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Alien & The Danger of an All Powerful Government

The Alien is Like a Ubiquitous Government Bureaucracy that Sucks the Life Out of the People



It's Taken Over the Man's Body & Even Breathes for Him. We Need an Exorcist!

Movie Background

In the movie, **Alien**, the commercial spaceship Nostromo awakens its crew from suspended animation to respond to an SOS signal from an alien spaceship in an unknown solar system. While exploring the ship, Kane (**John Hurt**) finds thousands of strange alien eggs. While examining one of the eggs, it hatches and the parasite inside attaches itself to his face. Using Kane as its host, it causes an infant Alien to grow inside of Kane, killing the man when it emerges. Ripley (**Sigourney Weaver**) is the only member of the crew to who is able to muster the courage necessary to survive the encounter with the Alien.

To see a scene from the movie, click on <https://youtu.be/BHSf7MXTIKM>

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Digging Deeper

In 597 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, Made Zedekiah king of Judah. Zedekiah replaced his half-brother Jehoiakim, who died during Nebuchadnezzar's attack on Jerusalem due to the Jewish king's decision to ally himself with Egypt. However, instead of remaining loyal to Babylon, Zedekiah listened to the officials of Judah who still wanted an alliance with Egypt. Beginning in 594 B.C., Zedekiah began to have conversations with Egypt and the other small countries in Palestine to rebel against Babylon. By 588 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar had had enough of Zedekiah's disloyalty and decided to lay siege against Jerusalem.

Again and again, the Prophet Jeremiah spoke out against Judah's rulers. In Jeremiah 34:2-3, he specifically warned that Jerusalem would be destroyed by fire, and that Zedekiah would be given into Nebuchadnezzar's hands:

Thus says the Lord God of Israel, "Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him: 'Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire. You will not escape from his hand, for you will surely be captured and delivered into his hand; and you will see the king of Babylon eye to eye, and he will speak with you face to face, and you will go to Babylon'."

Judah's officials were furious. They wanted Zedekiah to kill Jeremiah. They placed their hope in man - specifically Pharaoh Hophra, who was leading an army to rescue Judah. They were especially enraged when Jeremiah warned Zedekiah to his face that Hophra would return to Egypt without rescuing Judah, and that Nebuchadnezzar would set Jerusalem ablaze. Jeremiah's point was that Judah was placing its trust in man - in Pharaoh Hophra instead of God. In Jeremiah 17:5-6 the prophet painted this word picture:

Thus says the Lord, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant."

Several times, Zedekiah tried to follow Jeremiah's advice, but found himself incapable of doing so. Like the organism that took over Kane's body in the movie **Alien**, the "bureaucracy" of his government would not release its control of Zedekiah. Because of their absolute belief that Pharaoh would save them, they sealed Judah's fate.

We, in America, have made the same mistake. We have put our faith in an almighty Government that will "save" us. Like the parasite in **Alien**, it has inserted its tentacles into every part of our body politic. The message Jeremiah preached is still the same answer for our problem today (Jeremiah 17:7 - 8):

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Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

Picture Source: <https://youtu.be/BHSf7MXTIKM>

Questions for Further Reflection

1. In the movie, the Alien's blood is actually acid. The bush that Jeremiah talks about in Jeremiah 17:6 is similar. Called the [Ar'ar tree](#), it grows in the Judean desert. It is a beautiful tree when it is in bloom, but its fruit has been called "Sodom's Apple" because its juice is toxic. It looks great, but it's deadly. In your experience, how does evil disguise itself with a beautiful facade?
2. The [Acacia tree](#) is the type of tree Jeremiah refers to in Jeremiah 17:8. Camels eat its fruit, and people use its sap as a healing salve. Using the Ar'ah tree and the Acacia tree as object lessons, what lessons can you learn about telling the difference between good and evil?
3. Read Jeremiah chapters 37 - 39. What state of mind was Zedekiah in? How might you compare that state of mind to someone who is addicted to drugs or gambling - people whose lives are consumed by sin and have lost all hope?

At The Movies & [Discovering Courage Like Jeremiah's](#)

Years ago, I wrote a historical Christian novel titled *The Brotherhood of the Scroll*. The story takes place during the time when Jerusalem was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and her people taken into exile. The novel follows the timeline of events as described in the book of Jeremiah. In writing my novel, I fell in love with the story of the man scholars call the "weeping prophet."

The problem facing Jeremiah was that after the death of King Josiah in 609 B.C., the worship of pagan gods was heavily promoted by the ruling class. Josiah's successor, King Jehoiakim, sought to have Jeremiah killed. Members of Jeremiah's own family even wanted him dead. No one listened to him. In fact, God had pretty much told Jeremiah this would happen – but that he was not to fear, for God would protect him.

And so, for over twenty years, Jeremiah called upon Judah to turn from serving foreign gods. During his ministry, he had especially been called to hold the political and religious leaders accountable. This took courage, as more than once, King Jehoiakim tried to have Jeremiah killed. In Jeremiah 25, the prophet responded to God's call on his life to speak out against the

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sins of the King and the Priests. The message God placed on Jeremiah's heart to speak was an especially ominous one. Jeremiah knew that a price would be put on his head if he spoke it, but he did anyway.

In this **At the Movies** anthology, I've selected key movie scenes where the story's hero had to take a stand against impossible odds and act courageously. Just as in the prophet Jeremiah's day, doing the courageous thing is often not the popular thing. It is my prayer that as you read, discuss and pray over the conversations with the culture you'll find in this e-book, that you will find God's strength to do two things. First, to speak the word of God boldly. And second, to so in love, allowing God's wisdom to guide your speech so that those who hear you speak will listen to your words.

In [*Discovering Courage Like Jeremiah's At the Movies*](#), I believe you'll be inspired by the themes I've selected to illustrate and discuss issues of faith that consume a culture which is becoming increasingly hostile to God's word. Just as in the days of Jeremiah, we will need God's courage to speak His word in love to a culture which desperately needs to hear the truth of the Scriptures. Please be sure to go to my website at www.wisejargon.com/at-the-movies/ to see [*additional e-books I've created based on my newsletter, Conversations with the Culture.*](#) And don't forget to **sign up to receive this free monthly newsletter** in the future!

At The Movies



In 2005, God laid on my heart the concept for a newsletter I to call **Conversations with the Culture**, to talk about the ti the bible with an increasingly secular society. Since starting idea where the journey of writing it each month would take r written about 150 issues over years. And now, I'm starting t organize them thematically so that you can order/download PDF documents. If you are someone who wants to identify society, discuss current events, and see how to reach the ct around us with a biblical world view, I think you'll find this se calling Discovering Truth At the Movies a valuable tool – es; you work in youth/young adult ministry.



David Describes Conversations with the Culture

In the fragmented, multicultural world in which we live, one vehicle provides a means to have a conversation about common values. **Conversations with the Culture** is a monthly newsletter using the themes of modern movies and TV shows to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in search of an answer to the question, "What is Truth?"

Discovering Godly Leadership at the Movies: In this e-book, I've taken compiled ten newsletters I wrote to accompany my book **Think Like Jesus, Lead Like Moses: Leadership Lessons from the Wilderness Crucible**. I believe you'll be inspired by the themes I've selected to illustrate the ten principles of Godly leadership.

Discovering Truth Movies:

Discovering **Mere Christian the Movies** in his book, **Mere Christianity**, C.S. Lewis deal all sorts of questions about G and Jesus. It is a book that h had a profound effect on my I and I encourage you to buy a and read it yourself. I've com; a series of newsletters based Lewis' work, using movies fro the last 25 years to illustrate I points.

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