

## **Metaphysics in the Movies: Hidden Worldview Questions Waiting for Your Christian Answer**

You'll be surprised to find theological, philosophical, and metaphysical questions embedded in unexpected places in Hollywood films. We are not talking about movies with obvious Biblical themes, but rather blockbusters such as *Terminator* (Yes, I'll be back and you'd better believe it!), *I am Legend*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Book of Eli*, *Transcendence*, and more. Learning how to unearth and critically analyze these clues of common grace embedded in movie plots can help you to discuss Christian faith with your friends who go to movies and to share the Gospel with them. This session includes some clips and trailers as well as (Warning!) some revelations about movie endings. The silver screen presents the ultimate questions to which Scripture provides the ultimate answers.

**Pasi Turunen**, theologian (M.Th), author, blogger, and apologist, has been working as a Christian radio broadcaster for 25 years. He studied theology at Helsinki University and his master's thesis dealt with Jewish views on resurrection in the intertestamental Jewish literature between Old Testament and New Testament times. Turunen is a well-known Bible teacher and is often invited to speak to various apologetic seminars in Finland. He has written four books dealing with cult evangelism, same-sex marriage, inerrancy of the Bible, and apologetics. He also has experience with Christian television. Currently he hosts a weekly radio program that analyzes current events and changing culture in light of the Christian worldview and the Scriptures. Turunen has also appeared on secular national television and radio programs in Finland defending Christian faith and views on contemporary issues. Turunen works for the Patmos Foundation for World Missions, which is an evangelical missions and relief organization bringing humanitarian aid and the Gospel of Christ to over 20 nations in the world. The Patmos Foundation has an extensive media ministry in Finland and was the first Christian organization in Finland to start broadcasting Christian programs on commercial radio stations in 1985. Pasi is married to Parvin, who was born in the Middle East and in 1984 was supernaturally led to Finland to find Jesus and be saved.

### **I. From God's common grace to grace in Christ.**

A. General revelation. Romans 1:19-20

B. Kingdom of God hidden in the films. Matthew 13:44

C. Movies as culturally relevant conversation starters. Acts 17:22-23

## **II. Separating the wheat from the chaff.**

### A. Being aware of the underlying world-view issues in the films

1. *Books that openly defend materialism do not make us materialists, but rather books that only presuppose and implicate materialistic world-view.* (C S Lewis) (Narnia vs. Golden Compass)

### B. What have they done to Moses? (From *10 Commandments* to *Exodus: Gods and Kings*)

## **III. Analyzing some movies and theological questions they raise from a Christian perspective.**

## **IV. Cultural mandate: New surge of evangelical films and interest in “biblical” stories in Hollywood.**

### ***Suggested Readings:***

*Theology of Cinema Part 1 of 2: Movies and the Cultural Shift* (Darrell L. Bock and Naima Lett; 2015)

*A Biblical Theology of Cinema Part 2 of 2: How to Watch a Movie* (Darrell L. Bock and Robert K. Johnston; 2015)

*Christian Movie Reviews* – Crosswalk.com [www.crosswalk.com/culture/movies](http://www.crosswalk.com/culture/movies)

*Movieguide* – The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment [www.movieguide.org](http://www.movieguide.org)

*Christianity Today* – Movie Reviews <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/reviews>