

Go see *The Story of Noah* in Florida, which is Bible based

March 27, 2014

by [Randy Bright](#)



Randy Bright

Each year for the last seven years, my wife and I have gone to Florida to see one of the two plays now being produced by Mike Graham of the non-profit company Power and Light Productions.

Along with hundreds of volunteers, Graham produces the plays *The Story of Jesus* and *The Story of Noah*.

The Story of Jesus is a powerful drama about the life of Jesus from the time of his birth until his triumphal final return on a white horse. The drama focuses mostly on the time of his ministry, crucifixion and rising from the dead.

Even after having seen the play many times, I am always struck to see the portrayal of Christ in his humanness, which is what sets this play apart from other passion plays.

The seasonal attendance averages around 13,000 to 15,000, and it has attracted national attention in recent years.

In 2011, *New York Times* reporter Dan Barry wrote a front-page article about *The Story of Noah* in its April 21 issue.

After producing *The Story of Jesus* for over twenty years, when the decision was made to produce *The Story of Noah*, Graham and the board of Power and Light had no idea the audiences that had attended *The Story of Jesus* would be interested in the new play.

As it turned out, tickets for the entire 2012 season had sold out before the fourth weekend of the play, which had not happened for a number of years.

Just as *The Story of Jesus* is not a play intended for children, *The Story of Noah* was not written in the traditional style as a children's play.

Though many of the elements of a typical Noah play were present, including many animals, the essence of the play centers upon Matt. 24:37 when Jesus said, “As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man.

Graham described the play as an answer to the question, “why was mankind so evil that God decided to destroy the earth?” Most of the play was about the period of time between God’s revelation to Noah that He was going to do so and the great flood.

Of course, the Scriptures don’t tell us specifically what happened during that time, but as Graham explained on their website, “The Bible says of that day, ‘every imagination of the thoughts of mankind’s heart was only on evil continually,’ and that the intent of the play is ‘to capture the terrible challenges that Noah might have faced as he struggled to build the ark and preach to a very wicked world for 100 difficult years.’”

The Story of Noah portrays a family that takes Noah at his word that he had heard from God that they were to build the ark, despite their own skepticisms. It also described what it must have been like to have lived under the duress of the Nephilim, an evil people with a governor that declared himself to be God.

The play ends with a transition to modern times and end times, since Noah’s life was a foreshadow of things to come.

Both plays are facing a challenging future. There is a strong need for permanent facilities so that there can be more performances and more plays can be done throughout the year.

The facilities that are being used now are rented every year, requiring a strenuous and expensive setup and teardown of the set.

There are few restroom facilities, seating is on very uncomfortable bleachers, and there are steel columns every twenty feet in front of the audience.

Despite the drawbacks of the facilities, people come back to see the plays year after year for one simple reason – the quality of the performance is fantastic.

In fact, one person who conducts business with Disneyworld and Sea World was astonished at the quality of the play, even going so far as saying that it was even better than most Broadway plays he had seen.

The Story of Noah’s second season comes at the same time that Russell Crowe portrays Noah in Hollywood’s movie version of the story.

Although I have not seen the movie, reports are that the director of the movie saw Noah as the “first environmentalist.”

In its “News by the Numbers” segment, Fox news said that the number was zero, the number of times that God’s name was mentioned in the movie. (How do you make a movie about Noah without mentioning God?)

The Story of Noah opens this weekend, and includes a preshow entitled *Pictures of Freedom*, a “celebration of America and tribute to our active military personnel and veterans.”

If you are in Florida over the next five weekends, don’t miss it.

©2014 Randy W. Bright

Randy W. Bright, AIA, NCARB, is an architect who specializes in church and church-related projects. You may contact him at 918-582-3972, rwbrightchurcharch@sbcglobal.net or www.churcharchitect.net.

© 2014 Tulsa Beacon