

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Union
Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Laws of God

Lesson for May 4, 1958

THE moving picture, "The Ten Commandments," will probably still be going strong at the time this column appears in print. Some of our readers will have seen it and liked it; some will feel that the Bible should never be made into a movie at all. Now there have been innumerable stories and novels based on the Bible, and if these are in order, then a movie is in order. But if a picture or a book uses Bible material it should use it and not mis-use it. It may serve to bring out some truths about the real Ten Commandments if we take this opportunity to point out some of the wrong angles of that famous picture.



Dr. Foreman

The Wrong Title
In the first place, the title is misleading. The picture is not about the Ten Commandments. Approximately ten minutes out of three hours and 50 minutes are devoted to the Ten Commandments, and then they are neither explained nor applied except in a superficial way. The picture tells the story, mostly imaginary, of the unknown years of Moses as an Egyptian prince. Some of it is in line with the Bible; for instance, one gets a good idea of what it was to live as an aristocrat in ancient Egypt, as Moses did. Some of it is out of line with the Bible altogether, such as the story of the killing which led to Moses' flight from Egypt. Most of it casts no light on the Bible at all, but is the producer's idea of how it might have happened,—ideas ranging from the probable to the highly improbable.

No Piece of Fireworks
And this brings us to our point. What exactly is wrong with the Ten Commandments part of this moving picture? It's a small fraction of the whole colossal spectacle; but it is an important fraction. Three misleading notions which viewers who are not familiar with the Bible might take away can be mentioned. One: In the picture, the Ten Commandments are a piece of celestial fireworks. They do not come to Moses' mind nor through it. A fiery thing looking like something out of a Disney comedy streaks down and carves the Commandments, one by one, on a polished mountain side, while Moses cowers in helpless fear. Later on Moses (in the picture, not the Bible) "throws the book"—the two tombstone-size tablets—at Dathan, and in a terrific explosion the earth opens and swallows him up. Thus the Law of God is shown as something altogether out of this world, a sort of celestial magic, a sort of superhydrogen bomb. This is a long way from the truth about God's law as Paul saw it (Romans 1:14, 15), written on the hearts of men.

No One-way Religion
In the second place, this picture leaves out, where it ought by all means to be, the Bible story (Exodus 24) which shows that the people accepted this Law or these Laws, and covenanted to keep them. Religion is not a one-way street. Religion is not God making a fireworks-law and throwing it at people's heads. Religion as the Bible presents it is always covenant religion, that is to say two-way religion. Light might as well be darkness unless it is seen. Revelation reveals nothing until men respond to it.

Can One Love Such a God?
And this brings up perhaps the most serious point of all. In the Bible, every law of God comes from His Grace; that is to say, His Will is not an arbitrary set of orders imposed on us by a hostile, still less an impersonal Power, but comes from a loving, personal God. If God were really nothing else but the terrifying, fiery, unpredictable, indescribable being of this picture, what possible meaning could there be in the commandment (Deut. 6:5) to love God with all our hearts? Love may be less spectacular than a whirling pillar of fire,—less useful for a "colossal" show. But when God finally revealed his real Self, it was not in a perfect flame, but in a perfect Person. Only as we know and love God personally can we appreciate and love his Law.

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More than a ton of newspapers and magazines are read and clipped daily in the main reading room at Burrelle's Press Clipping Bureau plant in Livingston, New Jersey, largest of its kind in the United States.

Livingston, N. J.—Following the course of public opinion through the nation's newspapers becomes an increasingly essential activity every year for America's business corporations. Companies must learn how much of their material on new products and services is reaching the public through the printed media—daily and weekly newspapers and magazines. Film, television and radio stars too want to know what the newspapers are saying about them. Politicians and other public officials want the press reaction to a particular speech or special campaign. Authors want to read what the book reviewers had to say about their new books.

Gathering press clippings on many subjects for thousands of clients is a job for specialists and there are more than 280 of them working here in the modern plant of Burrelle's Press Clipping Bureau, one of the oldest and largest newspaper and magazine reading services in the United States. Burrelle's is operated by two brothers, Harold and Arthur

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Strawberry Chiffon For A Spring Dessert



SPRING BRINGS ROMANCE in every form and even food keeps in tune. Perfect for that Spring engagement party or shower is this luscious, light and airy Strawberry Preserve Chiffon Pie.

Delicately pink in color, this delectable pie is served in a crunchy graham cracker crumb crust. No cooking is necessary for the filling, which serves 8 generously. That makes it a treat for the hostess as well as the guests!

- STRAWBERRY PRESERVE CHIFFON PIE**
- 1 package Jell-O strawberry chiffon pie filling mix
 - 1/2 cup cold water
 - 1/3 to 1/2 cup strawberry preserves
 - 1/2 cup boiling water
 - 1 baked 8- or 9-inch pie shell or graham cracker crust, cooled
- Place pie filling mix in a large deep mixing bowl. Add boiling water and mix thoroughly. Add cold water. Then beat vigorously with a rotary beater, or at highest speed of electric mixer, until mixture is very foamy—takes about 1 minute. Add strawberry preserves and beat until filling stands in peaks—takes about 4 minutes. Pour into pie shell or graham cracker crust. Chill until set, about 2 hours. Serve plain or with whipped cream. Store leftover pie in refrigerator, covered with inverted pie pan. Serves 6 to 8.

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Practical Decorating Idea:
Use Pine Panel Doors for Dividing Wall

To most everyone, the only use for a door is a door. But to an imaginative home decorator, doors can be used in many other ways to beautify and enrich a house.

The drawing shows one interesting and practical new use for panel doors of ponderosa pine. Three tall doors provide a movable dividing wall between a living room and dining area.

The doors are hinged together with folding-screen hardware and suspended from a track attached to a false ceiling beam. The result is a paneled "wall" that folds out of the way when it isn't needed.

Panel doors are carried in stock by building material dealers. Since the doors come in clear, natural ponderosa pine, they can be stained or painted to match or harmonize with any interior decoration theme.

Wood panel doors also are ideal as wall paneling. They can be installed by the average home handyman, since no special tools or skill are needed for the job. The finished wall has the same beauty and richness as expensive custom-made wood paneling.

Some other uses for panel doors as paneling include wainscoting in a dining room in which the doors are installed on their sides along the walls, and paneling to give a drab, narrow hallway character and interest.

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