

איך הפך מיתוס המבול לסמל של המשבר האקולוגי?

מחקר משווה בסרטי קולנוע

ד"ר לילה מור

פרופ' מריאנה רוח-מדבר שפירא



סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח

“Not Your Grandmother’s Bible”—A Comparative Study of the Biblical Deluge Myth in Film

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Received: 13 August 2019; Accepted: 11 September 2019; Published: 21 September 2019



Abstract: The biblical story of the Flood, which portrays a humanity worthy of annihilation, is the fundamental myth used by generations of interpreters as they radically criticized the society and culture in which they lived. Accordingly, the Deluge myth’s various versions and interpretations over the years mirror ever-changing cultural dilemmas and values. Our comparative–historic study observes this mirror and how changes in modern Western culture are reflected in it through the analysis of selected films. It exemplifies the representation and evolution of the Deluge myth in cinema from its inception to the present day, and demonstrates that the myth’s cinematic adaptation and its infusion with current interpretations turn it into an imminent apocalyptic threat. Apparently, the Flood becomes a relevant concern involving a wide scope of cultural, theological, and ethical issues, e.g., the problem of evil, ecology, the treatment of animals, family values, feminism, the Other, and deification of science and technology.

Keywords: popular culture; deluge; flood; apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic films; bible films; ecology; theodicy; ecofeminism; science-fiction; feminism; comparative study

1. “The Myth as Consisting of All Its Versions” (Lévi-Strauss)

Several ancient books mention the “Book of Noah”, which fiercely criticizes humanity. However, since this criticism is expressed in varied and contradictory ways, some scholars believe that this book never truly existed, but was rather an imaginary object used to make religious–social criticism (Werman 1999). In fact, the biblical story of the Flood, which portrays a humanity worthy of complete annihilation, is the fundamental myth used by generations of interpreters as they radically criticized the society and culture in which they lived. Accordingly, the Deluge myth and its various versions and interpretations over the years mirror ever-changing cultural dilemmas and values. In our study, we observe this mirror and how modern Western (mainly American) culture is reflected in it.

For this purpose, we shall trace the cinematic representation of the Deluge myth and its development: how is this myth appropriated by mainstream American films? What associations does it evoke? How is the myth used toward the promotion of values, in criticizing the ailments of contemporary society so much to warrant its destruction? What are the contexts that portray the need to destroy humanity? How is the religious aspect of the story perceived: and does it undergo secularization and how? Does the film criticize God? How is nature perceived? What role do women play in the plot? These questions and more will be discussed via selected cinematic Midrashim (Moore and Ruah-Midbar Shapiro 2018). A “Midrash” is a Jewish Rabbinic literary genre, an exegesis to the Bible in a highly creative manner. Naturally, one of the characteristics of Midrashim (plural of midrash in Hebrew) is a multiplicity of views and stories that contradict one another (Neusner 1990). The term “midrash” is often borrowed by other historical and cultural contexts, and by creative interpretations or variations thereof, including cinematic ones.



לאורך הדורות – ביקורת חברתית

ביקורת בהקשר של המשבר האקולוגי

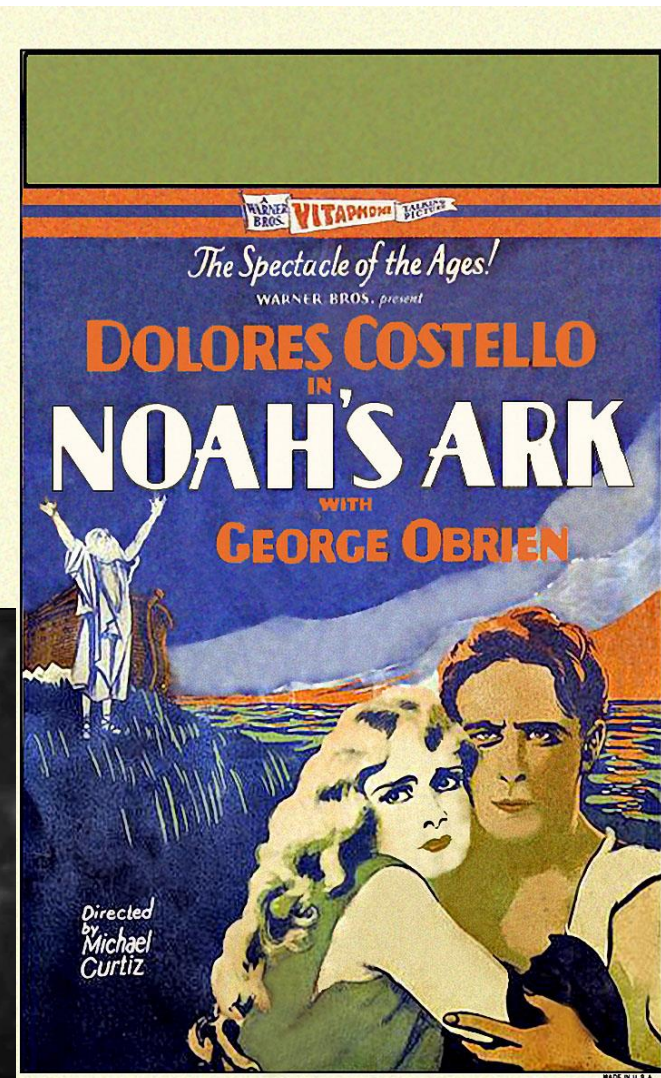
מחקר השוואתי – 100 שנות קולנוע/טלוויזיה

ז'אנר האסונות/אקולוגי

דוגמאות לא אקולוגיות



Noah's Ark
(1928)



סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח

דוגמאות לא אקולוגיות

2012
(2009)



סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח

דוגמאות לא אקולוגיות



The Day the Earth Stood Still
(1951)



סיכום

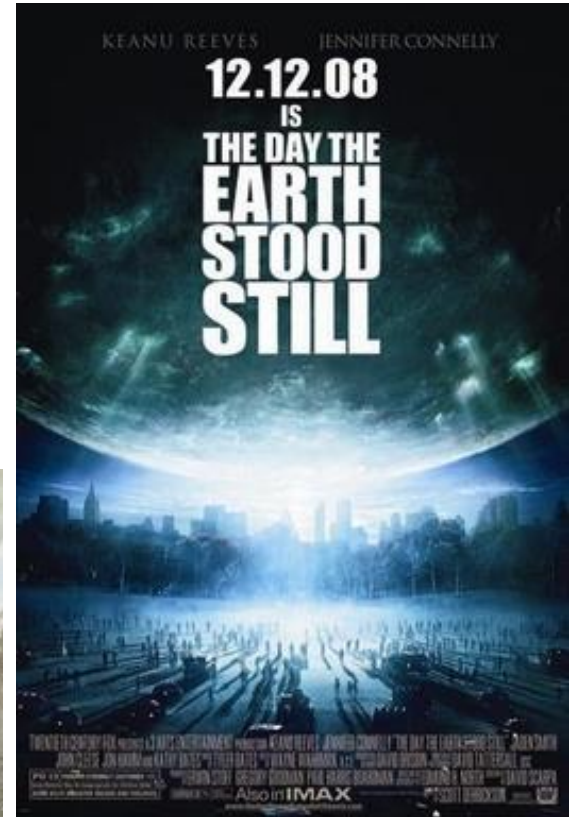
סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח

דוגמאות אקולוגיות



The Day the Earth Stood Still
(2008)



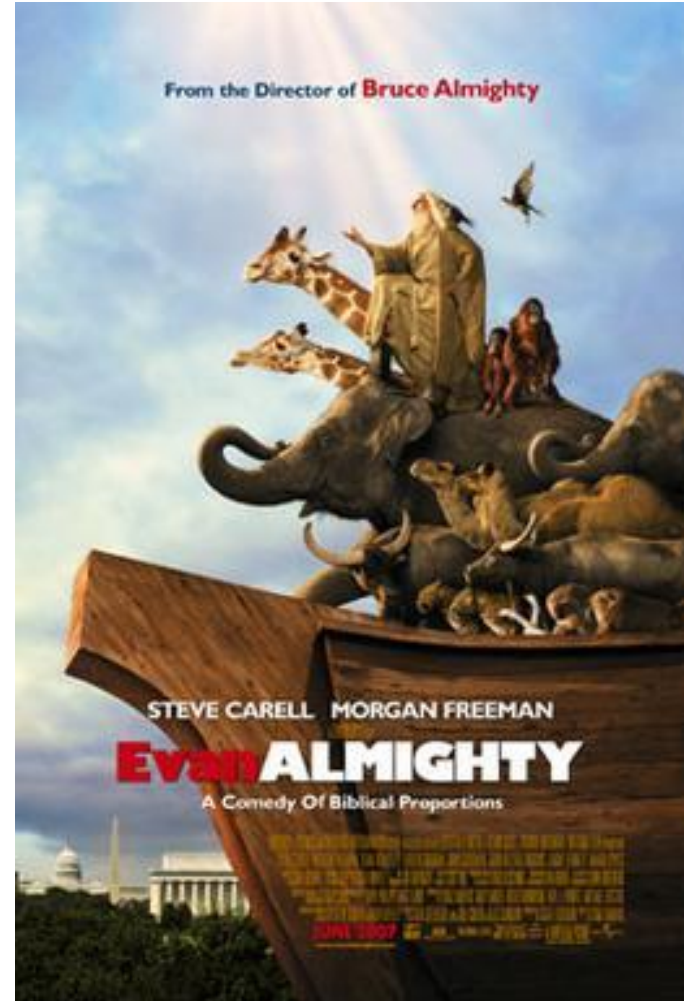
סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח

דוגמאות אקולוגיות

Evan Almighty
(2007)



סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח

דוגמאות אקולוגיות



Noah
(2014)



סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח



יצירת מדרש

אקופמיניזם

ירידה הדרגתית של הדגם הפטריארכלי

סיכום

סקירת דוגמאות

פתיח