

Truth and Baloney Detector™



Truth fits God's Big Picture (that is, the *Biblical Worldview*). Baloney doesn't fit God's Big Picture.

Sometimes we hear (or read) a *little* Truth mixed with a *lot* of baloney. Sometimes we hear (or read) a *lot* of Truth mixed with a *little* baloney. Sometimes it's *all* baloney with *no* Truth. Occasionally it's *all* Truth with *no* baloney. Recognizing the difference is called *discernment*. Use this *Truth and Baloney Detector* to determine which elements of a song, story, speech, film, or book *fit* God's Big Picture (the *Biblical Worldview*) and which elements *do not fit*. Think about this in relation to the worldview components of God, Creation, Humanity, Moral Order and Purpose, as outlined below. This tool is copyrighted, but you have permission to make unlimited copies, yet not sell to others. Visit www.biblicalworldview.com for additional free resources.

FOCUS OF ANALYSIS IS ON: Film: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"

Truth

God (*His nature, character, role, etc.*):

There is a "higher power" in the universe.

Creation (*the seen and unseen realities of all God has made*):

Baloney

God:

The "Force" is not the True God. The "Force" has a "dark side." God does not. He is all light, and no darkness. No evil.

God is personal Being, the Force is not. The Force is "an energy field" that never speaks. (It has no lines in the films.) Characters do not converse with the Force. It's something they "feel." The Force is not a Person. Both Jedi Knights and the bad guys "use" the Force to do supernatural things. [Master the Energy Within.] Like magic. God is not magic.

The Force is powerful, and the True God is powerful, but that's as far as the similarity goes. The rest is pure baloney.

[For Lucas, any 'god' will do. Take your pick. Just believe.]

Creation:

The "Force" is created by something within the universe itself. [Obi Won Kenobi said, "It is an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us, penetrates us, it binds the galaxy together."]

The "Force" is an all-powerful energy within the universe.

Humanity (*our identity, value, abilities, origin, etc*):

Fathers play a powerful role in the health or the dysfunction of a family. [An absentee father (like Han Solo) can have long-lasting negative effects on the lives of adult children.

The call to “come home...” from a father to a son is powerful. Han Solo goes to a dangerous place to pursue his son, and to seek to restore the broken relationship. This is true courage.

Loyalty in friendship is valued, to the point of being willing to lose your life for another. This is a good thing. Risking harm to rescue others is a good thing.

Courage is highly valued in the film.

Humanity:

Moral Order (*right/wrong, good/evil*):

Broken relationships hurt, especially broken family relationships. Resentment and lack of forgiveness among family members can result in great pain and death, not only for the one who is resented, but the one who does not forgive. The element of “grace to forgive” is absent in the relationship between Han Solo and his son. The son kills him, thrusting him through with a light saber. [This is one of the most shocking moments in cinematic history! How could Harrison Ford’s character die like this?] This is painful to watch, and such pain is a reality in a fallen world. It is a truth we can learn from. Lesson: *Be a good, present father! It’s not worth the consequences of not being one!*

Moral Order:

Moral order is to be found within. *Trust your feelings*. (Tap into the impersonal Force, rather than the personal God.)

George Lucas said in a *Time* magazine interview: “*Ultimately the Force is the larger mystery of the universe. And to trust your feelings is your way into that.*” This is pure baloney.

Purpose (*meaning, intention, or destiny*):

Defeating evil is a worthy purpose. [If it is true evil we are defeating, that is.]

Purpose: