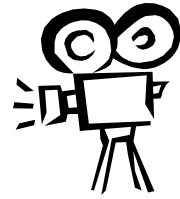


“REEL FAITH”

The Gospel according to Hollywood

Film and Faith in Dialogue



Signs

“Is it possible that there are no coincidences?”



Interesting facts about this movie

- Released in 2002, stars Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix.
- Both written & directed by M. Night Shyamalan
- It is the highest-grossing film as well as the highest opening-weekend gross (\$60 million) of Gibson's career as an actor.
- The scenes of the house and cornfields were filmed on land leased to the film company by Delaware Valley College, an agriculture college in Doylestown (Bucks County), Pennsylvania. After filming, the film company donated all the corn grown to the college's vegetable and fruit market. The house was built on the grounds and torn down after filming. The production used a new watering technique to make the corn grow faster...which the college was then very keen to adopt for themselves.
- The crop circles are real.

Summary

Graham Hess, a former priest, lost his faith and gave up his ministry when his wife died in a car accident six months ago. Since then he has refused to talk to God or find purpose in life. However, Graham's worldview begins to change when he discovers a message – an intricate pattern of circles and lines – carved into his crops. As he investigates the unfolding mystery, what he finds will forever alter his life, as well as the lives of his brother and children.

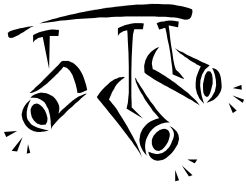


Themes

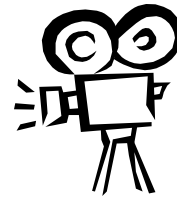
God's sovereign control – the problem of evil / disease / pain – love of spouse and family – guilt and grace

Connections with Scripture

- Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in *all* things God works for the good of those who love Him.” (emphasis added)
- Isaiah 45:7 – “I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.”
- Job 2:10 – “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”
- Proverbs 16:33 – “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.”
- Amos 3:5, 6 – “Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground where no snare has been set? Does a trap spring up from the earth when there is nothing to catch? When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?”
- Lamentations 3:37-38 – “Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?”
- Ecclesiastes 7:14 – “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.”



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***Signs* - Discussion Guide**

The mystery begins

- Screams & crop circles 2/O:02:10 – 2/O:05:32
- “Can I have a glass of water?” 4/O:11:57 – 4/O:13:40

Crisis of faith

- Is anyone up there?..... 10/O:41:08 – 10/O:45:09
- Around the dinner table..... 16/1:09:29 – 16/1:12:38
- “I hate you!”18/1:23:13 – 18/1:25:54

Faith recovered

- Colleen’s last words..... 19/1:32:41 – 20/1:36:21
- Saved.....20/1:38:15 – 20/1:39:27
- Conclusion 21/1:40:24 – 21/1:41:01

Questions

1. What basic worldview drives this movie? How does the film’s title, *Signs*, relate to that worldview? Is this worldview sufficient for life in the real world?

2. Reflect on Graham’s conversation with his brother about the “two groups of people.” What is the problem with Graham’s explanation? Will the group that doesn’t believe in God ever be truly happy? How does Graham’s character illustrate this point?

3. Have you ever experienced a tragic turn of events and been tempted to throw away your confidence in the goodness of God? If so, you are not alone. Think of some Bible characters or figures from church history that went through the same experience.

4. How do the events in this story bring Graham back to faith? What are the stages of his faith coming back to life? Are there “alien invasions” and “asthma attacks” in your life that wind up pointing you back to God?