

## NOAH

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



*Noah* is a very *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings*-style interpretation of the famous flood that destroyed almost everything. This is not your grandma's Noah. However, if you are willing to suspend most of the attachment to the traditional, the psychological impact of being the sole survivor of the human race and the toll that takes on one family is certainly worth a matinee.

The movie is all Russell Crowe. He does a fine job suffering with the forced choices he believes he must make in order to serve God. From that aspect, the movie works. This is conjecture of what it must have been like to be on the first – not very luxury – liner. The add-ins in the form of a rival king and some fallen angels were bizarre to say the least. I do not recall any of that in the original tale. This is probably what has people upset.

But folks, this is Hollywood's version, not God's. The story was not nearly as offensive to me as the cheesy special effects. The original *Poseidon Adventure* had better effects. So, if you are looking for something Biblical in terms of a spectacular flood, forget it. You will be disappointed. If you like unusual character studies and you are willing to let go of what you believe for the sake of speculation, go for it. Russell Crowe fans will enjoy his interpretation and they do a great job aging him over the years. It is entertaining and interesting, but don't look for accuracy if you are a Biblical purist. There, y'all have been warned.

On the mental trauma side, here is a guy who had to play God. He had to decide who lived and who drowned. The impact of having to make those choices was evident in how Crowe's Noah reacted in his role as father, husband and chosen servant of God.

What a burden for anyone to carry. At the end of it all, you really do come away with the feeling that he did the best he could under the worst of circumstances. The Bible is filled with compelling drama and I think the movie would have worked better if they stuck with the original and beefed up the special effects. This was more Noah in the Twilight Zone. Needless to say, I didn't mind it. And if you like Russell Crowe, by all means go.

I give *Noah* three arks.

