of the greatest story ever told.



Resume: *The Theology of Neurology*

- 8) Review: When information is heard through the ears, frequencies are transmitted synaptically to the auditory area. A synaptic transmission is then made to Wernicke's area where vocabulary is referenced to decipher the information. Meaning is determined and the thought is placed into its proper syntax after a trip through Broca's area. At this point the idea is sent to the Association Cortex, the area where all incoming data is processed and then integrated into memory traces. If what is heard and understood is processed into long-term memory, a sequence of chemical changes occurs in the nuclei of the pertinent neurons. This nuclei's DNA switches on certain genes which produce the synthesized proteins that create the new memory trace.
 - 9) These genes are the mechanism by which information arriving at the cell nucleus is translated into instructions for the synthesis of key proteins.
 - 10) These proteins are eventually inserted into the synaptic membrane so as to change its structure and shape.
 - 11) It is these synthesized proteins which go about the business of actually modifying brain cells.
 - 12) When these changes occur over a sequence of several million synapses involving thousands of neurons, a memory trace is created.
 - 13) An engram of long-term memory has been chemically filed into the tissue of the brain and this information may be recalled to the conscious mind when provided the proper stimulus.
 - 14) The brain has been permanently altered under the principle of plasticity.
9. **Repetition Enlarges a Trace into a Path of Least Resistance**
- 1) The surface of each of the dendrites which branch out from the neuron's cell body is covered with synapses. There are perhaps as many as 10,000 per neuron. Simply put, a synapse is a contact point between neurons. (See TXP: Electrical Wiring System)
 - 2) Some of these synapses are on the shafts of the dendrites, others are attached to the spines which branch off of the shafts. (See TXP: Complete Neuron)
 - 3) How these synapses are connected between one neuron and another changes when learning occurs.
 - 4) Also, the dendrites increase in length, change their branching patterns, and alter the numbers of their spines.
 - 5) How effective one given synapse might be in influencing the neuron to which it is attached depends upon several things:
 1. How close it is to the cell body of the neuron.
 2. Whether its connection is on the shaft of the dendrite or one of its spines.
 3. Spine synapses are more effective than shaft synapses in spreading current.



4. However, in any given spine, current flow is dependent upon its shape.
- 6) At the synapse, the chemical transmission of data released from the axon's side binds to a receptor on the dendrite's side resulting in a change in the flow of electrical current in the dendritic membrane.
- 7) The conclusion is that any change in the structure of dendrites and the location of the synapses on them also changes the electrochemical makeup of the neurons involved.
- 8) Further, communication between neurons can be altered not only by increasing or decreasing the actual number of synapses between the two but also by altering the size or location of any given synapse.
- 9) As each repetition in learning occurs, alterations are made in the memory trace, causing it to become more and more efficient.
- 10) The more you study the subject, the better you understand it, the easier it is to recall, and the more it becomes a part of your lifestyle.