



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 82, Folder 13, Genesis project, 1976-1979.

THE GENESIS PROJECT

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
33-15 80th Street
Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372

November 7, 1974

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Please find enclosed a copy of the contract between the Genesis Project and yourself. The original of this document will be kept in our files.

Sincerely,

Margaret Yelland
Margaret Yelland

mgy

THE GENESIS PROJECT

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
33-15 80th Street
Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372

October 31, 1974

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

This will serve to confirm our various discussions that you have agreed to act as a consultant to the Genesis Project.

Your services as consultant will include, but not be limited to, advising on participants and assistance in direct contact with them for the seminars to be held by the Genesis Project; advising on the texts and discussion areas of the seminars; providing assistance in the selection of transcriptions and articles for publication; and in general to advise on the overall concept and consult on the detailed development of an audio-visual encyclopaedia of the Bible and adjunct publications.

During the period of this agreement and thereafter you shall hold as confidential, and shall not reveal to anyone without our written consent, all information affecting our activities which you learn in the course of our relationship.

You agree to be available to work with the Genesis Project at such times as it reasonably requires, subject to your prior commitments to the American Jewish Committee, and that your contribution of time available to the Genesis Project shall not be less than the equivalent of five full days in any month of engagement.

During the period of this agreement you agree not to undertake any activity, either for others or on your own account, which is in conflict with the activities and purposes of the Genesis Project.

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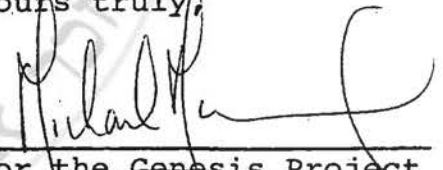
The term of your services will be one year from October 1, 1974 to September 30, 1975. For your services, the Genesis Project has offered and you have agreed to accept the sum of \$7,000 (seven thousand dollars) payable as to half in three equal monthly instalments of \$1,166.66 between October 1 and December 31, 1974, and half in nine equal monthly instalments of \$388.88 between January 1, 1975 and September 30, 1975. All payments will be made on the first day of each month. In addition, the Genesis Project will pay such expenses as are incurred, and billed with supporting documentation, not to exceed \$1,500 between October 1, and December 31, 1974, and not to exceed \$1,500 between January 1 and September 30, 1975.

This agreement may be terminated by either party on written notice to the other thirty days prior to such effective termination. In the event of such termination you may retain the compensation theretofore paid to you, but you shall be entitled to no further compensation.

The Genesis Project will have the option to renew this agreement on an annual basis on the same terms and conditions noted above by notice in writing to you thirty days prior to completion of the term of this agreement.

If this is your understanding of our agreement, please signify your assent by signing in the space below.

Yours truly,


for the Genesis Project

understood and agreed to:

Marc H. Tanenbaum

MM:mgj

THE GENESIS PROJECT

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
33-15 80th Street
Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372

October 31, 1974

Dear Marc:

Re: The Genesis Project

This is the revised agreement for your consultancy with us, as dictated by our lawyer this morning.

If there is anything you wish to discuss please call me. Otherwise, I look forward to receiving an executed copy from you, and will be happy to make the first payment due, as discussed.

Cordially,


Michael Manuel

MM:mgv

TO: John Heyman, President
Genesis Project

FROM: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

DATE: May 15, 1970

RE: THE "HAVE YOU SEEN JESUS" FILM

I appreciate your inviting me to see the preview of the roughcut of this film. This memo will detail some of the concerns that I raised during our conversation in your apartment last evening. After you have read this critique, I would welcome our talking again about how best to implement these suggestions.

At the outset, let me say that you have realized marvelously your oft-repeated intention of bringing to life the Gospel story against the background of Jewish Palestine.

There are several crucial problems; let me deal with what I believe is the most serious problem first:

The entire crucifixion episode is bad - very bad and requires radical reconstruction. In its present dramatization of the crucifixion and the Passion according to the literal rendering of the Gospel of Luke, it is not very different in its anti-Jewish impact than the Daisenberger text of the Oberammergau Passion Play. That's hard stuff, but as a friend and great admirer of yours, I owe you nothing less than that quality of honest reaction.

Granted that Jesus says several times that his death is foreordained -- "I will be rejected first, then die and be resurrected on the third day"; "the son of man will suffer much and be rejected by the people of his day;" I will be handed over to the Gentiles;"the son of man must die, but woe unto him who betrays him..."

spiritual

Each of those statements are made by Jesus but softly, gently; they don't seem to register with major force as the central religious idea that they represented in the ~~uniquely~~ aspect of the Christian tradition, best formulated in the Fourth Catechesis of the Council of Trent ~~for the instruction of the Christian people~~ ("Jesus foreordained his death...therefore we who wallow in sin are more guilty for his crucifixion than are the Jews..")

poised

Counterpoised to these gentle assertions of Jesus are the weak mutterings of a marshmallow Pontius Pilate - a characterization that contradicts everything that we know from Roman, Christian and Jewish historic scholarship. Pilate was a cruel, ruthless tyrant who lusted in crucifying hundreds of rebels and zealots who defied Roman oppressive rule.

As presently portrayed, Pilate is a weakling who is relentlessly pressed and finally forced by the High Priests and their Jewish followers to crucify Jesus against his (Pilate's will). Pilate's first statement is a timid line thrown away almost as a mumble: "If he (Jesus) threatens the peace, I shall look to you (the High Priests)"

Pilate's strongest line is "I see nothing to cause his (Jesus') death."

Earlier, the narration says, "The multitude (obviously the Jewish multitude) arose and led him unto Pilate." Then the same multitude starts with that horrible and (unnecessarily) long screaming scene, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" In response to their incessant clamor for Jesus' death, Pilate reluctantly, seemingly unwillingly says, "Bring me the order" (for Jesus' crucifixion).

The scenario is unmistakably clear - Jesus weakly says he has to die in order to become the ransom for mankind's sin; Pilate does not want to crucify him; the High Priests, the Scribes and Pharisees, and the Jewish multitude force him to change his mind and to do the Jewish bidding to crucify him. Bottom line: The Jews killed Christ. After the crucifixion, as if to drive home the point of Jewish culpability of their murder of "the Son of God" (that is, God himself), a Roman centurion standing at the foot of the cross, says movingly, "He has done no wrong!"

Not incidentally, the stage for this Jewish vengeance is set early in the film when Jesus is called to the Torah in the Synagogue, and is then driven out angrily not only by the "Jewish leaders" but by the entire Jewish congregation. The dominant image is set: the Jews versus Jesus.

Frankly, John, I don't know whether this can be revised to remove this poisonous stuff. If it can be at all, I think it will require changes along these lines:

1) Jesus has to make a major point of prophesying his own death as the will of God, without which the whole crucifixion and resurrection make no sense as a theological postulate;

2) Pilate must be portrayed as he actually was historically - a cruel, murderous tyrant who became deeply anxious over Jesus' claim to political leadership, namely, that he saw himself as the "king of the Jews" - a potential political threat to Roman domination, a focal point for fostering uprising and rebellion against Roman Empire;

3) Far less concentration of the centrality of the High Priests, Scribes and Pharisees as demanders, inciters of the decision to crucify Jesus. Without Rome and Pilate, neither the Jews nor their leaders (puppets of Rome) would have crucified him. The Sanhedrin were bereft of the power to carry out capital punishment; only Pilate and Rome had that power.

Another major point: while the Jewish birth and early nurture of Jesus as a son of the Synagogue is clear, there is no connection with the historic reality that virtually all of Jesus' ideas, homilies, parables, beatitudes, images derive from the world of religious ideas of first century Judaism, from the Pharisees School of Love. His very claim to be the Messiah makes no sense without the Jewish belief in

the Messiah which was a widespread idea in first century Palestinian Judaism.

Jesus and the disciples, while mostly Jewish in appearance, speak as if they are third century Christians. They are not. They are first century Jews, and the concrete reality of their Jewishness needs somehow to be made more explicit. Otherwise the tragic irony becomes all the more manifest; their background is Jewish, everything they speak and think they owe to the Jews, but they become instruments for hatred against the Jews.

So, in sum, the scenario itself must be recast to take these fundamental concerns into account; Then a prologue, and perhaps an epilogue too must be added to make sure that this film is not used to foster anti-Semitism.

That's a very tall order, I know, but I'm prepared to do everything I can to help you achieve it.

With warmest best wishes!

Marc H. Tanenbaum

P.S. - A bad film on Jesus could have negative repercussions on the entire Genesis project, and that's why I am so tough in stating my case.

Secondly, the press release should be rewritten; I will send you some suggestions for revisions shortly. Please don't send it out in its present form.



THE GENESIS PROJECT



AMERICAN JEWISH

Thank you for coming. We would very much appreciate your help in the following areas:

- 1. Any comments on those aspects of the film which you feel could be edited, and any changes that you think should be made.*
- 2. A written statement of endorsement.*
- 3. Any suggestions of how you might help us in getting the word out about this film.*

INSPIRATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Language Research

<u>Language</u>	<u>No. of Speakers (millions)</u>
1. Mandarin (China)	670
2. English	369
3. *Hindi & Urdu (60M) (Pakistan & India)	278
4. Russian (Great Russia only)	246
5. Spanish	225
6. Arabic	134
7. Portuguese	133
8. *Bengali (Bangladesh & India)	131
9. German	120
10. Japanese	113
11. Malay-Indonesian	101
12. French	95
13. Italian	61
14. *Punjabi (India & Pakistan)	58
15. *Tamil (India & Sri Lanka)	55
16. *Telugu (India)	55
17. Korean	55
18. *Marathi (India)	53
19. Cantonese (China)	48
20. Javanese	45
21. Wu (China)	43
22. Ukranian (Mainly USSR)	42
23. Turkish	41
24. Min (China)	39
25. Vietnamese	38
<hr/>	
	3,248,000,000 People (78% of world)
26. Polish	36
27. Thai	32
28. *Gujarati (India)	31
29. *Kannada (India)	29
30. *Malayalam (India)	27
31. Persian	26
32. *Oriya (India)	24
33. Burmese	24
34. *Bihari (India)	23
35. Swahili (East Africa)	23
36. *Rajasthani (India)	22
37. Tagalog (Philippines)	22
38. Romanian	22
39. Hakka (China)	21
40. Netherlandish (Dutch & Flemish)	20
41. Serbo-Croatian (Yugoslavia)	19
42. Hausa (West and Central Africa)	19
43. Pushto (Afghanistan)	16
44. Sundanese (Indonesian)	15
45. *Assamese (India)	13



<u>Language</u>	<u>No. of Speakers (millions)</u>
46. Hungarian (Magyar)	13
47. Yoruba (West Africa)	13
48. Ibo (West Africa)	11
49. Czech	11
50. Sinhalese (Sri Lanka)	11
<hr/>	
523,000,000 People (12% of world)	
51. Greek	10
52. Nepali (Nepal & India)	10
53. Sindhi (India & Pakistan)	10
54. Swedish	10
55. Uzbek (USSR)	10
56. Amharic (Ethiopia)	9
57. Bulgarian	9
58. Byelorussian (mainly USSR)	9
59. Cebuano (Philippines)	9
60. Zhuang (China)	9
61. Azerbaijani (USSR & Iran)	8
62. Fula (West Africa)	8
63. Madurese (Indonesia)	8
64. Malagasy (Madagascar)	8
65. Cambodian (Cambodia & Asia)	7
66. Kurdish (S.W. of Caspian Sea)	7
67. Oromo (Ethiopia)	7
68. Quechua (South America)	7
69. Ruanda (South Central Africa)	7
70. Tatar (or Kazan-Turkic) (USSR)	7
71. Afrikaans (South Africa)	6
72. Catalan (Spain, France & Andorra)	6
73. Kazakh (USSR)	6
74. Malinke-Bambara-Dyula (Africa)	6
75. Tibetan	6
<hr/>	
199,000,000 People (5% of world)	
76. Danish	5
77. Finnish	5
78. Norwegian	5
79. Provençal (Southern France)	5
80. Slovak	5
81. Somali (East Africa)	5
82. Twi-Fante (or Akan) (West Africa)	5
83. Uighur (Sinkiang & China)	5
84. Xhosa (South Africa)	5
85. Zulu (South Africa)	5
86. Armenian	4
87. Bhili (India)	4
88. Ilocano (Philippines)	4
89. Panay-Hiligaynon (Philippines)	4
90. Rundi (South Central Africa)	4
91. Shona (South East Africa)	4
92. Santali (India)	4
93. Tigrinya (Ethiopia)	4

	<u>Language</u>	<u>No. of Speakers (millions)</u>
94.	Yi (China)	4
95.	Albanian	3
96.	Balinese	3
97.	Baluchi (Pakistan & Iran)	3
98.	Ewe (West Africa)	3
99.	Galician (Spain)	3
100.	Ganda (or Luganda) (East Africa)	3
		<hr/>
		104,000,000 People (2% of world)
101.	Georgian (USSR)	3
102.	Hebrew	3
103.	Kanuri (West & Central Africa)	3
104.	*Kashmiri (India)	3
105.	Kikuyu (Kenya)	3
106.	Kituba (Congo River)	3
107.	Lao (Laos & Asia)	3
108.	Lithuanian	3
109.	Luba-Lulua (Zaire)	3
110.	Makua (South East Africa)	3
111.	Mbundu (Umbundu group) (South Angola)	3
112.	Miao (& Meo) (South East Asia)	3
113.	Mossi (West Africa)	3
114.	Nyanja (South East Africa)	3
115.	Guarani (mainly Paraguay)	3
116.	Sotho, Southern (South Africa)	3
117.	Tajiki (USSR)	3
118.	Wolof (West Africa)	3
119.	Yiddish	3
120.	Batak (Indonesia)	2
121.	Bemba (South Central Africa)	2
122.	Bikol (Philippines)	2
123.	Bugi (Indonesia)	2
124.	Chuvash (USSR)	2
125.	Efik	2
		<hr/>
		69,000,000 People (1% of world)
126.	Gondi (India)	2
127.	Khalkha (Mongolia)	2
128.	Kirghiz (USSR)	2
129.	Kongo (Congo River)	2
130.	Konkani (India)	2
131.	Latvian	2
132.	Luo (Kenya)	2
133.	Luvi (Iran)	2
134.	Macedonian (Yugoslavia)	2
135.	Mazandarani (Iran)	2
136.	Mbundu (Kimbundu group) (Angola)	2
137.	Ngala (Africa)	2
138.	Nyamwezi-Sukuma (South East Africa)	2
139.	Sango (Central Africa)	2
140.	Shan (Burma)	2

<u>Language</u>	<u>No. of Speakers (millions)</u>
141. Slovene (Yugoslavia)	2
142. Sotho, Northern (South Africa)	2
143. Tswana (South Africa)	2
144. Turkoman (USSR)	2
145. Gilaki (Iran)	2
146. Aymara (Bolivia & Peru)	1
147. Dayak (Borneo)	1
148. Edo (West Africa)	1
149. Esperanto	1
150. Estonian	1
<hr/>	
	45,000,000 People

151. Ijaw (West Africa)	1
152. Kamba (East Africa)	1
153. Kumauni (India)	1
154. Kurukh (or Oraou) (India)	1
155. Luhya (or Luhia) (Kenya)	1
156. Mende (Sierra Leon)	1
157. Mordvin (USSR)	1
158. Sarnar-Leyte (Philippines)	1
159. Thonga (South East Africa)	1
160. Tiv (East Central Nigeria)	1
161. Tulu (India)	1
162. Fang-Bulu (West Africa)	1
<hr/>	
	12,000,000 People

1 - 25
26 - 50
51 - 75
76 - 100
101 - 125
126 - 150
151 - 162

RECAP

3,248,000,000
523,000,000
199,000,000
104,000,000
69,000,000
45,000,000
12,000,000
<hr/>
4,220,000,000 People

FILM RESEARCH
INDIA

MEDIA VITAL STATISTICS

Population	625,820,000
*Density/sq. km.	172
*Percentage of Christians	3
*Number of Radios/1,000	21
*Number of Short Wave/1,000	6
*Film Attendance/Capita/year	6
*Number of Televisions/10,000	1

EXISTING MEDIA (FILM)

India has one of the largest film industries in the world. The main reason being that film is the best means of communication in India. The government itself has hundreds of mobile 16mm projection units totaling 60,000,000 viewers with audiences of 3,000 to 4,000 persons at a time, free of charge.

Commercially there are 4,716 fixed cinemas and 2,575 mobile projection units (35mm) totaling an audience of over 3,000,000,000 or 6 visits per person annually. This is very significant considering that in the U.S., it is only 5 visits per person annually. Of the 568 films shown in 1971, 118 were in Hindi, 90 in English (86 from the U.S. and 4 from the U.K.), 83 in Telegu, 73 in Tamil, 52 in Malayalam, 33 in Kannada, 30 in Bengali, 23 in Marathi, 66 in Gujarati, Assamese, Tulu, Punjabi, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Chattosgarhi, Sindhi, Oriya, Konkani, Italian (12 from Italy), Russian (9 from U.S.S.R.), Japanese (6 from Japan), French (12 from France).

LANGUAGE PRIORITIES

Fourteen languages cover 93% of the Indian population.

Hindi and Urdu
English
Telegu
Tamil
Malayalam
Kannada
Bengali
Marathi
Punjabi
Gujarati
Oriya
Bihari
Assamese
Sindhi

CULTURIZATION

The film "JESUS" is socially acceptable to approximately 90% of India's population. The only possible exceptions would be the 10% Moslem population and a minority of Christians who don't believe movie-going is acceptable.

PRIORITY LIST OF COUNTRIES
IN AFRICA

The following is a prioritization of countries to go into with the film "JESUS" based on the existing channels of distribution, and number of potential viewers in each country. At present, there are existing channels of distribution for approximately 56% of the population of Africa.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF VIEWERS</u>	
Algeria	15,270	
Nigeria	55,074	
Egypt	34,840	
Morocco	15,830	
Sudan	16,490	
Ivory Coast	4,420	
Ethiopia	10,100	70%
Tunisia	5,137	
Mauritius & Dep.	836	
Kenya	7,242	80%
Senegal	4,022	
Tanzania	5,600	
Somalia	2,940	
Madagascar	4,050	
Libyan Arab Rep.	2,080	90%
Angola	2,715	
Mali	2,630	
Mozambic	2,213	
Uganda	2,092	
Chad	1,140	95%
Dahomey	1,104	
Reunion	470	
Zaire	1,124	
Ghana	886	
Upper Volta	1,000	
Niger	828	98%
Liberia	825	
Togo	600	
Equatorial Guinea	500	
Central Africa	500	
Gabon	385	
Portuguese Guinea	300	
Burundi	151	
Sierra Leone	122	
Swaziland	100	
Comoro Is.	100	
Botswana	75	
TOTAL FILM AUDIENCE	203,791	100%

Of these 37 countries, 67% of their population have access to seeing the film "JESUS".

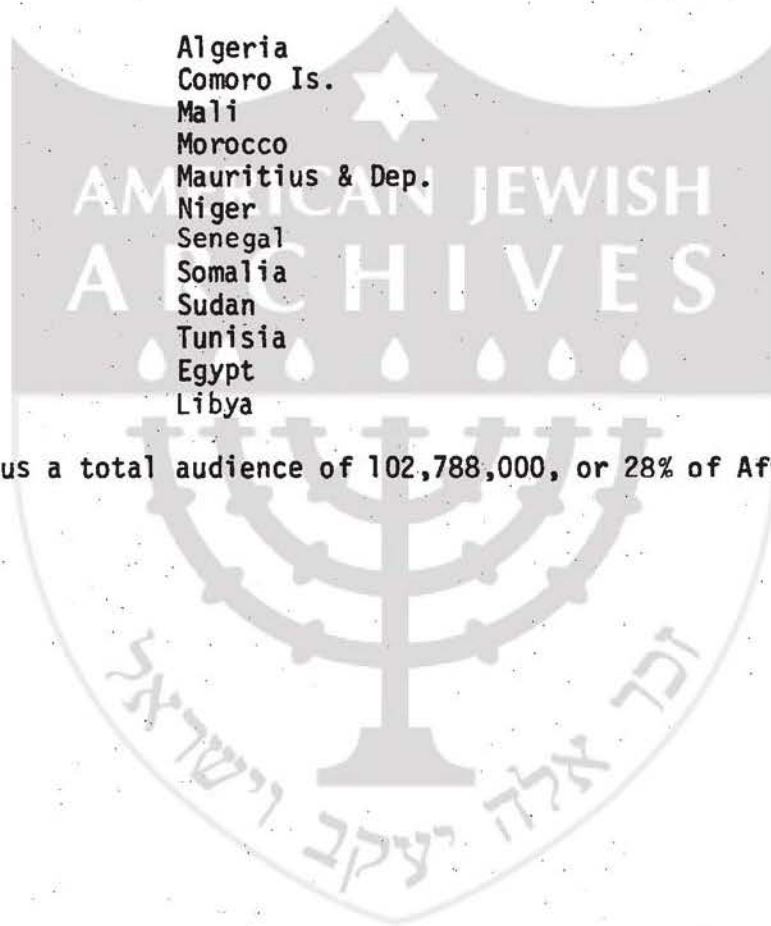
TOTAL AUDIENCE	203,791	= 67%
TOTAL POPULATION	303,325	

Fourteen countries have little or no audience. Total population of 58,102,000, or 16% of Africa's total population.

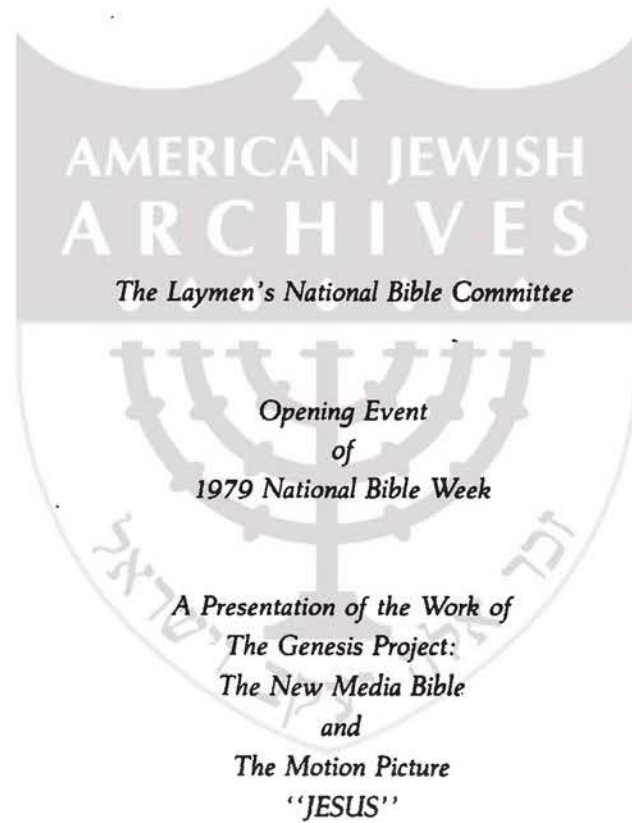
Countries where movie may be culturally unacceptable because of dominant religion of Moslem (75% or more):

- Algeria
- Comoro Is.
- Mali
- Morocco
- Mauritius & Dep.
- Niger
- Senegal
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Egypt
- Libya

This gives us a total audience of 102,788,000, or 28% of Africa's total population.



Genesis Project



Sunday, November 18, 1979
Concert Hall
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
8:30 P.M.

INVITATION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Jim Wright, Chairman
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Berkley W. Bedell
U.S. House of Representatives

Dr. Landrum R. Bolling
Council on Foundations

The Honorable Don L. Bonker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jack T. Brinkley
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Clarence J. Brown
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John H. Buchanan, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives

Dr. Arthur F. Burns
Visiting Scholar, American Enterprise Institute

The Honorable Lawton Chiles
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Shirley Chisholm
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Dennis DeConcini
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Edwin J. (Jake) Garn
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield
U.S. Senate

Miss Helen Hayes
Actress

The Rev. Dr. Theodore M. Hesburgh
President, Notre Dame University

The Honorable Marjorie S. Holt
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Harold E. Hughes
Former U.S. Senator

Mr. Bruce K. MacLaury
President, The Brookings Institution

Mr. J. Willard Marriott, Jr.
President, The Marriott Corporation

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays
President, Emeritus, Morehouse College

Mr. Thomas A. Murphy
Chairman, General Motors Corporation

Dr. Nathan Pusey
President, Emeritus, Harvard University

The Honorable Richard T. Schulze
U.S. House of Representatives

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, D.D.
Titular Archbishop of Newport

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
*National Interreligious Affairs Director,
The American Jewish Committee*

The Honorable Lester L. Wolff
U.S. House of Representatives

LAYMEN'S NATIONAL BIBLE COMMITTEE, INC.
SPONSOR OF NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The Laymen's National Bible Committee, Inc. is an organization of business and professional leaders of all faiths associated in an intensive effort to motivate reading and study of Holy Scripture.

LNBC is supported entirely by voluntary tax deductible contributions.

Laymen's National Bible Committee



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
CITATION OF APPRECIATION

to

The Genesis Project, Inc.

FOR its signal contribution to the contemporary teaching of faith and ethics through the NEW MEDIA BIBLE, and for distinguished cinematic achievement in producing the film, JESUS, which communicates God's Word to this generation with power and authenticity.

November 18, 1979
Washington, D.C.



Thomas R. Kuffman
President

Program of Events

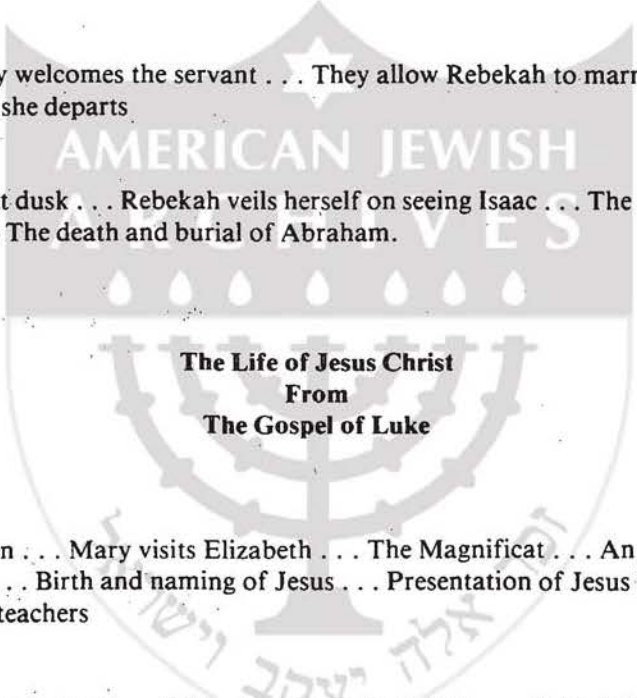
- Scripture Reading Mr. F. Charles Graves, President
Psalm XXIII Gilbert A. Robinson, Inc.
- Secretary
Laymen's National Bible Committee
- Welcoming Remarks The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
- Opening of National Bible Week Mr. Thomas A. Murphy, Chairman
General Motors Corporation
Chairman
National Bible Week
- Introduction of the New Media Bible Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Interreligious Affairs Director
The American Jewish Committee
- Old Testament Selection "Rebecca"
New Media Bible
- Presentation of Award The Honorable Theodore R. Kupferman
Associate Justice
Supreme Court of New York
President
Laymen's National Bible Committee
- Acceptance Remarks Mr. John Heyman, President
Introduction of the Motion Picture JESUS The Genesis Project, Inc.
- Motion Picture JESUS
- Concluding Remarks The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate

**The New Media Bible
Genesis 24:1-25:10**

Abraham's servant swears to find a wife for Isaac . . . The servant travels to Mesopotamia . . . Rebekah at the well

Rebekah's family welcomes the servant . . . They allow Rebekah to marry Isaac . . . They bless Rebekah as she departs

Isaac meditates at dusk . . . Rebekah veils herself on seeing Isaac . . . The wedding of Isaac and Rebekah . . . The death and burial of Abraham.



**The Life of Jesus Christ
From
The Gospel of Luke**

The Annunciation . . . Mary visits Elizabeth . . . The Magnificat . . . An angel appears to some shepherds . . . Birth and naming of Jesus . . . Presentation of Jesus in the temple . . . Jesus among the teachers

John the Baptist preaches . . . John announces the Christ . . . Jesus is baptized . . . The temptation of Jesus . . . Rejection at Nazareth . . . Jesus preaches at Capernaum . . . Miraculous catch of fish . . . Call of the first disciples

The cure of Jairus's daughter . . . Call of Matthew Levi, the publican . . . Jesus chooses the twelve apostles . . . The great Sermon: the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, Love your enemies, self-knowledge

Dining with Simon the Pharisee . . . Jesus anointed by a sinful woman . . . Raising the son of the widow of Nain . . . John the Baptist sends disciples to Jesus . . . Parable of the sower . . . The lamp . . . His mother and brothers

Calming the storm . . . Cure of a man possessed by demons . . . Loaves and fishes feed the 5,000 . . . Taking up one's cross

The transfiguration . . . Cure of the epileptic boy . . . The Lord's Prayer . . . Seek and ye shall find . . . The lilies of the field . . . Jesus associates with sinners . . . Cure of the hunchbacked woman . . . The kingdom of God . . . The Good Samaritan . . . A blind beggar cured . . . Zacchaeus, the tax collector

The triumphant entry into Jerusalem . . . Jesus cleanses the temple . . . Enmity of the leaders . . . Jesus teaches in the temple . . . Confrontation with his enemies . . . Parable of the vineyard . . . Tribute to Caesar

The Last Supper . . . The New Testament proclaimed . . . The betrayal foretold . . . Peter's denial foretold . . . Persecution coming . . . Betrayal by Judas . . . The agony in the garden . . . The arrest . . . The mockery . . . Peter denies Jesus

Jesus before the council . . . Before Pilate . . . Before Herod . . . Pilate sentences Jesus . . . The way of the cross . . . The crucifixion

Entombment by Joseph of Arimathea . . . The women at the empty tomb . . . The risen Christ appears in Jerusalem . . . His last words . . . The Ascension

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

DOMESTIC SERVICE

-10- THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

SCHOLARS, CINEMATOGRAPHERS JOIN FORCES
FOR MASSIVE PROJECT 'FILMING' BIBLE

By Religious News Service (1-29-76)

NEW YORK (RNS) -- A film "publication" of the entire Bible, which is expected to be in production through the 21st century, has been launched by an international team of scholars and cinematographers.

Organized as "The Genesis Project," the endeavor will eventually produce what is called The New Media Bible. It will be based on the King James Version, and will be a series of film segments of every event of the Bible, without any extra-Biblical commentary.

Sept. 1, 1976, has been designated publication date of the first segments, which will be eight installments covering the first 22 chapters of the Book of Genesis, and the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel.

The films, which are designed primarily for educational establishments and religious institutions, will not be available for rental. Charter subscribers are offered a price of \$2,000 per year. The price will rise to \$2,500 after Sept. 1.

Topol, the Israeli actor who starred as Tevye in the film version of Fiddler on the Roof, will portray Abraham. Organizers of The Genesis Project are seeking other noted actors and actresses for major roles, and hope to be able to use the voice of Gregory Peck to represent the voice of God.

The project, which has already cost \$5 million, dates back to early 1969 when Michael Manuel, former general manager of the Metropolitan Opera Company, was catching a plane for New York at London's Heathrow Airport. At an airport bookstore, he purchased a volume atop a pile of "best sellers." When he had boarded the plane, he discovered he had bought a Bible.

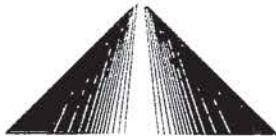
Mr. Manuel read the Bible all the way back to New York. He had been thinking of attempting to transpose great operas into film, but then decided that he would prefer to try the experiment with the Bible.

Organizers of The Genesis Project anticipate that it will take at least 33 years to complete, with a total budget of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Among the scholars who have contributed their insights to the project are:

(more)

PAGE -10-



THE GENESIS PROJECT

TO: Marc Tanenbaum

DATE: 4 October 1976

FROM: John Heyman

SUBJECT:

Again, many thanks for the notices and clippings you have sent. I return herewith your listing of meetings after having made a copy for our people.

Best,

att.



RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE -- 43 West 57th Street -- New York, N.Y. 10019

FUTURE DATE

OCTOBER 1976

---A monthly listing of major religious meetings and observances---

Sept. 30-Oct. 4 Denver, Colo. 8th Biennial Meeting, Association of Ladies of Charity of the U.S.

1976 Regional Conferences, Catholic Press Association:

Sept. 24-25 Seattle, Wash. Northwest Region

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 Oakland, Calif. Western Region

Oct. 6-8 Youngstown, Ohio Midwest & Eastern Regions

Regional Institutes on Evangelism, National Council of Catholic Women:

Sept. 22-Oct. 1 Glenview, Ill.

Oct. 4-7 Spokane, Wash.

Oct. 9-12 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Oct. 29-Nov. 1 Stamford, Conn.

Oct. 1-3 Garrison, N.Y. 8th Annual Meeting, North American Academy of Ecumenists

Oct. 1-3 Salt Lake City, U. Semi-Annual Meeting, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon)

Oct. 2-6 Denver, Colo. 62nd Annual Meeting, National Conference of Catholic Charities

Oct. 3 World Communion Sunday

Oct. 4 YOM KIPPUR, DAY OF ATONEMENT

Oct. 4 FEASTDAY, ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Oct. 4-5	Chicago, Ill.	Fall Meeting, State & Regional Leaders, National Association of Evangelicals.
Oct. 4-7	Dubuque, Iowa	Workshop "Firsts in an Age of Affirmation," Religious Formation Conference
Oct. 4-7	San Diego, Calif.	Annual Meeting, National Catholic Cemetery Conference
Oct. 4-8	Utrecht, the Netherlands	1976 Plenary Meeting, Joint Working Group, World Council of Churches & Roman Catholic Church
Oct. 4-8	Nashville, Tenn.	Organizational Meeting, 1977-80 quadrennium, General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church
Oct. 4-9	Hong Kong	All-Asia Christian Communications Strategy Seminar
Oct. 5-8	Nashville, Tenn.	Organizational Meeting, 1977-80 quadrennium, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Church
Oct. 6-12	Washington, D.C.	8th Biennial Convention, American Lutheran Church
Oct. 7-8	New York, N.Y.	Hearings on "Corporate Influence on the Image of Women in the Media," Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Oct. 7-10	Baltimore, Md.	2nd Annual Baltimore Congress on Liturgy (Catholic)
Oct. 8-9	Garden Grove, Calif.	National Women's Possibility Thinkers Conference, Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership

Oct. 8-10	New York, N.Y.	Meeting Governing Board, National Council of Churches
Oct. 8-10	St. Louis, Mo.	Conference on "The Religion of Fabricated Man," Institute for Theological Encounter with Science and Technology
Oct. 8-10	Minneapolis, Minn.	Regional Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Oct. 8-11	Newark, N. J.	National Workshop "Liberty and Justice for All," Evangelicals for Social Action & Committee on Race And Reconciliation
Oct. 9		SUCCOTH, FIRST DAY OF TABERNACLES
Oct. 10-13	Colorado Springs, Colo.	3rd National Conference, Diocesan Parish Council Personnel
Oct. 11		COLUMBUS DAY
Oct. 11-13	Richmond, Va.	Annual Meeting, Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention
Oct. 11-14	Indianapolis, Ind.	Annual Meeting, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions
Oct. 11-14	Philadelphia, Pa.	38th Annual Meeting, Canon Law Society of America
Oct. 13-15	New York, N.Y.	Workshop "the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer," Union Theological Seminary
Oct. 13-16	Washington, D.C.	Organizational Meeting, 1977-80 quadrennium, General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church
Oct. 15-24	Pontiac, Mich.	Billy Graham Crusade

Meetings of American Baptist State Conventions:

Oct. 22-24	Monterey, Calif.	Northern California/Nevada
Nov. 4-7	Honolulu	Southern California/Arizona
Oct. 28-30	Pueblo, Colo.	Colorado/Wyoming
Oct. 16	Stamford	Connecticut
Nov. 4-6	Twin Falls, Idaho	Idaho/Utah
Oct. 16-18	Peoria	Illinois
Oct. 4-5	Marion	Indiana
Sept. 24-26	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Iowa/Minnesota
Oct. 8-10	El Dorado	Kansas
Oct. 14-16	Fairfield	Maine
Oct. 14-16	Kalamazoo,	Michigan
Sept. 16-18	North Platte	Nebraska
Oct. 1-3	Trenton	New Jersey
Oct. 10-13	Olean	New York
Oct. 15-17	Stanley	North Dakota
Oct. 20-22	Columbus	Ohio
Oct. 22-24	Grants Pass	Oregon
Sept. 23-25	Watertown	South Dakota
Oct. 19-21	St. Albans	West Virginia
Oct. 8-10	Green Lake	Wisconsin
Oct. 21-24	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Oct. 17-20	Salem, Mass.	167th Annual Meeting, United Church Board for World Ministries, United Church of Christ
Oct. 18		FEASTDAY, ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST
Oct. 18-20	Marriotsville, Md.	Meeting, Commission on Women in Ministry, Professional Church Leadership, National Council of Churches
Oct. 18-22	New York, N.Y.	Workshop on Liberation Theology, Union Theological Seminary

Oct. 19-23	Richmond, Ind.	Friends United Meeting, Commission and General Board
Oct. 20-23	Valparaiso, Ind.	Conference "Changing American Life Styles" (Lutheran)
Oct. 21-23	Detroit, Mich.	A Call to Action, U.C. Catholic bishops bicentennial conference on liberty and justice
Oct. 21-24	Garden Grove, Calif.	National Positive Christian Singles Conference, Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership
Oct. 21-25	Elgin, Ill.	Meeting, General Board, Church of the Brethren
Oct. 22-24	Atlantic City, N.J.	Regional Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Oct. 22-30	Denver, Colo.	Annual Meeting, Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church
Oct. 24		UNITED NATIONS DAY
Oct. 24-27	Philadelphia, Pa.	Biennial Meeting, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, United Church of Christ
Oct. 25		VETERANS' DAY
Oct. 25-28	Dayton, Ohio	6th Conference, Continuing Education in Campus Ministry
Oct. 25-28	Riverdale, N.Y.	3rd Annual Meeting, National Franciscan Communications Conference
Oct. 26-27	Nashville, Tenn.	Organizational Meeting, 1977-80 quadrennium, General Board of Publication, United Methodist Church

Oct. 26-28	San Diego, Calif.	13th Annual Conference, National Catholic Stewardship Council
Oct. 26-28	Valley Forge, Pa.	35th Annual Convention, American Council of Christian Churches
Oct. 26-29	Dallas, Tex.	National Prayer Congress, Campus Crusade for Christ International
Oct. 27-30	Minneapolis, Minn.	Organizational Meeting, 1977-80 quadrennium, Judicial Council, United Methodist Church
Oct. 28-31	St. Louis, Mo.	Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
Oct. 29-30	Philadelphia, Pa.	U.S. Bicentennial Symposium "The Nature of a Humane Society," Lutheran Church in America (Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod)
Oct. 29-31	Augusta, Ga.	Regional Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Oct. 31		REFORMATION DAY
Oct. 31		HALLOWEEN
<u>NOVEMBER 1976</u>		
Nov. 1-5	London, Eng.	International Fundamental Baptist Congress
Nov. 3-6	Dayton, Ohio	Plenary Meeting, Consultation on Church Union (COCU)
Nov. 3-5	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	Regional Conference, Catholic Press Association
Nov. 7-14	Palacios, Tex.	Conference on Peace, World Alliance of YMCAs
Nov. 8-11	Washington, D.C.	Fall General Meeting, National Conference of Catholic Bishops/ U.S. Catholic Conference
Nov. 9-11	Minneapolis, Minn.	Meeting, Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship
Nov. 18	Bloomfield, N.J.	Annual Meeting, American Leprosy Missions, Inc.
Nov. 22-24	Chicago, Ill.	6th Annual Meeting, National Council on Religion and Public Education

introducing...



THE GENESIS PROJECT



AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

WHAT IS THE GENESIS PROJECT?

- a Concept Statement
- b Plan of the Work
- c Staff of Distinguished
International
Consultants

a Concept Statement



Concept Statement

The Genesis Project is an audio-visual encyclopedia of the Bible.

It is producing as its central work a monumental series of programs combining the most modern concepts of cinematography with the world's leading and most enlightened scholarship. The Project's intention is to produce a relevant, contemporary and lasting Master Work aspiring toward the highest standard of filmic art -- a work designed to be owned and viewed again and again.

The Project has been in the planning stages over the past four years and became operational in mid-1974.

The Need is Critical

Its viability is predicated on the critical need within religious institutions, as well as educational establishments, for a new and revitalizing examination and illumination of the Bible, making it possible for present generations to take a fresh look at this indispensable work.

Many churches are aware of, and admit to, the desperate nature of their need, which is urgent and growing. Few people are reading, and even fewer are listening, to the Word. No longer is an acquaintance with the contents of the Bible universally considered an indispensable item in the intellectual and cultural baggage of Everyman.

Jeffrey Hart, a professor at Dartmouth College and a widely syndicated newspaper columnist, recently reviewed a large batch of essays by top incoming freshmen on the subject of religious and scientific perspectives in Western culture. He writes:

"In any group of students, you expect to come across dazzling gaps in factual knowledge. What I find really appalling, however, is the virtually universal assumption -- blandly asserted, loosely taken for granted throughout -- that the Bible is a collection of primitive myths and that the claims of theology, never very convincing to begin with, have long since been exploded.

"These students have now been in school for 12 years or more. Not only would they be unable to refute the arguments for the existence of God, they could not even give you the arguments.

"On the important matter of the historical reliability of the Gospel narratives, they haven't the remotest clue, let alone any awareness of the issues raised...

"You begin to sense that much that has always been central to Western culture has simply disappeared. It has not been refuted. It is simply gone, not being communicated by schools, churches, surrounding general culture, or family."

With the help of artists, theologians, scholars, and scientists, the Genesis Project is an invitation to take another, closer look at the Bible.

Today's Medium is Visual

The medium of today -- not only among the disenchanting youth, but also among the overwhelming majority of adults -- is visual. Two entire generations of Western children have grown up and developed, through the video revolution, a reliance upon the audio-visual medium as their primary source of information. Public education, at first slow to replace printed with visual media, was chastened by McLuhan's startling observation that when a child of the television age enters a classroom, he is aware that his education is being interrupted. In recent years educators have responded to this criticism with an annual expenditure in the United States alone in excess of \$225,000,000 for audio-visual materials. Private and Parochial Schools spend another \$25,000,000, while church audio-visual spending is at the level of \$65,000,000.*

Acclaim by the Churches

A first-rate Biblical presentation in audio-visual form has not hitherto been available. And it is for this reason that the Genesis Project has been acclaimed by many churches as a major contribution to their educational needs.

* Figures extrapolated from the Hope A/V Reports, latest available edition.

The Project already has enjoyed the support and help of Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Lutheran, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Southern Baptist Convention, United Methodist, United Presbyterian, Jewish and other religious educators and leaders.

World's Foremost Scholars

The content of the Genesis Project programs will issue from an ongoing series of seminars involving the foremost scholars, theologians, and scientists of various disciplines from around the world, and it will be shaped and illuminated by artists of international repute.

A series of published works will emanate from this same source.

Over the next decade the major themes and narratives of both Old and New Testaments will have been developed in filmed form supported by a complete body of ancillary printed and multi-media materials. Their technical and artistic quality and scope will surpass anything which has ever been attempted in this field.



b Plan of the Work



Plan of the Work

The Genesis Project audio-visual Bible and commentary will be issued over the coming years in part form: three or four major subjects a year will be released, each dealing in depth with an important segment of scripture (e.g. Abraham, Sermon on the Mount, Revelation). The length of a complete subject will be determined by the Biblical content and while this will have considerable variation, the range will be between 60 and 90 minutes.

In order to facilitate the use of the work in classroom, seminar, study groups and other congregational situations, each program will be delivered on 15-minute reels. Their content will be confined to the dramatic material of the Bible. Each program will be offered with an accompanying package of audio-visual materials consisting of filmstrips, cassettes or records, and study guides to provide for a detailed examination of the Biblical material; it will feature background illustration as well as analysis by scholars, theologians, artists, scientists and other distinguished commentators.

The Genesis Project Bible is offered on a subscription basis only. Payments are accepted in annual increments and a subscription may be cancelled for any reason at the end of any releasing year. The price of a 15-minute, full color 16mm program with its accompanying A/V package will be \$190 and ten such programs will be released each year.

The programs will also be available on video and audio cassettes. In addition, there are long-term plans to use them for television and theatrical release and as the basis for published works.

On the basis of extensive consultations with educators across the country, it appears likely that many major denominations will want to develop their own study materials and curricula for use with the Genesis Project Bible. To facilitate the planning of such development programs we are pleased to announce the following tentative releasing schedule:

TENTATIVE RELEASING SCHEDULE

1976

SUBJECT I

The Seven Days of Creation
Adam and Eve
Cain and Abel
Noah and the Flood
The First Covenant
The Drunkenness of Noah
The Tower of Babel

SUBJECT II

Abraham and the Covenant

SUBJECT III

The Infancy Narratives
The Baptism
The Temptation of Jesus

1977

SUBJECT IV

The Sermon on the Mount

SUBJECT V

The Ministry of Jesus

SUBJECT VI

The Crucifixion and Resurrection

SUBJECT VII

Moses: Egyptian, Hebrew, Midianite

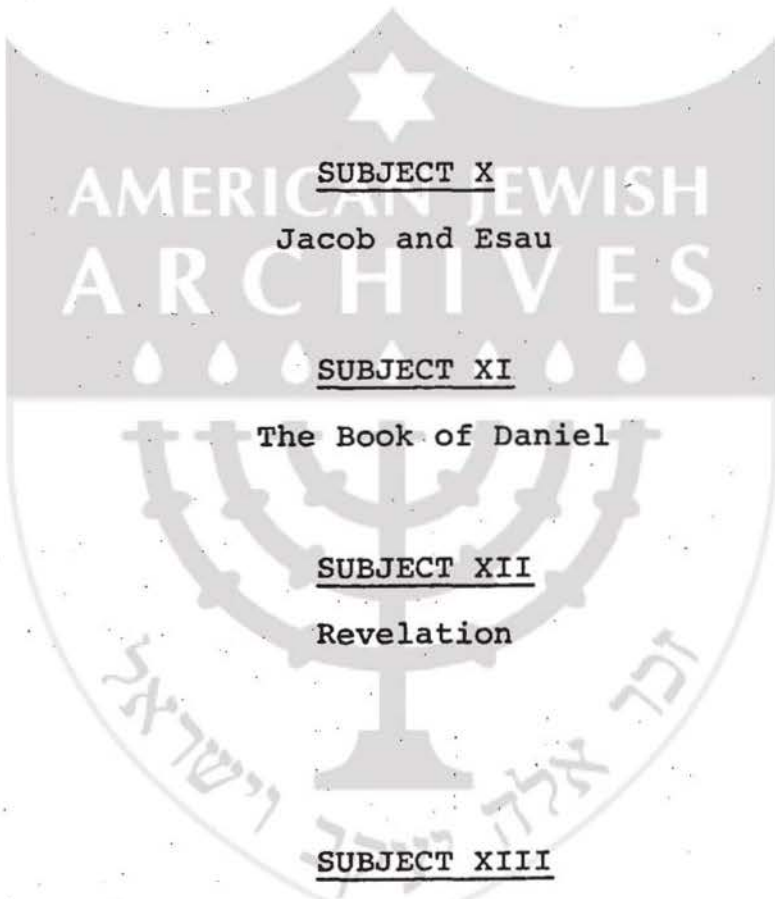
SUBJECT VIII

Moses: The Lawgiver

SUBJECT IX

Moses and the Wandering People

1979



SUBJECT X

Jacob and Esau

SUBJECT XI

The Book of Daniel

SUBJECT XII

Revelation

1980

SUBJECT XIII

Joseph and his Brothers

SUBJECT XIV

The Book of Ruth

SUBJECT XV

The Gospel According to St. John

1981

SUBJECT XVI

The Book of Joshua

SUBJECT XVII

The Book of Esther

SUBJECT XVIII

The Life of St. Peter

1982

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

SUBJECT XIX

The Book of Judges

SUBJECT XX

The Prophet Jeremiah

SUBJECT XXI

The Life of St. Paul

A special subscription program concentrating on the Old Testament is available to Jewish congregations.

c Staff of Distinguished
International
Consultants



A. AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED UNITED STATES SCHOLARS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF PROGRAMS ON A STAFF CONSULTANT BASIS ARE:

1. Dr. Elizabeth Achtemeier
Visiting Professor of Homiletics, Union Theological Seminary. Specialties include: Old Testament Theology, Hermeneutics and Homiletics. Dr. Achtemeier has recently authored "Old Testament and the Proclamation of the Gospel".
2. Dr. James Alexander
Assistant General Secretary, Education Division, United Methodist Church, concentrating on communications processes and learning resources.
3. Dr. Gleason L. Archer
Chairman, Old Testament Division, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Dr. Archer has written numerous books and regularly contributes articles to Evangelical Beacon, Christianity Today and Westminster Journal.
4. Professor Edward F. Campbell
Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament and Member, Board of Directors, McCormick Seminary, Chicago. Professor Campbell is also on the Board of Trustees of American Schools of Oriental Research. He has written the translation and commentary on the Book of Ruth, Anchor Bible.
5. Fr. John Craghan
Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary, Esopus, New York. Fr. Craghan is also an Associate Editor of "The Biblical Theology Bulletin", published in Rome, and a frequent contributor to "Catholic Biblical Quarterly" and "American Ecclesiastical Review".
6. Dr. Frank Cross
Hancock Professor of Hebrew and other Oriental Languages, Harvard University; President, American Schools of Oriental Research; President, Society of Biblical Literature. Dr. Cross' most recent book is "Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic."

7. Dr. W.D. Davies
Professor of Biblical Studies, Duke University. Dr. Davies has authored many books and was awarded the Burkitt Medal of the British Academy for distinguished contributions to biblical studies.

8. Fr. Alexander DiLella, O.F.M.
Associate Professor, Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. Father DiLella specializes in Hebrew and Syriac Literature and the Old Testament, and is President-Elect (1976) of the Catholic Biblical Association.

9. Dr. Morris Ettenberg
Professor of Electrical Engineering, City College of New York; scientist and Talmudic scholar.

10. Dr. David Noel Freedman
Chairman, Program of Religion, University of Michigan; General Editor of the Anchor Bible; Vice President of American Schools of Oriental Research; President-Elect, Society of Biblical Literature and formerly Editor, Journal of Biblical Literature.

11. Dr. H.L. Ginsberg
Sabato Morais Professor of Biblical History and Literature, Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Editor-in-Chief of the new translation of Prophets (Jewish Publication Society of America). Dr. Ginsberg was the editor for Bible of the Encyclopedia Judaica (1971) to which he contributed important articles.

12. Dr. Robert Gordis
Meyer and Fannie Rapaport Professor in the Philosophies of Judaism and Professor of Bible, Jewish Theological Seminary; formerly taught at Temple and Columbia Universities, Union Theological Seminary, and in 1970 was Visiting Professor of Bible at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

13. Dr. Judith Hauptmann
Dr. Hauptmann instructs Talmud at the Teacher's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

14. Rev. Edward Hueneman
Director of Theological Studies, Mission in Education, United Presbyterian Church.

15. Professor George W. MacRae
Stillman Professor of Roman Catholic Studies, Harvard Divinity School, specializing in New Testament Studies and History of Early Christianity; Executive Secretary, Society of Biblical Literature; Member, Editorial Board of Hermeneia, a series of Bible commentaries published by Fortress Press.
16. Professor Paul Minear
Winksley Professor Emeritus of Biblical Theory, Yale Divinity School and currently Visiting Professor at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., specializing in the New Testament. Professor Minear has published 10 books and in 1974 was awarded an Honorary Degree from Aberdeen University, Scotland.
17. Reverend Dale Moody
Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; formerly, Professor of Protestant Theology, Gregorian University, Rome and Research Professor, Institute for Advanced Theological Study, Jerusalem. Rev. Moody has traveled and lectured in 36 countries.
18. Dr. Harry Orlinsky
Professor of Bible, New York School of Hebrew Union College and Editor-in-Chief of the New Translation of the Torah for the Jewish Publications Society. Dr. Orlinsky is co-translator of the famed 5-volume English edition of Rashi's commentary on the Pentateuch.
19. Mortimer Ostow, M.D.
Visiting Professor of Pastoral Psychiatry, Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Ostow has published three books on the subjects of psychology and psycho-analysis.
20. Professor Jaroslav Pelikan
Sterling Professor of History and Religious Studies and Chairman, Medieval Studies Department, Yale University. Professor Pelikan has published 15 books and has served as the Department Editor for Religion at the Encyclopedia Britannica.

21. Dr. Nahum M. Sarna
Golding Professor of Biblical Studies and Chairman of the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University. Dr. Sarna published "Understanding Genesis"; served as Editor and translator for the Jewish Publications Society's Bible Translation Committee and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Biblical Literature.
22. Dr. James Sanders
Auburn Professor of Biblical Studies, Union Theological Seminary and Adjunct Professor of Religion, Columbia University. Professor Sanders has taught at Colgate Rochester Divinity School; American Schools of Oriental Research, Jerusalem; Princeton Theological Seminary, and has written numerous books and articles.
23. Dr. Samuel Sandmel
Professor of Bible and Hellenistic Literature, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati. Dr. Sandmel is a specialist in New Testament and has authored numerous books.
24. Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum
National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee. A leading figure among Jewish ecumenicists, Rabbi Tannenbaum has served as Visiting Professor at the Graduate Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland and was founder and co-secretary, Joint Vatican-International Jewish Consultative Committee. He was the only Rabbi invited to Vatican Council II.

B. AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED EUROPEAN SCHOLARS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF PROGRAMS ON A STAFF CONSULTANT BASIS ARE:

25. Professor James Barr, M.A., B.D., D.D.
Professor of Semitic Languages & Literature, Manchester University, England. Professor Barr was formerly on the faculties of Princeton Theological Seminary, U.S.A.; Edinburgh University, Scotland; and Presbyterian College, Montreal. He is also the Grinfield Lecturer on the Septuagint at Oxford University and has published five books on both Old and New Testament subjects.
26. Professor Cyril Domb
Professor of Theoretical Physics at King's College, London University. Professor Domb has previously held faculty appointments at Oxford and Cambridge Universities; served as a Visiting Professor at University of Maryland and Yeshiva University, U.S.A.; Hebrew University, Bar-Ilan University and Weizmann Institute in Israel. His main scientific interest is in statistical mechanics. Professor Domb is President of the British Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists.
27. Dr. George Frankel
Dr. Frankel is a practicing psychotherapist and a frequent lecturer on psychoanalysis and philosophy, both of which he studied originally in Vienna and later in Canada. He has recently written a book entitled, "The Failure of the Sexual Revolution" and is currently working on his second book, "The Psychoanalysis of Society".
28. Rabbi Louis Jacobs
Rabbi of New London Synagogue; Lecturer in Talmud and Chairman Academic Committee at Leo Baeck College, London. Rabbi Jacobs has published: "Principles of the Jewish Faith"; "Studies in Talmudic Logic"; and "A Jewish Theology".
29. Dame Kathleen Kenyon
(Retired) Principal of St. Hugh's College, Oxford; Director of Excavations at Jericho 1952-58; at Jerusalem 1961-67. Dame Kenyon has authored numerous books on Archaeology, including "Digging Up Jericho"; "Archaeology in the Holy Land"; "Jerusalem: Excavating 3000 Years of History"; "Royal Cities of the Old Testament"; and "Palestine in the Time of the 18th Dynasty".

30. Hyam Maccoby
Lecturer and Librarian, Leo Baeck College, London.
Mr. Maccoby's specialty is Rabbinics and Jewish History.
He has recently authored "Revolution in Judaea" and is
now working on a new book entitled, "Jewish/Christian
Medieval Disputations".
31. Elaine Morgan, D.Lit.
Ms. Morgan was educated at Oxford University and is a
free-lance television writer. In 1972 she published
"Descent of Woman" in America, a book which has since
been translated into nine languages. Ms. Morgan's field
of expertise: Evolution.
32. Professor Wilfred George Lambert
Professor of Assyriology, Birmingham University, England.
Professor Lambert was formerly Chairman of the Oriental
Seminary at Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A. and a
lecturer in Hebrew and Akkadian at University College,
University of Toronto. He has published "Babylonian
Wisdom Literature" and "Atra-hasis, The Babylonian Story
of the Flood", along with numerous articles and monographs.
Professor Lambert is a Fellow of the British Academy.
33. Rev. Robert Murray, S.J.
Fr. Murray teaches at Heythrop College, London and
the University of London. His specialties are Theology
of the Church (R.C.) and Early Church and Jewish
Christianity. Fr. Murray has just published "Symbols of
Church & Kingdom: A Study in Early Syriac Tradition".
34. Dr. Charles Anthony Storr
Dr. Storr is a Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatry and Consultant
Psychotherapist at the University of Oxford, England. He
has published numerous books, including "The Integrity of
the Personality"; "Sexual Deviation"; "Human Aggression";
"The Dynamics of Creation"; and "Jung".

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

DOMESTIC SERVICE

-11- THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

Dr. James Alexander, assistant general secretary, Education Division, United Methodist Church; Dr. Gleason L. Archer, chairman, Old Testament Division, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Prof. James Barr, professor of Semitic Languages and Literature, Manchester University; Dr. W.D. Davies of Duke University, president, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas:

Father Alexander DiLella, of Catholic University, president, Catholic Biblical Association; Dr. H. Leo Eddleman, professor of Old Testament and Semitic languages, Criswell Bible Institute, First Baptist Church, Dallas; Dr. David Noel Freedman of the University of Michigan, president, Society of Biblical Literature; Dame Kathleen Kenyon, director of excavations at Jericho (1952-8) and Jerusalem (1961-7);

AMERICAN JEWISH

Also, the Rev. Dale Moody of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Father Alfred McBride of the National Catholic Education Association; Dr. Albert C. Outler of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; Dr. Edward A. Powers, executive secretary, Division of Evangelism, Church Extension and Education, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, United Church of Christ; and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director, American Jewish Committee.

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UNITED PRESBYTERIANS ENDORSE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT GRANT

By Religious News Service (1-29-76)

SAN DIEGO (RNS) -- The United Presbyterian National Committee on the Self-Development of People has approved a \$30,000 grant to the Christian Action for Development in the Caribbean (CADEC).

The grant will be used to support development work in Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, and other islands in the Caribbean region.

In other business, the United Presbyterian committee at its meeting here elected as the new chairman, the Rev. William Ng of Union City, Calif., director of Manzanita, a residential program for the emotionally ill. He succeeds the Rev. Aaron E. Gast as chairman.

The Rev. St. Paul Epps, executive director of the committee, said \$4,969,249 had been received by late January for the 1975 One Great Hour of Sharing receipts, with additional funds yet to be tabulated. He said the Self-Development Fund's share of the receipts is a record \$2,386,639.

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A Movie Translation of Entire Bible Begun To Transmit Faith to Today's Nonreaders

By ELEANOR BLAU

Topol, the Israeli actor who played Teyve in the film version of "Fiddler on the Roof," and John Heyman, a British film producer, sat in an office on West 58th Street and talked about their "total obsession."

They are making what they call a film translation of the Bible. Not a Cecil B. deMille kind of spectacular, they stress. And not a low-budget Bible series, such as any number that have been produced for Sunday schools.

It is designed to be a high-quality series of film segments for religious schools and libraries, an attempt to present virtually every bit of the Old Testament and New Testament, without interpretation. It is to be based on meticulous research and consultation with Bible scholars of many denominations, archeologists and other experts, the producers said.

The aim is to transmit the faith and ideas of the Bible in an age of television in which people "don't read anymore," Mr. Heyman explained.

Decades of Filming Due

The New Media Bible, as it is called, may be completed in 33 years, although that is considered an optimistic estimate.

"We'll be dead long before it's finished," said Mr. Heyman emphatically, prompting a wistful glance from the genteel-mannered Topol.

"We may live, John," Topol demonstrated. He plays Abraham in the series, but when asked to see how the series will be made, he said, "I know the locations," he explained and is about to shoot the Abraham scenes. Wearing a tan turtleneck and looking nothing like either Teyve or anybody's idea of Abraham,

those interviewed said they were impressed with its serious intent and with what they had seen of its first efforts. For example, Prof. Albert C. Outler, theologian at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said scripts he had read, involving Abraham and the infancy of Jesus, were "very high class, yet very delicate and reverent," avoiding "the usual sort of popularization, yet it is not a scholar's film."

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, said the series seemed to be a "new departure" that could "create a revolution in religious education—they've done their homework."

The general idea for the project came independently, it seems, to Topol, who told it to his friend Mr. Heyman five years ago, and to Michael Manuel, former general manager of the Metropolitan Opera's touring company. Mr. Manuel got the notion in 1969 after buying a Bible by mistake at an airport (it was billed as a best seller) and reading it all the way from London to New York.

They all got together in 1974 and formed the Genesis Project, a profit-making company that is producing the films and other materials and that expects investments from bankers and other nonreligious sources. They will have spent nearly \$5 million when they complete the first package, spokesmen said.

Biblical Age a Problem

Topol has been producing the first films in Israel. ("I know the locations," he explained) and is about to shoot the Abraham scenes. Wearing a tan turtleneck and looking nothing like either Teyve or anybody's idea of Abraham,



Scenes from "New Media Bible," as depicted on story boards from which the film directors work. Left: Cain hiding from the sight of God after slaying his brother, Abel. Above: Adam and Eve after being expelled from the Garden of Eden. Right: Noah and his wife in a scene by Dino Katopoulis, an artist for project.



the beardless 40-year-old actor described some of the filming problems he faced, as he and Mr. Heyman sat in a Genesis office whose walls were filled with sketches of Eden and the Creation.

Among the challenging problems in portraying Abraham are his age. He is 78 when the account begins, 100 when his son Isaac is

born, and one has to decide ready how does the man walk or act," Topol said.

"Today we think of someone 100 as someone who doesn't move anymore."

In the part in which the Pharaoh takes away Sarah and then God punishes him and his people by making them almost blind.

"People are moving very slowly, and you know something is wrong. We did this

instead of giving people terrible makeup to look diseased."

Whatever the difficulties, Topol is pleased to be portraying Abraham. "He is the most important character for me in the Bible because he's the one who really divided himself from paganism, turning to the one God," he said.

An important thing is that we are doing it really

in the environment where it happened," Topol said, adding: "Do you know, in Sodom the hills are white and craggy, very vicious, but in the Judean desert they are very round, almost feminine. When Ishmael is dying because he had no water, when you see the area, you will know that to survive, he really needs a miracle."

Members of Genesis say

their homework has been fascinating. For instance, Mr. Manuel disclosed in a separate interview that, according to a painting in an Egyptian tomb, Semites in the Patriarchal Period "didn't look a bit like Bedouin Arabs." He seemed pleased.

Mr. Heyman was exhilarated. "It's a terrific job," he said. "You learn something every day."

ina. old like. at of it tu. Actually the —ranging the 20 minutes each produced now an ready by Septem. cover the beginnings. Old and New Testaments the next 26 chapters of Genesis and the first two of Luke. They will be offered for \$2,000 in a package that also will include supportive material—filmstrips, audio cassettes, teaching and study guides, to suit the needs of a particular church or synagogue.

For example, a church that taught a literal interpretation of the Bible would not want material suggesting "parts of the Scriptures that considered literal may be seen as merely symbolic, or pointing out discrepancies between the Bible and modern science.

Simple Dramatizations

The films will be simple dramatizations with some narration, most of it from the King James version of the Bible. The voice of God, the producers hope, will be read by Gregory Peck.

There are obvious limits to the goal of being literal. "We're not going to tell anyone what the Garden of Eden really looked like, so we have an abstract Rousseau-like garden," explained Topol, who does not use his first name, Chaim, professionally.

The list of who begat whom and Leviticus are omitted, and Noah's story is animated ("I mean, how do you start a flood, right?" asked Mr. Heyman). Adam and Eve are nude, but modesty is preserved through strategic shadows, which were difficult to get just right.

Dozens of scholars and experts have participated in seminars with the group, and



THE GENESIS PROJECT

June 17, 1977

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York, NY 10022

My dear Marc:

Thank you for sending me the various items through the mail, and thank you also for coming over for yesterday's meeting.

I shall look forward to hearing from you the extent to which you believe you could be helpful in the raising of monies under the new offering The Genesis Project is making some time in the next two weeks, and I will be happy to pay you commissions in this respect and in respect of any units that you are able to sell. With regard to the magazine and other matters we discussed, I will be in a position to negotiate these when I know more clearly in which direction they are going.

Kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,



John Hayman



THE GENESIS PROJECT

November 15, 1976

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director of Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

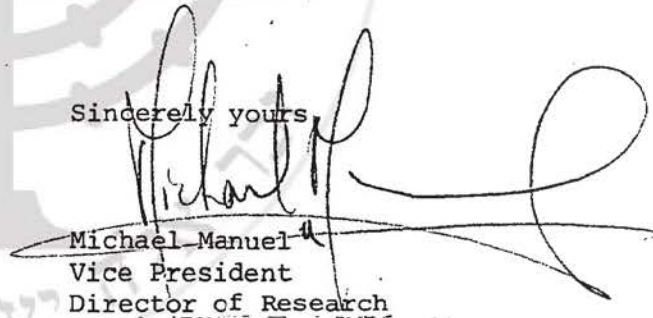
As you know, your consulting agreement with us terminated in September.

We would like to continue the association, but transfer it to a different form. That is, from a monthly retainer to an ad hoc basis. I think we would both prefer a compensatory arrangement that relates to actual, rather than assumed, consultation. To this end, if it is agreeable with you, we would suggest consultation with you, at your convenience, at the rate of \$100.00 per day (\$50.00 per half a day).

Would you be kind enough to let me know whether this arrangement meets with your approval, and that we may continue to call on you for counsel.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



Michael Manuel
Vice President
Director of Research

MM/bt

cc: John Heyman; Terry Fielding; Gabe Rios



THE GENESIS PROJECT

May 5, 1977

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, Director
Interreligious Affairs
American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 E. 56 St.
New York, New York 10022

Hello Marc:

I enjoyed our meeting yesterday. Let's firm up some of what we decided:

- 1.) You will incorporate a New Media Bible presentation into the May 11 Annual Meeting fo the A.J.C. Enclosed are two 16mm. KJV films Abraham, Part IV, The Binding of Isaac, and St. Luke-Chapter II, The Nativity. Also enclosed are filmstrips and cassettes for the Luke film. Also enclosed are 60 copies of the Abraham IV magazine. (When you order the DuKane filmstrip machine, make certain it can work with sound cassettes!)
- 2.) Our four target Church Leadership Program sites are:
 - a.) Boston
 - b.) Atlanta
 - c.) Detroit
 - d.) Dallas.We agreed that Boston is our first site. You will approach Dr. Krister Stendahl to enlist his help in securing 1.) Harvard Divinity School as the program's facility, 2.) himself as the "Shriver" representative and 3.) an expansive guest list which will receive an invitation by Stendahl. Target date, pending a holiday check, is September-October.

Marc, I will be more than happy to accompany you on your visit to Dr. Stendahl, and I understand that you will call him next week to get the ball rolling. My schedule is rough, and I would appreciate it if you could check with me before you confirm a visit date.

We have much more to discuss about Genesis in general. Perhaps we can make time in the near future to really get into it all.

-Continued-

Here, by the way, are three key sales made in Massachusetts:

- 1.) Mr. Thomas Phillips, President
Raytheon Company
141 Spring Street
Lexington, Mass. 02173
- 2.) Church of St. Ann
243 Neponset Avenue
Dorchester, Mass.
(Pastor P. J. Mahan)
- 3.) St. Bernadette Church
266 Main Street
Northboro, Mass. 01532
(Rev. Arthur DiPucchio)

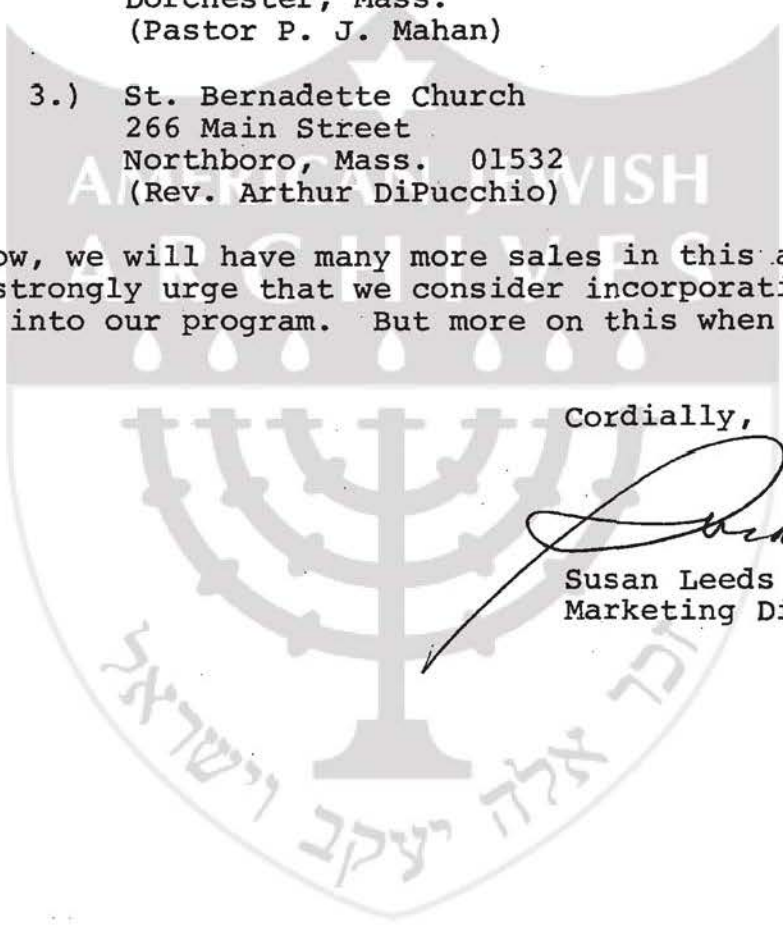
As you know, we will have many more sales in this area by the fall. I strongly urge that we consider incorporating a "happy customer" into our program. But more on this when we get together.

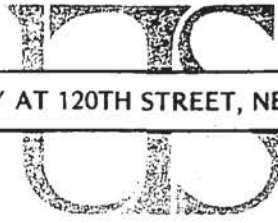
Cordially,



Susan Leeds
Marketing Director

SL/pw





President's Room

Dear Friend:

Many of us who are involved in education and in religious life have been concerned about what Robert Heilbroner has rightly called "the malaise of civilization" -- the decline of personal confidence and trust in the wake of Watergate, Vietnam; the growth of public immorality in almost every level of American life; the allure of cults, frequently destructive of personal liberty, to our young people.

We are also conscious of the fact that the mass media, especially television and films, have become in Daniel Boorstein's words, "the major culture-producing and value-establishing forces" in our society. The fact that nearly 65 million people watched the remarkable TV documentary, Roots, each night for an entire week dramatically illustrates this point.

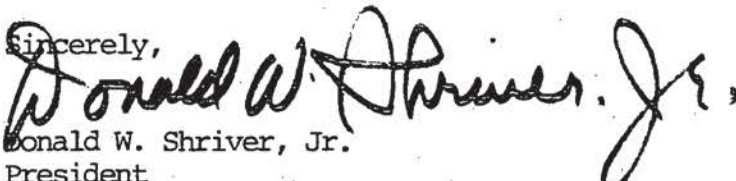
I've had the good fortune to view in recent days a new instrument for communicating moral and ethical values based on the Biblical traditions employing the genius of artistic film-making, and I would like to share that experience with you.

To that end, I should like to invite you to join me at a viewing of The New Media Bible, produced by the Genesis Project. It is in my judgment an educational package that combines the best of Biblical scholarship and consummate film-making to excite interest in the Biblical message and its values for contemporary society.

The preview of the film from Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament will be held on Thursday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. here at the Audio-Visual Center of Union Theological Seminary. Following the films, I would like to engage with the invited group of education and religious leaders in a dialogue as to how we might organize more effectively to help strengthen moral education and to combat religious illiteracy in our communities.

Please indicate on the enclosed card whether you will be able to join me in this potentially interesting and useful dialogue experience.

Sincerely,


Donald W. Shriver, Jr.
President



THE GENESIS PROJECT

March 16, 1977

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director of Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

I could not have been more pleased with our productive session yesterday at Genesis' offices. Your insights into our needs and goals complement the enormous interreligious leadership network you have spent your life developing. And it is just that combination which will help ensure a successful representation of The New Media Bible to key leadership across the country.

As we agreed, Marc, I await a six to nine month "plan of action" which replicates the Union Theological Seminary conference. I hope you will include strategic sites for each session, appropriate host/speakers (a` la Shriver) and, of course, suggested guest lists of both leadership and key press. Also we need to give hard thought to filling the role you so skillfully played at Union.

Once you have helped us establish a pattern, I will do the legwork and coordination.

Again, Marc, thanks for your advice, and I look forward to receiving your plan on March 30.

Best,



Susan Leeds
Marketing Director

SL/bt

cc: John Heyman



THE GENESIS PROJECT

November 30, 1976

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director of Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

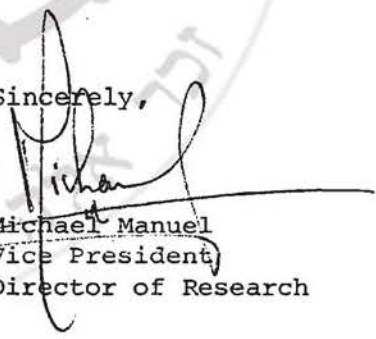
The letter I had sent to you regarding your arrangement with the project obviously does not reflect the undertaking you are embarked on resulting from our meeting with Dean and Topol.

After consulting with John, we would like to establish a monthly ad hoc arrangement of \$1,000.00, reviewable each month for the following month. This provides us with the right to terminate should the results of your efforts be less than we anticipate or fall short of what we had agreed would be achieved.

To this end, a check for the month of December will be forwarded to you immediately.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,



Michael Manuel
Vice President
Director of Research

MM/bt



THE GENESIS PROJECT

February 9, 1977

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

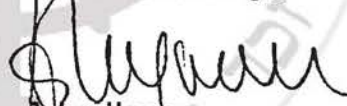
Dear Marc:

This shall confirm our agreement as of this date that we shall pay you the sum of \$2,500 in settlement of all services you have rendered us through January 31, 1977, and further, that you shall receive the sum of \$1,000 per month commencing the 1st of February 1977 until such date as is mutually agreed between us.

By this agreement, you agree to hold us, our representatives, successors and assigns harmless from any and all further claims in respect of services rendered by you to us.

Kind regards.

Yours Sincerely,



John Heyman
for and on behalf of
The Genesis Project Inc.



Agreed and Accepted:



Marc H. Tanenbaum
Marc H. Tanenbaum

Jan. 28, 1977

Dear Donald,

I enjoyed our recent meeting very much.

Enclosed please find a rough draft of a letter of invitation to the Feb. 27 viewing of the Genesis films at UTS.

Please feel free to modify it as you see fit. After you have edited it, kindly call me at PL-1-4000. We will be glad to arrange for the sending of the letters.

The list of the potential invitees will be ready by next Tuesday, and I will send that to you by messenger.

My best wishes to you and Peggy.

Cordially,



Jan. 28, 1977

Mr. Michael Manuel
The Genesis Project
145 West 58 St.
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Michael,

Enclosed please find two items. The letter was South Africa appears to be a potential sale. Unaccountably delayed, it should be attended to soonest.

Please share the enclosed letter for Donald Shriver, president of Union Theological Seminary, with John and Dean. I would like all of your reactions by next Tuesday, if possible.

I have never acknowledged your letter of Nov. 30 regarding my fee arrangement. The \$1,000 per month is acceptable, provided I am sent it. There was no check for January; as I look now at my records, there was no payment either for October nor Nov. 1976. I was consulted by Dean, John, and Topol during that time and did arrange several meetings for Dean.

Yesterday, I spoke in Chicago on the Catholic TV system. They are most interested in purchasing the series, acc. to Rev. Moriarty.

Best regards!

April 21, 1977

TO: John Heyman, Susan Leeds

FROM: Marc H. Tanenbaum

RE: PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE NEW MEDIA BIBLE TO RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATION LEADERS ON A REGIONAL BASIS

Based on the model of the "dialogue seminar" we organized at Union Theological Seminary with Dr. Donald Shriver, I propose in this memo that we consider organizing similar presentations in each of the major regions of the United States. In each of these regions there is a "key" person or persons who would be asked to extend the invitations as did Dr. Shriver. I will collaborate with you in asking such key people to play the Shriver role as host. I am also prepared to take part personally in as many of these dialogues as I can. This will require that we work out a carefully-prepared time schedule.

I - NORTHEAST - Site: Boston, Mass.

MT
Sept. Oct.
(A) Harvard Divinity School - Dr. Krister Stendahl, Dean; Dr. Harvey Cox, Dr. Frank Cross, and others

Boston College - Ref. Richard McBrien (Chestnut Hill)
St. Joseph's Seminary (Catholic)
Boston University (Dr. Robert Nelson)
Emanuel College (Sr. Claudia Blanchette, Sr. Marie Augusta Neal)
Andover-Newton Theological Seminary (Dr. Max Stackhouse)
Brandeis University (Dr. Bernard Reisman, Dr. Leonard Fein)
Radcliffe College
Wellesley College (M. Lucetta Mowry)
Gordon College (Evangelical; Dr. Marvin Wilson)
Barrington College (Evangelical)
La Salette Center for Christian Living, Attleboro, Mass.
Packard Manse Conference Center, Stoughton, Mass.
Assumption College, Worcester, Mass.
Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass.
Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary, Worcester, Mass.
Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee, Boston

CARDINAL MEDEIROS (MT contact)
Bishop Iakovos (Greek Orthodox)

*Mass Council of Churches Radio-TV
JCRC - Phil Bertin*

CONNECTICUT

New Haven:

Yale Divinity School (Dr. Colin Williams, Dean; Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, dean, Yale Graduate School; Dr. Judah Goldin)

Hartford:

ARCHBISHOP WHEALON (MT contact)
Hartford Theological Foundation
St. Joseph College (Rev. John Stack)
Univ. of Conn.
Conn. Council of Churches

Fairfield, Conn.

Fairfield University (Catholic) - Dr. Martin Lang, Director
Graduate Religious Education

Bridgeport:

Sacred Heart University (Dr. Thomas Melady, President) MT contact
Bishop Curtis

RHODE ISLAND

Providence:

ARCHBISHOP GELINEAU (MT contact)

Providence College (Thomas Aquinas Collins, Religious Studies Dept)
REV. EDWARD FLANNERY (Director, Priestly Education) MT

Newport

Salve Regina College

New Hampshire

Rivier College, Nashua

Univ of New Hampshire

Vermont

Trinity College, Burlington (Dr. Miriam Ward)

3

II - SOUTHEAST - Site: Atlanta, Georgia

Pd-6
Evangelical - NR

Southern Baptist Convention (Dr. Glen Igleheart) MT contact

Archbishop Thomas Donellan (MT)

United Presbyterian Church (Rev. J. Gallagher)

Morehouse College (Dr. Benjamin Mays)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. (MT contact)

Ambassador Andrew Young (MT)

Interdenominational Seminary Cluster

Jewish Community Relations Council

Peachtree St. Reform Temple (Dr. Alvin Sugarman)

AJC regional office (Bill Gralnick)

-invite Savannah, Macon, other Georgia communities

-see MT "Atlanta, Georgia" file for key names of pastors

Southern Methodist

FLORIDA

Miami - Thurs-

Bishop McCarty

Barry College

Biscayne Bay College

University of Miami

Conference of Christians and Jews

AJC office (Brenda Shapiro, Si Brief, Director)

Sarasota:

New College

Palm Beach

Baptist College

-See MT file on Florida

III - MIDDLE ATLANTIC 6666 Site: Washington, D. C.

Washington Theological Coalition (Rev. Shaun McCarty)
Metropolitan Ecumenical Training Center (Rev. John Steinbrink)
CARDINAL WILLIAM BAUM (ME contact)
Catholic University (Rev. Coleman Barry; Rev. Joseph Fitzmeyer;
Rev. Avery Dulles)
Georgetown University (Rev. Thomas Healey, Pres.; Dr. Monika
Hellwig) 14th INSTITUTE ON SCRIPTURES
Trinity College June 20-24, '77
Howard College (Dr. S. Grand, Dr. Rosemary Reuther)
Washington Hebrew Congregation (Dr. Joshua Haberman)
Cong. B'nai Israel (Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz)
TIME CONSULTANTS (conference planners, POB 652, Severna Park, Md.)
-organizers of major religious ed conferences 21146)

NEW JERSEY:

Immaculate Conception Seminary (Rev. Thomas O'Leary, Mahwah, N.J.)
Seton Hall University, East Orange, N.J. (Sister Rose Thering)
N. J. Council of Churches (Rev. Paul Stagg)
Archbishop Peter Gerety, Newark
N. J. Board of Rabbis
N. J. Community Relations Council (Mike Fine)
AJC office (Arthur Rikind)

New York:

St. Johns University, Jamaica, N. Y. (Rev. Paul McKeever,
Rev. Richard Kugelman)
Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, N. Y.
Maryknoll Seminary Center for Missions, Ossining, N. Y.
(Dr. Paul Sharper)
Christ the King Seminary (East Monroe, N.Y., Rev. David Sweeney,
Academic Dean)
New York University, Dept of Religious Ed, Prof. Norma Thompson
Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y. (Dr. Gabriel Moran)
Catholic College of Immaculate Conception, Douglaston, N.Y.
College of St. Rose, Albany, N. Y. (N.Y. State Legislature)
Fordham University (Rev. Jeff Donnelly)

MARYLAND

Baltimore:

Archbishop William Borders (ME contact)
Cardinal Lawrence Shehan (ME)
St. Mary's Seminary (Rev. John Cronin)
College of Notre Dame (Women's college)
Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee (Rev. J. Flanagan)
Baltimore Hebrew College
Cong. Chizuk Emunah (Rabbi Maurice Corson, Conservative)
Cong. Beth El (Rabbi Jacob Agus, Cons.)
Baltimore Hebrew Cong. (Reform); Har Sinai (Reform)
AJC office (Lois Rosenfeld)

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia:

CARDINAL JOHN KROL (Mt. contact)
Phila. Council of Churches (Dr. Rufus Cornelson) MT
St. Joseph's College (Rev. Terence Toland, Pres.; Rev. Donald Clifford, director Catholic-Jewish institute) MT
Westminster Theological Seminary (Presbyterian)
United Presbyterian Church (Witherspoon Bldg., Rev. Frank Heinz)
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Dr. Carl Henry)
Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary (Dr. John Reumann)
Rosemont College (women's college)
University of Penn. (Dr. James B. Pritchard)
Philadelphia Board of Rabbis (Rabbi Morris Dembowitz)
AJC office (Dr. Murray Friedman)
In area: Muehlenburg College
Haverford College

VIRGINIA

Richmond:

Virginia Theological Seminary (Baptist)

North Carolina

Greensboro: Rev. James Mullen, First Presbyterian Church
Wake Forest College: Dr. Elmo Scoggins, Dr. Luther Copland

IV - MIDWEST - Site: CHICAGO:

Chicago Interreligious Research Institute (Rev. John Pawlikowski
Dr. Martin Marty, Dr. Andre LeCoque, Dr. Gerry Brauer)
CARDINAL CODY (MT contact)
Bishop William McManus
Catholic Theological Union (Pawlikowski)
Univ. of Chicago Divinity School
Mundelein College (Sister Ida) - Film series
McCormack Theological Seminary (Dr. Marcus Priester)
Wheaton College (Billy Graham Center) Dr. Carl Amerding
Loyola College
St. Xavier College (Rev. Robert Perry)
Center for Pastoral Ministry (Rev. Wayne Prist)
Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois
Lewis University, Lockport, Ill., MID-AMERICA YOUTH MINISTRY
CONFERENCE? June 14-16, '77
Barat College, Lake Forest, Ill., Sr. Virginia Hennehy
Cardinal Stritch College
AJC office: Eugene Dubow; Ethnic groups: David Roth

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN:

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM COSSINS (MT contact)
Marquette University (Rev. John Shehan, Dr. William Tracy)
Interfaith Association (Rev. Petuchik)
AJC office: Ms. Sylvia Weber
Rabbinic Association (Rabbi Manfred Swarensky)

DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

C
NW
CARDINAL JOHN DEARDEN (MT contact)
Rev. Alex Brunett, Chairman, Ecumenical Commission
University of Detroit (Rev. Theodore Walters, dean graduate sch.)
Marygrove College (Mother Margaret Brennan)
Dominican Educational Center, Sinsinawa, Wisc. (Sr. Mary
Louis Russley) Bible and Discovery
AJC Detroit office: Sanford Sandweiss, Ruth Kroll
Grand Rapids: Aquinas Institute of Religious Studies

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL; MINNESOTA

ARCHBISHOP J. ROACH (MT contact)
St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. (Rev. Michael
Blecker, pres., Rabbi Nahum Schulman)
United Theological Seminary (Lutheran), Dr. Dayton Hultgren, pres.
College of St. Thomas, St. Paul (Gene Scarpanski, director
Center of Religious Education)
St. Benedict's College (women's college)
St. Cloud State Univ.
Dr. Walter Wietzke, Director, American Lutheran Church
Duluth: Division, Theological Ed & Ministry
College of St. Scholastica
College of St. Catherine, St. Paul (Sr. Joyce Manning)

INDIANA

REV. THEODORE HESBURGH (MT)
University of Notre Dame (Rev. Lionel L. Mitchell, Dept of
Theology)
St. Meinrad School of Theology (Rev. Matthias Neumann)
St. Mary of the Woods College
Marian College
Disciples of Christ headquarters
Indiana University, Bloomington, Dr. William May, Religion
Studies, Prof. Henry Fischel

OHIO

Dayton:
Bergamo Conference Center (Mrs. Mary Lou Dwyer)
United Theological Seminary (Methodist) see MT files
Univ. of Dayton, Dept of Religious Studies (Dr. John Geiger
Office of Educational Services)

Cincinnati:

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH BERNARDIN (MT contact)
Mt. St. Joseph College (Msgr. Angelo della Pica)

Cleveland:

John Carroll University, Dept of Religious Studies
St. Joseph Christian Life Center

NEBRASKA:

Creighton Univ., Omaha, Dept of Theology, Dr. Michael Lawler
School Sisters of St. Francis

IOWA

Dubuque:

Aquinas Institute of Theology
Loras College
Univ of Iowa
SEN. DICK CLARK

Des Moines:

St. Ambrose

COLORADO

Aspen Leadership Development Conf for Educational and Religious Leadership, Boulder, Colorado

Denver:

Interfaith Assoc - RC, Protestant, Evangelical, Greek Orthodox, Jews

MISSOURI:

St. Louis University (Rev. Paul Reinert)
Eden Theological Seminary
Seminec
Kenrick Seminary
Webster College

KANSAS

St. Mary's College, Leavenworth
Rockford College, Kansas City, ~~Mo~~
Avila College

V - WEST COAST - Site: Los Angeles -

1978
CARDINAL TIMOTHY MANNING (MT contact)
Rev. Royale Vadigan, Director Ecumenical office
Southern Calif Council of Churches (Ms. Priscilla Campbell)
Loyola Marymount University (Rev. Cassassa, Rev. Richard Tramil)
Interreligious Council (all denominations, incl. Moslems, Buddhists)
Claremont College (Dr. John Houey)
AJC office (Dr. Neil Sandberg, Rita Weissman)
Southern Calif Board of Rabbis (Rabbi Harry Essrig, Rabbi Arnold Wolfe, Wilshire Blvd. Temple)
Evangelical Baptist & Presbyterian churches
Dr. Kilgore, Dr. E. J. Hall, black Baptists
Mt. St. Mary College

San Francisco:

ARCHBISHOP JOHN QUINN (MT contact)
Gerry Sherry, editor Catholic Monitor; chairman, Catholic-Jewish Relations committee
Graduate Theological Union (cluster of 12 theological seminaries, Dr. Robert Fitch, Dr. John Bennett)
University of San Francisco (Dept of Religious Ed, Rev. Albert Zabala, chairman Dept of Theology)
Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley (R. A. F. MacKenzie)

WASHINGTON STATE

Seattle University, Dr. Leo Stanford
St. Thomas Seminary
Fort Wright College, Spokane (Christian Ministries)

VI - SOUTHWEST - Site: Dallas

Texas Baptist Convention - Rev. James Dunn, director
Texas Conference of Churches - Dr. Roy Cates
(all Catholic and Protestant denominations)
Ft. Worth Baptist Seminary (Dr. Joseph Estep, Dr. Wm Hendrix)
AJC office: Milton Tobian, Miles Zhitmore)

Houston

Rice University
Interdenominational Assoc.
Baylor Univ.
Univ of St. Thomas

San Antonio:

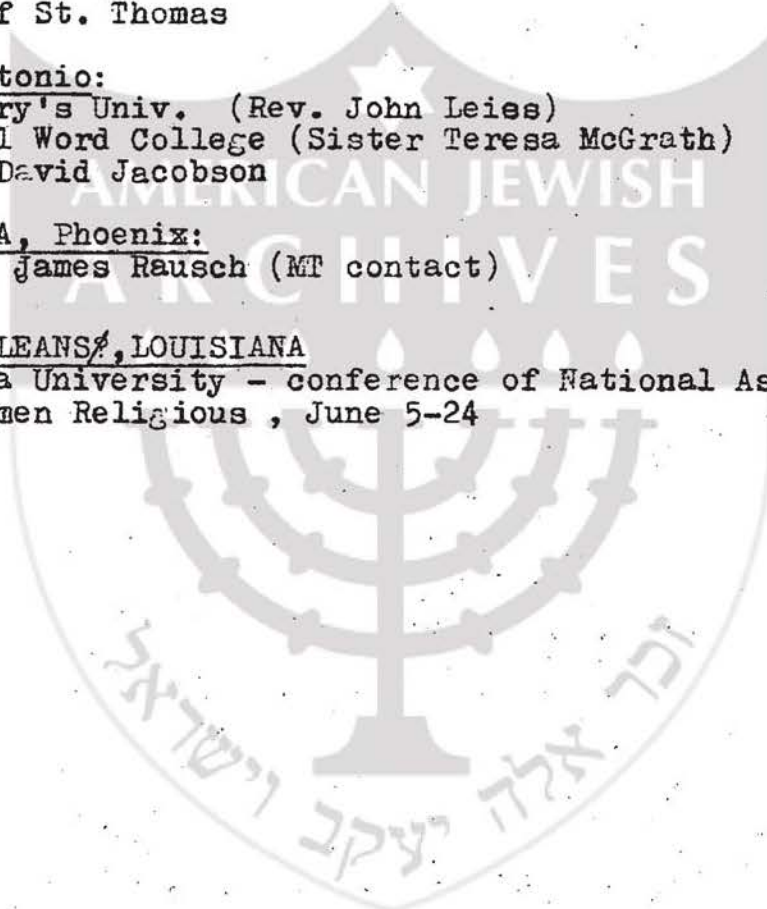
St. Mary's Univ. (Rev. John Leies)
Emanuel Word College (Sister Teresa McGrath)
Rabbi David Jacobson

ARIZONA, Phoenix:

Bishop James Rausch (MT contact)

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Loyola University - conference of National Association of
Women Religious, June 5-24



MEMORANDUM

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RELATIONS
165 East 56th Street; New York, N. Y. 10022 • Plaza 1-4000

from the desk of HAROLD APPLEBAUM
Field Services Program Coordinator

TIME MAGAZINE AND AP STORY ON THE NEW MEDIA BIBLE

Enclosed is a copy of a story that appeared in the September 6th issue of Time Magazine describing The New Media Bible, as well as an AP article.

The following background information has been prepared by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director of AJC's Interreligious Affairs Department.

Since this project will be receiving a good deal of public attention in Christian and Jewish communities, as well as in the mass media, during the coming months, I thought you would want to know of AJC's involvement with it.

As the Time and AP articles indicated, this is an ambitious effort to "translate" the entire Bible - Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament - onto film. But it is more than another "Bible movie." It is in fact a complete religious education package that includes, in addition to 20-minute films of each of the major episodes of the Bible, audio-visual slides, cassettes, and a Time-style magazine, called Bible Times. Each of these aids gives deeper information about a major issue in the Biblical stories, seeking to relate the Biblical account to current concerns over values and ethical ideals. The films offer highly authoritative information about the history, archeology, commerce, geography and culture of the period, and the insights and findings of major Jewish and Christian scholars have been incorporated throughout its preparation.

An awareness of AJC's concern over the portrayal of Jews, Judaism and Israel in Christian education materials - and of Jewish teachings about Christians and others - led John Heyman, producer of the "Genesis Project," to approach the Committee for assistance. We saw this as a major opportunity to produce attractive educational materials that would remove all negative references to Jews and Judaism in Christian education, to dramatize in positive ways the indebtedness of Christians and Christianity to Jews and Judaism and to illustrate our common roots in the Bible. Therefore, we were eager to help, and we did in these ways:

AJC arranged several seminars of leading Jewish and Christian Bible scholars, historians and theologians. Their discussions were enormously fruitful and will be published as education aids for adults and young people.

We read all the film scripts and Bible Times material in advance and offered suggestions which were well received.

I have seen several of the films: Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham, the Book of Luke. All of the productions are of a high quality and many scenes, such as that of Mary going into a mikvah during the Annunciation story, are breathtakingly beautiful.

The producer, a brilliant 43-year-old Jew born in Germany, is well-connected in international film circles, and he is now engaged in promoting and selling the film series to Christian (including Evangelical) and Jewish schools, libraries and educational institutions in the United States and in other parts of the world, including the Third World. I personally believe we have an interest in helping this project succeed because it is one of the best answers to Oberammergau of the world and to anti-Jewish UN resolutions.

As the project develops, IAD may help organize several interreligious seminars using the films as discussion-starters. We will very much welcome your cooperation at that time.

September 15, 1976
1abcd2abci(b)(c)
Encl., 76-310-71



'New Media Bible' Being Filmed in Style, Power

DENVER POST, 8-27-76

NEW YORK — (AP) — The longest, most costly motion picture project ever undertaken is being devoted to the world's oldest and greatest book — the Bible. It is being rendered on film with accuracy, power and style.

Called the "Genesis Project," the first completed portions are to be ready by Sept. 1, mainly at first for subscribing churches and other educational and religious institutions.

The motion picture accounts, putting the written biblical content into the modern media of sight and sound, provide an authenticity and quality far surpassing such past attempts by Hollywood because of close col-

laboration of a host of prominent Scripture scholars.

It is "measuring up far beyond any expectations or even hopes," says noted Methodist theologian Albert Outler of Dallas, who says he previously had sworn off "Bible films" after too much of the Cecil B. DeMille-type treatment.

"AT LAST," says Roman Catholic education expert, Dr. Alfred McBride of Washington, D.C., "a quality filming of the Bible."

The project, expected to take about 30 years and cost an estimated \$232 million, is headed by a top British film producer John Heyman, driven to undertake it by his distress at modern society's declining sense of its moral-cultural heritage.

"We're becoming a people without roots, without the fundamentals, so that we don't know where we're going," he said in an interview at his Manhattan office. "A whole generation is being brought up that can't know what's immoral or amoral when there's no mo-

reality to compare it with."

He said the Bible provides that missing historical perspective — of morals, philosophy, the ethics of work and personal and political idealism. "It's the total, concrete, rockribbed foundation of all our thinking," he said. "Yet we totally ignore it."

PUTTING THE major blame for this on a massive decline in reading and a new preoccupation with the visual-sound media, he and associates concluded that the only way to restore biblical footage to contemporary thought must be through effectively transposing it into the new communication form.

The result, in the making, is the "New Media Bible." From a sampling, it is like watching the sweeping old events unfold in newsreel form as surging realities with dramatic quality and artistry.

A worldwide team of Bible scholars, historians and archaeologists — about 70 of them so far — have been involved in the project, which also has drawn interfaith endorsement from Roman Catholics, Jews and Protestants, including both the evangelical and mainstream elements.

IT'S A "new departure," promising a "creative revolution in religious education," says Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee. "A major breakthrough," says United Methodist education executive, Dr. James E. Alexander, of Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Albert McClellan of Nashville, program director of the Southern Baptist Convention, says "it is a daring concept that can do a great deal to preserve the Bible for people who become increasingly dependent on the visual image."

About 50 American and European businessmen, also concerned about the lack of Biblical sources in contemporary culture, have invested in the project, which so far has involved outlays of about \$8 million.

The first 10 portions of film, running about 20 minutes each, deal with the beginning of the Old Testament — the creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, Abraham, the Covenant with God, Sodom and Gomorrah, and with the first parts of the Gospel of Luke — the Annunciation and the Nativity.

THE FILMS follow the accounts literally without interpretation, with actors speaking in the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Accompanying sound translations in English are being made available in varied versions of the Bible. Supplementary commentaries and teaching aids also vary to suit those who take a literalist or historical approach to Scriptures.

"Our function is to underpin every Biblical faith, and not to undermine any," said Heyman, citing reasons for the alternative commentaries.

The output of the first year's phase of the project are being offered to subscribing groups at \$2,000 until Sept. 1, with the subsequent charges of \$2,500 for each year's package output, continuing until completion of the whole Bible.

(OVER)

The Holy Scripts

The scheme is bold, perhaps foolhardy. Film the entire Bible. The movies would run for 100 hours, take 33 years to make and cost at least \$256 million. However grandiose a notion, that is exactly what the entrepreneurs of the Genesis Project have set out to do. Judging from the quality of the first ten segments now being previewed by pastors and educators from coast to coast, the Genesis people are off to a good start.

The project is being funded without a sou from a synagogue or a church. A straight commercial venture, it is backed by 18 wealthy businessmen, most of them British and American, who have already anted up \$5 million. The start-up money came from John Heyman, 43, a self-described "inactive Jew," who has produced more than 40 feature films, including *The Go-Between* and *The Hireling*. Now he works full time as chief executive of the Genesis Project: "It was a unique opportunity to share my ability as a film maker as opposed to putting on another piece of slurp."

No Navels. The first installment of the New Media Bible, as it is called, consists of ten 20-minute segments covering *Genesis 1-22* (from the Creation to Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac) and *Luke 1-2* (the Annunciation, the Nativity and Jesus' youth). They were filmed in the sere landscape of the Holy Land and neighboring areas, using largely unknown actors. One exception: Topol, the Israeli star of Hollywood's *Fiddler on the Roof*, who portrays Abraham.

But how to film the story of Noah?

TOPOL AS ABRAHAM SACRIFICING ISAAC



Heyman opted for a sketchy style of animation, with surrealistic clouds and waves, and cartoon rabbits and lions clambering aboard the ark. The budget did not permit construction of the ark nor the assembling of all God's creatures. For the Creation story, Heyman wove together spectacular color footage of the sun and stars, flowing lava, beasts on the Kenya highlands and fish and flora along an ocean floor. In Eden, Adam and Eve are discreetly nude, and without navels. Heyman insists that he will film every jot and tittle of the Law of Moses, but his project will be well into the 1990s before he faces the chal-



YOUNG JESUS AT FEAST IN JERUSALEM
Every jot and tittle of the Law.

lenge of dramatizing the doctrinal letters of the Apostle Paul.

"We attempt to be as literally accurate as we can possibly be," says Heyman. "We don't make up any dialogue." The actors speak their lines verbatim from the Bible, using the languages their characters would have used, though the producers have taken some liberties. Adam and Eve mouth words silently; Abraham speaks Hebrew; Luke, Greek. The voice-over is a word-for-word reading of the Bible in English by such narrators as Alexander Scourby and Orson Welles. The sound track is available in three versions: King James, Revised Standard and New American.

Each film comes with two filmstrips keyed to records or cassette recordings, and a magazine called *Bible Times*. To develop these teaching materials, the Genesis Project has assembled 120 Bible scholars and historians at various seminars. Thus viewers will see Abraham on his way from Ur to the Prom-

**CAMPUS
CAUSADE
FOR
CHRIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Arrowhead Springs, San Bernardino, California 92414, U.S.A. Telephone (714) 886-5224 William R. Bright, President

June 23, 1977



Mr. John Heyman
The Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Suite 730
New York, NY 10020

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Dear John:

It has been my privilege to serve our Lord for more than 30 years, and with the present staff of over 6,000 serving Christ in 86 countries and 20 protectorates of the world, we have the privilege of communicating the gospel to many millions of people.

Further, I have been involved in many exciting international programs, such as Explo '72, Explo '74 and many others that have been heralded as great thrusts for God. As you know, we as a staff had the privilege of giving leadership to Here's Life America which has touched the lives of many millions of people, and we are now launching Here's Life World in 100 countries. However, as I survey all of the things in the Christian world of which I have been a part, and of which I have any knowledge, that are designed to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world, I do not know of any single undertaking that has greater potential for God and the good of mankind than the Genesis Project--a plan to film the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

My mind literally soars as I consider a few of the implications and benefits that will result from this incredible undertaking. I envision the day when literally hundreds of millions will be viewing filmed portions of the Bible daily via satellite, through simultaneous translations to all of the nations of the world. There is no other plan that I have ever heard of or dreamed of that in any way has such vast potential for our Lord. When I realize that over half of the world is illiterate and a significant percent of the American people rarely read at all, I am convinced that there is no other way to reach the masses with the truth of God's Word that can compare with the New Media Bible. If ever the Great Commission is to be fulfilled in this generation--and by God's grace, I am committed to help see this happen through the enabling of God's Holy Spirit--the New Media Bible must play an important role.

Mr. John Heyman

Page Two

June 23, 1977

I commend you, John, for your courage and faith. Only God could have implanted in your creative mind the genius to conceive of such an incredible plan to teach the Bible, God's holy, inspired Word, to more than four billion people throughout the world. I shall continue to encourage Christian leaders throughout the world to avail themselves and their people of this unprecedented opportunity to accelerate and expand their individual ministries. You have my prayers, confidence and complete support.

Warmest personal regards.

Yours for fulfilling the Great
Commission in this generation,

Bill

WRB:obg





MOST REVEREND FULTON J. SHEEN, D. D.
TITULAR ARCHBISHOP OF NEWPORT

June 1st, 1977

My dear Mr. Heyman:

After a lifetime spent in communicating the Word, I have become familiar with most techniques and programs to aid that greatest of all commitments.

But your project, The New Media Bible, puts the Scriptures in color, motion and speech and is the greatest event in that domain since Guttenberg printed the Bible. He made the story visual; the New Media Bible makes it visual, audible and even more credible. There is no comparison between the sequence of letters on a printed page, and the flow of characters in colors, dramas and tensions.

Our cinematic directors have too often accustomed us to doubt the authenticity of any historical event on the screen. But to the glory of your film, there are no words spoken except those which are found in the Bible. This means that no critic can ever accuse you of altering a text or spoiling a context. One can never imagine a movie about Napoleon in which every single word he spoke was an exact quote from his writings. But here we have Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Mary, Zaccheus, Pilate, all speaking only the authentic. This gives the viewer a standard outside the picture by which it may be judged.

Before I saw the new Media Bible, I wondered how you would handle Creation. Lo and behold! You had a camera in space, as our astronauts gave us a view of the earth, which made it possible for us as it were, to look over the shoulder of God, as planets tumbled into space.

It will take years to complete the characters of the Old and New Testament. As the world stores up explosives to incinerate mankind, may there be found many to support your story of peace and the unity of mankind.

You are an instrument of God in this noble enterprise. For that reason, He has endowed you with exceptional talents combined with a deep sense of reverence for mystery.

With assurance of prayers and blessings, I am, my dear Mr. Heyman,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ 
Titular Archbishop of Newport

The
Cathedral
Church
of St. John
the Divine

Cathedral Heights
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
at 112th Street
New York, New York 10025
(212) 678-6903

Office of the Dean

16 November 1977

Mr. John Heyman, President
Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Room 730
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear John:

Over the years a number of "Bible movies" have been made and each one has lacked something - either authenticity or credible presentation. The New Media Bible has achieved both and much more besides.

Here at the Cathedral, where we welcome thousands of visitors from all over the globe, the New Media Bible films are presented on a daily basis and have been enthusiastically received by the public.

You have accomplished something quite unique in this genre. The New Media Bible is a scholarly work, carefully assembled and without doctrinal prejudices. To see historic characters speaking in the original tongues of Bible days and functioning in true-to-life situations makes the Bible what indeed it is a living witness to the greatest events that have ever occurred in human history....and in the timelessness of the Almighty as well.

I heartily endorse your unique accomplishment and wish you every success. We at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine have found a new and valuable tool for the transmission of ageless truths in the New Media Bible.

Yours truly,



The Very Reverend James Parks Morton
Dean

JPM:wms



BUCKNER FANNING
PASTOR

November 14, 1977

Mr. John Heyman
145 West 58th Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Heyman:

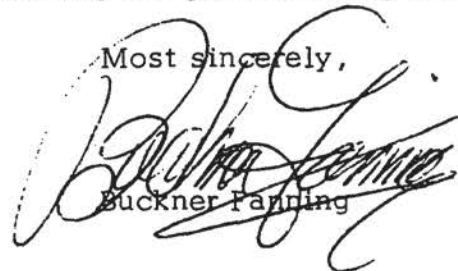
Words cannot express my excitement and the excitement of our church over The New Media Bible.

Our church of over 5,000 members has been a church that centered its teaching and preaching on the Bible as the Word of God throughout its 27 year history, but nothing has so excited and challenged our people in Bible Study as The Genesis Project.

We average 1,800 to 2,000 people Sunday morning for Bible Study but on Sunday evenings we have been having two to 300 people present for our evening services. With the introduction of The New Media Bible in our Sunday evening program our crowds have more than tripled! We are now averaging over 1,000 people every Sunday night studying the Bible through the material of The New Media Bible. As a result of the tremendous response on the part of our people we have ordered another set of films because so many small groups are now wanting the films for weekday Bible studies in the homes as well as evening meetings that are being planned for smaller groups and more intensive study of the Bible.

I want to thank you for providing what I believe to be the greatest method ever devised for communicating the greatest story ever told.

Most sincerely,



Buckner Fanning

BF:mh

MARK O. HATFIELD
OREGON

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 29, 1976

Mr. Michael Manuel
The Genesis Project, Inc.
145 West 58 Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Manuel:

In a day when the actual contents of the Bible seem to be poorly understood, the production of the New Media Bible is an encouraging development.

The strength of the Judeo-Christian heritage lies in the actions of God in the history of mankind. The Bible is not merely a collection of platitudes and philosophical theories. I look forward to reviewing the continuing results of your efforts, for they will not only help people to visualize the Biblical narrative, but will enable us all to realize anew that God is a God of history and is involved in the affairs of men.

Thank you for informing me of your work at this early date. I hope that the enthusiasm of your team will grow with the completion of each segment of your project. May I encourage you to continue with the knowledge that your efforts will not only bring personal fulfillment but will help countless numbers of people to understand the one Book which has influenced our culture perhaps more than any other.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:vgr

W. A. CRISWELL, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DALLAS, TEXAS

May 18, 1977

Mr. John Heyman, President
The Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Suite 730
New York, N. Y. 10020

Dear Mr. Heyman:

With all my heart I would like to further the tremendous scriptural project to which God has called you and your associates. The heavenly assignment is so vast until it will take many years for you to complete it, but what you have already done is in itself a marvelous achievement and will bless all the churches of Christendom, as you present the Biblical message year by year through the days of the completion.

The part I have seen thus far is Genesis and Luke. If our people can be blessed by viewing these pictures and listening to this reading of the Holy Word, they will be furthered in the Faith and confirmed in their persuasion that the Bible is the true Word of God.

As we have presented in our church here in Dallas the work thus far completed of the Genesis Project, let me encourage every pastor and every church to present the like portion that is complete in their churches before their people. In all of the years of my pastoral work (it now numbers fifty), I have never seen the presentation of the Word of God more beautifully meaningful or more spiritually effective than this presentation seen on screen and heard by reading and dramatic voice.

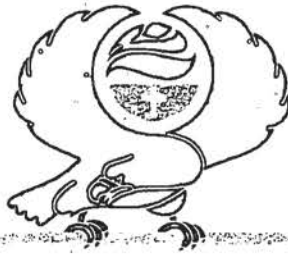
In every way possible for me to speak and to write, do I commend to our people and our brethren in the Faith of Christ the wonderful vision and implementation and showing of the Genesis Project.

Faithfully and prayerfully yours,



W. A. Criswell

WAC:ep



Forward in Faith Together

March 8, 1976

Mr. Michael Manuel
GENESIS PROJECT
145 W. 58th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Manuel:

My sincerest congratulations to you on your Genesis Project and the Media Bible. Your efforts should merit and will certainly deserve widespread attention and appreciation, especially from the field of religious education. At last someone has taken the time to develop and produce a quality filming of the Bible as well as providing an equally admirable teaching-learning package to go with it.

It could hardly have come at a better time. Western society, in particular, seems to be at a turning point in history. The profound changes in our culture are unsettling people to an extraordinary degree. If we are to move ahead with any sense of personal confidence, we will need an inner strength based on the roots of our culture and the enduring spiritual values linked with them.

It takes no special sharpness to see the current erosion of values and the anguished search for personal identity. Who can hope to know oneself if one is torn from roots and origins and a sense of values? A rootless and value neutral person can hardly hope to possess a sense of purpose. Not knowing where they have come from, they will have little chance of knowing where to go.

I believe that your Media Bible is a pertinent and important response to the present dilemma. We are a people of the Book in a sense. The Bible tells both the story of our roots, but also has exerted an incomparable influence upon the shaping of values. In ancient times the Bible stories were personally told at campfire and shrine through an oral-aural medium.

In succeeding ages, the written word of the Bible was read both silently and in public to sustain the chain of culture and the quality of spiritual living. Today our dominant medium is the film, both in movie and TV. It rightly shares, through the efforts of you and your people at the Genesis project, in this centuries old process of tying people to their religious roots and enabling them to have a sense of identity and purpose.

Mr. Michael Manuel

- 2 -

March 8, 1976

I am personally both excited and grateful for your vision and imagination in undertaking both to oversee the complexities of the production and to encourage quality educational materials so that the films will achieve their maximum impact.

I hope that religious educators of all faiths will be alerted to the evident worth of the Genesis Project and that they will find in the Media Bible a luminous new way of communicating the most venerable message that can be heard in our time.

Again, with expression of enthusiastic support for your work, I am

Very cordially yours,

Alfred McBride

Rev. Alfred McBride, O.Praem.
Director, National Forum
of Religious Educators





THE TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SAN ANTONIO

BUCKNER FANNING
PASTOR

November 14, 1977

Mr. John Heyman
145 West 58th Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

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I want to thank you for providing what I believe to be the greatest method ever devised for communicating the greatest story ever told.

Most sincerely,

Buckner Fanning

BF:mh

W. A. CRISWELL, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DALLAS 1, TEXAS

May 18, 1977

Mr. John Heyman, President
The Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Suite 730
New York, N. Y. 10020

Dear Mr. Heyman:

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The part I have seen thus far is Genesis and Luke. If our people can be blessed by viewing these pictures and listening to this reading of the Holy Word, they will be furthered in the Faith and confirmed in their persuasion that the Bible is the true Word of God.

As we have presented in our church here in Dallas the work thus far completed of the Genesis Project, let me encourage every pastor and every church to present the like portion that is complete in their churches before their people. In all of the years of my pastoral work (it now numbers fifty), I have never seen the presentation of the Word of God more beautifully meaningful or more spiritually effective than this presentation seen on screen and heard by reading and dramatic voice.

In every way possible for me to speak and to write, do I commend to our people and our brethren in the Faith of Christ the wonderful vision and implementation and showing of the Genesis Project.

Faithfully and prayerfully yours,

W. A. Criswell

W. A. Criswell

WAC:ep



OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234

January 5, 1979

Mr. Dean Gitter
The Genesis Project
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Suite 730
New York City, New York 10020

Dear Dean:

It was good talking to you recently and learning that things are on schedule for delivery of the first films sometime this month. The Southern Baptist churches that participated in the training sessions are anxiously awaiting the arrival of these materials. As we have discussed previously, these materials compliment in a beautiful way our new Bible book curriculum and will enhance the understanding of the book of Genesis that will be completed in this curriculum during the present quarter.

I would like to express my appreciation to you personally and to the Genesis project for the excellent quality of work that was done in the production of the films and the teaching aids. We feel that this will be a tremendous asset and supplement to on-going Sunday School/church school curriculum. We have had very complementary comments made concerning the training sessions you provided during the summer both at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. I can wholeheartedly endorse the materials as excellent curriculum supplement for denominational study programs.

We have had inquiry from other churches concerning this material and have shared with them how to contact you. We look forward to keeping in touch with you and securing feedback from the users of this first cycle. We were very grateful to you and to the United Methodist Church for letting us participate in a makeup session during their training period in November and December.

Come by to see us when you are in the Nashville area.

Cordially yours,

Bob Fulbright
Robert G. Fulbright, Director
Bible Teaching Division

RGF:ke

Porter W. Routh, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219 (615) 244-2355

Albert McClellan, Associate Executive Secretary and Director of Program Planning

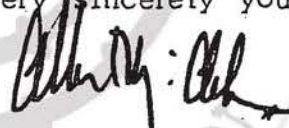
March 15, 1976

Mr. Dean Gitter
The Genesis Project
145 West 58 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Gitter:

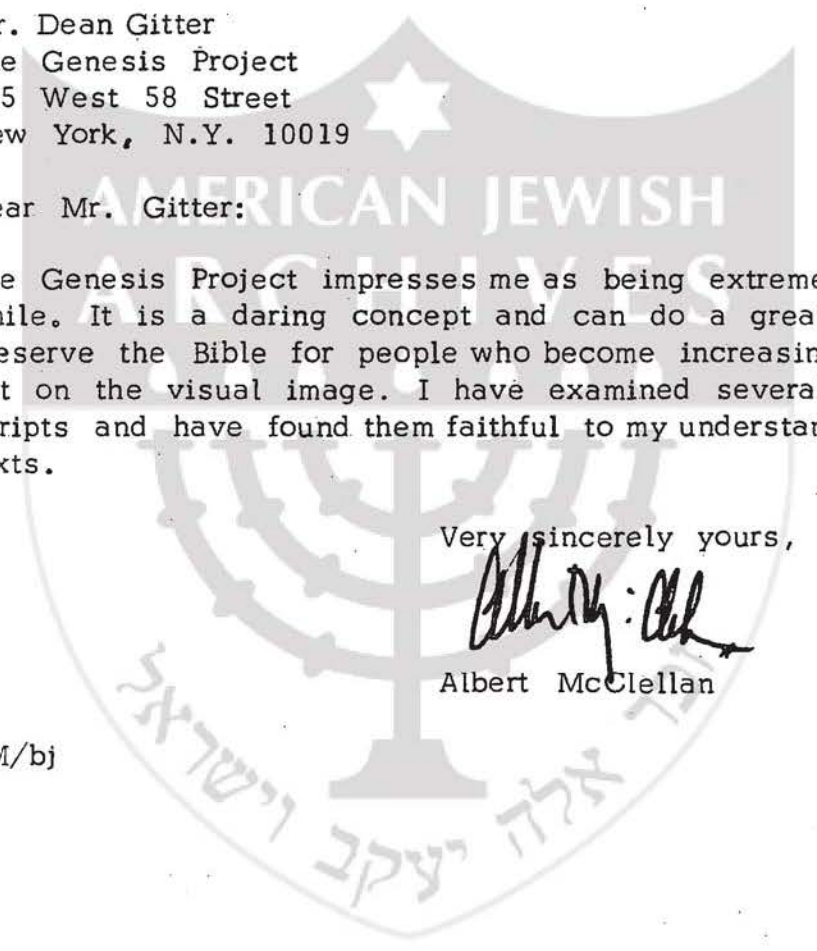
The Genesis Project impresses me as being extremely worth while. It is a daring concept and can do a great deal to preserve the Bible for people who become increasingly dependent on the visual image. I have examined several of your scripts and have found them faithful to my understanding of the texts.

Very sincerely yours,



Albert McClellan

AM/bj



Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

P. O. Box 22000

Fort Worth, Texas 76122

MA 3-1921

W. L. Hendricks
Theology

March 12, 1976

Dean Gritter
"New Genesis" Project
145 W. 58th Street
New York, New York 10019

To Whom it may concern:

I have recently agreed to serve as a consultant to the New Genesis Project. On the bases of discussions with the producer and those scripts which I have checked I am delighted with the concept. This creative and fresh approach to multi-media presentation of Scripture is a much needed step forward in Christian education.

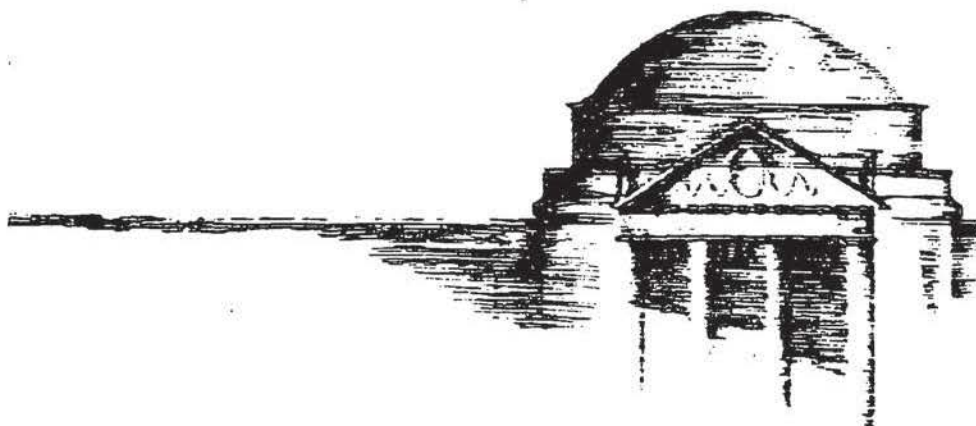
The producers have assured me that every attempt will be made to reflect accurate and reliable historical settings. While an awareness of scholarship and critical issues will be shown, the treatment of Scripture will likewise be sympathetic and reverent.

It is to be hoped that the project will be widely used and prove an effective artistic and innovative approach to the teaching of Scripture.

Sincerely yours,

William L. Hendricks
William L. Hendricks
Professor of Theology

WHL/lsl



HOWARD E. SPRAGG, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

DIVISION OF EVANGELISM, CHURCH EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

EDWARD A. POWERS, GENERAL SECRETARY
287 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR HOMELAND MINISTRIES

March 2, 1976

The Genesis Project, Inc.
c/o Michael Manuel
145 West 58th St.
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Michael:

I am delighted to give my endorsement to the New Media Bible project. It is obviously a venture of mammoth proportions which has to be seen as a venture in faith. I am personally impressed with the vision which the creators of the project have of helping people get in touch with the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of the Bible.

We do live in a time in which the roots are being torn up and the fundamental bases of Western Civilization are under question. Some of this uprootedness and questioning is appropriate. Our civilization is too sexist, racist, imperialist, and rationalistic.

The New Media Bible offers the possibility of getting in touch with the roots of human community and civilization in a way in which people may become whole and understand the biblical sense of community, compassion and justice.

Faithfully yours,,

Edward A. Powers
Edward A. Powers



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

November 14, 1977

Mr. John Heyman, President
Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas, Room 730
New York, New York 10020

Dear John,

In my twenty-five years of service in seeking to promote improved understanding between Christians and Jews on the basis of our shared inheritance of the Bible, I know of no single undertaking that has contributed to the furtherance of that objective as creatively and as profoundly as has The New Media Bible.

While I have had the privilege of serving as a consultant to film productions and to national television programs based on Biblical themes, none has begun to approach the creative vision and artistic genius of the Genesis Project in translating the actual Word of God into such stunning audio-visual accomplishment.

The fact that from the very beginning of the project you made a decision to bring together a literal "Who's Who" of the foremost Biblical scholars is a testimony to the seriousness of your commitment. Your use of their latest scholarly insights with the finest film technicians in the business has produced a synthesis of the message and the medium that, in my judgment, is unparalleled.

Beyond that, you and your colleagues have wrought something that has not been attained before. You have in fact created a "Biblical environment," an opportunity for modern people to enter actually into the experience of the Biblical world, its values, its ideals. Thanks to the Genesis Project, it is now possible for everyone - from young people to adults to senior citizens - to seek to achieve Biblical literacy through the use of your brilliant films audio-visual commentaries, and the scintillating magazine, Bible Times.

RICHARD MAASS, President ■
MAYNARD I. WISHNER, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■
GERARD WEINSTOCK, Treasurer ■ LEONARD C. YASEEN, Secretary ■ ROBERT L. HOROWITZ, Associate Treasurer ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, Executive Committee ■
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Mr. John Heyman


Page Two

At a time when there is such widespread concern about the decline of moral values, so much dehumanization resulting from crime, violence, terrorism and corruption, the availability of the "total educational package" of The New Media Bible assumes the highest relevance in the contemporary race between moral commitment and sheer catastrophe.

I sincerely congratulate you on this monumental achievement, and I am convinced that what you are engaged in is the work of God in the midst of our people. I pray and hope that millions of Christians and Jews in this country and all over the world will recognize how central The New Media Bible can and must be for the uplifting of their souls and for the redemption of mankind itself.

May you continue to have the strength and the resources to complete this historic work.

Faithfully yours,


Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Interreligious Affairs Director

MHT:RPR



UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

155 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY 10010
212 - 260-8450

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION
OF
TEACHERS INSTITUTE
JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
THE EDUCATORS ASSEMBLY
THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY
AND
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

RABBI JOEL H. ZAIMAN
CHAIRMAN
DR. MORTON SIEGEL
DIRECTOR

June 21, 1977

יום שישי 7-

Mr. Chaim Topol
The Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
(Suite 730)
New York, NY 10020

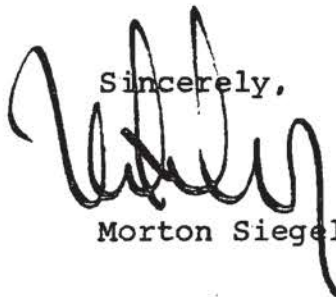
Dear Mr. Topol:

I am most grateful to you for the opportunity to have visited at the offices of The Genesis Project recently and for the opportunity afforded me to view a number of the films, and related materials which have been developed in connection with this Project. I feel compelled to observe, simply in the spirit of accuracy, that the films and related teachers' and students' aids are most impactful, in the most positive sense. From the educational point of view, the materials are very carefully organized, descriptive, stimulating, and quite within the confines of sound transmission of Biblical content. To be sure, I did not see all of the materials but, to repeat, those that I did have the opportunity to study definitely warrant commendation in terms of their functional value as major media to bring the Bible to a vast audience and in a meaningful fashion.

I look forward to the opportunity of viewing yet additional portions of The Genesis Project, a Project which, I feel confident in predicting will have a major impact on the enhancing of familiarity with and study of the Bible in North America.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Morton Siegel

MS/lmb

B. Clayton Bell

May 26, 1977


Mr. John Heyman
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Suite 730
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear John:

It was a pleasure having you here at Highland Park Church to give a preview of the New Media Bible. I not only enjoyed seeing it, but it was a great pleasure to meet you.

Your project excites me! I was thrilled with the photographic excellence, the Biblical accuracy, and the aesthetic and moral good taste with which you are pursuing this work. I will look forward to seeing each phase of your work as it is completed.

Most cordially yours,


B. Clayton Bell

BCB:hb



Highland Park Presbyterian Church

3821 University Boulevard • Dallas, Texas 75205

Board of Discipleship

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 840, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202
615 327-2700

February 6, 1976

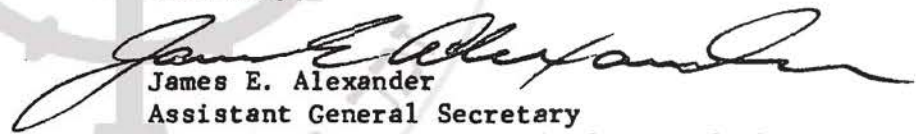
Mr. Michael Manuel
The Genesis Project
145 West 58 Street, Suite 14M
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Michael:

I am pleased to extend my personal endorsement of the Genesis Project. It seems to me that the approach is educationally sound, and the scripts I have read seem to be consistent with the best current scholarship. The listing of distinguished scholars who have been asked to advise the series represent the forefront of biblical scholarship today, and I have every confidence that their participation will assure programs of substance and quality.

If the production quality is equal to the very best that we see on public television, then assuredly the New Media Bible will become a major breakthrough in religious education. In my judgment, the New Media Bible is a harbinger of the future. I will be pleased to cooperate with you in the furtherance of this project.

Sincerely,


James E. Alexander
Assistant General Secretary
Education Division, Board of Discipleship

JEA/ce



SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
DALLAS, TEXAS 75275

January 30, 1976

Mr. Michael Manuel
The Genesis Project, Inc.
145 West 58th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Manuel:

Congratulations to you and your colleagues on The Geneses Project. I'm afraid that I still haven't yet gotten a clear view of the Project as a whole, but the two "episodes" that I have seen (the Abraham-Isaac-Mt. Moriah story [Genesis] and the Infancy Narratives [Luke]) have impressed me as being very far beyond the ordinary best of "audio-visual" treatments of biblical texts and biblical history. What I liked most about the scripts I've read is their twin-concern for the texts and contexts from which they are working and yet also for "meaning" and "relevance" within the terms of careful and responsible interpretation. Not much less important is the dramatic quality of the scenarios: they would make high-grade films that I would love to see--I who had swore off "bible films" after too much DeMille, Charlton Heston (and, on the other side, the stuff provided for Sunday Schools, etc.!).

I think that my feelings that these times are ripe for a rediscovery of "that strange, exciting world within the Bible" is more than a professional crotchet. But if such a hunch is plausible, then it is doubly crucial that the media of that rediscovery (films, books, whatever) manage to escape from cinematic conventions in this genre and still maintain very high standards ("respect for the texts," aesthetic and psychological sensitivity, technical skill, beauty, drama, meaning, etc.). It took only two samples of The Genesis Project to convince me that the venture holds real promises for measuring up far beyond any expectations (or even hopes) I had when I began on that first script.

This adds up to an earnest hope that you and your colleagues will be enabled to bring the project to full fruition. We'd all be enriched by it and I, for one, would be delighted and grateful. I don't know what such a "success" may still require but I'd certainly like to lend any and all the encouragement to it that I can. It really is first-rate and deserves enthusiastic support.

Cordially yours,

Albert C. Outler

Albert C. Outler

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Synod



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Rev. Oscar J. Naumann

3512 West North Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

Office: 445-4022

December 22, 1976

Residence: 463-6071

The Genesis Project
Mr. Dean L. Gitter, Vice President
145 West 58th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Gitter:

First of all I want to express my appreciation to you for affording me the opportunity to preview segments of the first production of the Genesis Project. I was impressed with the high quality of the film and teaching aids.

It is the position of our Synod that the Bible is the divinely-inspired, inerrant Word of God, and I was especially pleased that there was nothing in your production which militated against this position. The visual portion accurately, artistically, and harmoniously reflected the King James Version by the voice-over. On the basis of the segments which I previewed, I would not hesitate to recommend it for use in our congregations or in any other denomination which shares our position relative to the Holy Scriptures.

With very best wishes for the completion of the project, I am

Sincerely yours in our Lord's service,

Oscar J. Naumann

OJN/rbs

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MISSOURI SYNOD

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

3558 SOUTH JEFFERSON AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63118

TELEPHONE 744-1874-7000



November 12, 1976

Dean Gitter
Vice President, Marketing
The Genesis Project
145 West 58 Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Dean:

Thanks for sharing with us the sample films and filmstrip developed by The Genesis Project, and your plans for the development of materials in this program.

Vic Constien and I are agreed that the film narration is quite faithful to the biblical text. The visualizations are colorful, dramatic, and carefully researched. The films should certainly help viewers to a greater understanding of and appreciation of the biblical narratives in a genuine historical setting.

The materials should be useful in a variety of adult, youth, and child educational settings.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Earl H. Gaulke, Ph.D.
Director, Editorial Division

The Rev. Victor Constien
Director of Field Services

kw

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Twentieth Floor
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150
Phone (801) 531-2282

August 2, 1977

August 2, 1977

Mr. Dean L. Gitter
Vice President - Corporate Relations
The Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 730
New York, New York 10020

Dear Dean,

I left on vacation just after the presentation you made to the group here in Salt Lake and have just returned to find your letter waiting for me. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I appreciate the opportunity to make some expression of my feelings about what you showed to us. Had I heard your intentions when you had first determined to "put the entire Bible on film" I would have indeed been skeptical. In fact, had I not seen the presentation, I would still be skeptical!

I don't know when I have been so positively impressed by a biblical presentation. Recognizing that we have some doctrinal differences with the rest of the world, I found the presentation nothing but uplifting and edifying. All of those involved deserve only the highest commendation for their work.

I have not yet had an opportunity to talk with President Nelson about his feelings after having seen the presentation in his home, and, of course, it will take much conversation here in order to determine how we might best use such material. However, my personal feelings and my personal reaction are totally positive. I have had occasion to mention the material to several people and have always indicated the high quality and professional caliber of the parts I saw.

I trust the above will be helpful to you. Let me express my personal gratitude for having been able to be present for the presentation. I am anxious to see more!

Sincerely,



Charles E. Mitchener Executive Secretary

CEM:lw

The General Council of
The ASSEMBLIES of GOD

1445 BOONVILLE AVENUE SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802 TELEPHONE (417) 862-2781

DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

HARDY W. STEINBERG, National Director

August 31, 1976

Mr. Dean L. Gitter, Vice President
The Genesis Project, Inc.
145 West 58th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Gitter:

Thank you for stopping with us at our international headquarters to introduce The New Media Bible. The representatives from our headquarters departments and from our colleges were very favorably impressed with the presentation of the episode from Abraham's life and the Annunciation as recorded in Luke 1.

You are to be commended for the careful scholarship and attention to detail so evident in the films. The reconstruction of events as they must have occurred in Bible times should do much to give the viewers a better understanding of the Scriptures. Among the many fine features our people will appreciate is the fact that the narration adheres strictly to the Biblical text.

It would seem that The New Media Bible could have many applications for the local church and the Christian school. I can only hope that God will use this medium to give many more people a greater appreciation and better comprehension of the Bible.

Cordially yours,



Hardy W. Steinberg
National Director

HWS:zw

The
Cathedral
Church
of St. John
the Divine

Cathedral Heights
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
at 112th Street
New York, New York 10025
(212) 678-6903

Office of the Dean

16 November 1977

Mr. John Heyman, President
Genesis Project, Inc.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Room 730
New York, N. Y. 10020

Dear John:

Over the years a number of "Bible movies" have been made and each one has lacked something - either authenticity or credible presentation. The New Media Bible has achieved both and much more besides.

Here at the Cathedral, where we welcome thousands of visitors from all over the globe, the New Media Bible films are presented on a daily basis and have been enthusiastically received by the public.

You have accomplished something quite unique in this genre. The New Media Bible is a scholarly work, carefully assembled and without doctrinal prejudices. To see historic characters speaking in the original tongues of Bible days and functioning in true-to-life situations makes the Bible what indeed it is a living witness to the greatest events that have ever occurred in human history....and in the timelessness of the Almighty as well.

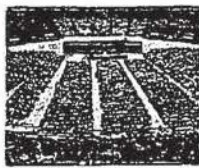
I heartily endorse your unique accomplishment and wish you every success. We at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine have found a new and valuable tool for the transmission of ageless truths in the New Media Bible.

Yours truly,



The Very Reverend James Parks Morton
Dean

JPM:wms



BILL GLASS

EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 356
DALLAS, TEXAS 75221

May 12, 1977

Mr. Dean Gitter
Director, Church Coordination
THE GENESIS PROJECT, INC.
1271 Avenue of the Americas
Suite 730
New York, NY 10020

Dear Dean:

Just a note to tell you that as I have studied and viewed the GENESIS PROJECT, I have come to the conclusion that it is one of the finest things I have ever seen! Obviously, there is nothing remotely like it in existence today. I know that as it continues to develop it will be even more impressive. I think there is a great need, and that the quality of work you and all those working with you are doing is beyond debate the finest thing in existence today.

I am watching and praying with real enthusiasm for the continual development of this project!

Thanks again for your extreme courtesy to me and allowing me to have all your materials for my use. I am sending a copy of my book, FREE AT LAST, which I hope you enjoy (under separate cover). This is the story of our Prison Ministry.

In Him as always, with Love,


Bill Glass

BG:jw

Phil 1:3



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO
Pers-9131-6yw

MAR 24 1977

Mr. Ted J. Curtas
National Director of the Genesis Project
4101 Dana Shores Dr.
Tampa, FL 33614

Dear Mr. Curtas:

As you know, I had the opportunity to preview a portion of "The New Media Bible" last November. I expressed my sincere interest in this Genesis Project at that time and now add my support by recommending it to all Navy Chaplains as a reverent, tasteful, artistically superior presentation of the Holy Scripture.

If the quality of production in other portions of the work is in any way equal to the films that I previewed, I feel that this material should be among the resources of any chaplain who cares to use them. Unfortunately, this office is not in a position to provide a copy of "The New Media Bible" to every chaplain. I sincerely wish it were possible to do this. As you know, we have purchased five chests of the material to be used as a pilot project at various commands within the Navy and Marine Corps. It is my hope that this exposure to the material will generate initiative among our chaplains to budget for and purchase "The New Media Bible."

I will continue to support this presentation of the Bible and encourage all our chaplains, who judge the material to be useful to their ministry, to purchase a copy of this milestone effort to bring the word of God to God's people.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JOHN J. O'CONNOR
Rear Admiral, CHC, USN
Chief of Chaplains



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
WASHINGTON 20534

September 2, 1976

Mr. Ted Curtas
The Genesis Project
145 West 58th Street
New York, New York 10009

RE: The New Media Bible and Correctional
Institutions

Dear Mr. Curtas:

After reviewing some of the films of the New Media Bible and learning of the study materials that are part of the program, I want to give my full endorsement for the effort being made to make the Bible, the Word of God, available to people in this manner.

This most complete presentation of the Bible without doctrinal interpretation but with full cultural and accurate factual presentation will be very useful in the prison setting. Some of its particular advantages are these:

1. Many people in prison have limited reading ability but with this "new media" can learn the content and message of the Bible.
2. Most inmates who are interested in Bible study want to learn the Word without denominational interpretation.
3. Inmates have the time to study the Bible through this means and to review it again and again.
4. With the continuous flow of inmates in and out of an institution, there can be continuous use of these materials.

There are 35 major facilities in the Bureau of Prisons with a population that now numbers more than 27,000. My hope would be that the New Media Bible could be available in all of them, provided there is a commitment on the part of a Chaplain or other person involved in ministry who indicates interest in making regular use of the materials, and is willing and able to provide one-third of the cost of purchase. I believe that many of our Chaplains will want to have the New Media Bible after learning of it.

Sincerely,



R. Richard Summer
Chaplaincy Services Administrator

Porter W. Routh, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219 (615) 244-2355

Albert McClellan, Associate Executive Secretary and Director of Program Planning

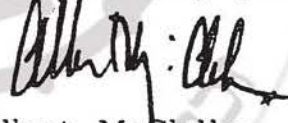
March 15, 1976

Mr. Dean Gitter
The Genesis Project
145 West 58 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Gitter:

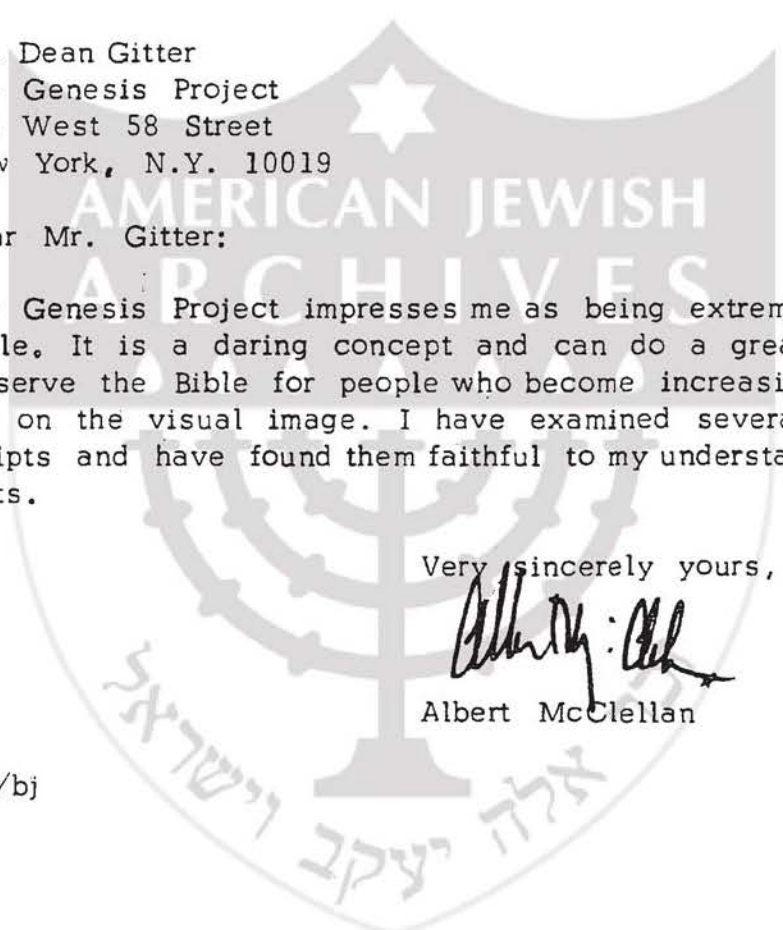
The Genesis Project impresses me as being extremely worthwhile. It is a daring concept and can do a great deal to preserve the Bible for people who become increasingly dependent on the visual image. I have examined several of your scripts and have found them faithful to my understanding of the texts.

Very sincerely yours,



Albert McClellan

AM/bj



MARK O. HATFIELD
OREGON

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 29, 1976

Mr. Michael Manuel
The Genesis Project, Inc.
145 West 58 Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Manuel:

In a day when the actual contents of the Bible seem to be poorly understood, the production of the New Media Bible is an encouraging development.

The strength of the Judeo-Christian heritage lies in the actions of God in the history of mankind. The Bible is not merely a collection of platitudes and philosophical theories. I look forward to reviewing the continuing results of your efforts, for they will not only help people to visualize the Biblical narrative, but will enable us all to realize anew that God is a God of history and is involved in the affairs of men.

Thank you for informing me of your work at this early date. I hope that the enthusiasm of your team will grow with the completion of each segment of your project. May I encourage you to continue with the knowledge that your efforts will not only bring personal fulfillment but will help countless numbers of people to understand the one Book which has influenced our culture perhaps more than any other.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:vgr

The New York Times

A Movie Translation of Entire Bible Begun To Transmit Faith to Today's Nonreaders

By ELEANOR BLAU

Topol, the Israeli actor who played Tevye in the film version of "Fiddler on the Roof," and John Heyman, a British film producer, sat in an office on West 58th Street and talked about their "total obsession."

They are making what they call a film translation of the Bible. Not a Cecil B. deMille kind of spectacular, they stress. And not a low-budget Bible series, such as any number that have been produced for Sunday schools.

It is designed to be a high-quality series of film segments for religious schools and libraries, an attempt to present virtually every bit of the Old Testament and New Testament, without interpretation. It is to be based on meticulous research and consultation with Bible scholars of many denominations, archaeologists and other experts, the producers said.

The aim is to transmit the faith and ideas of the Bible in an age of television in which people "don't read anymore," Mr. Heyman explained.

Decades of Filming Duel

The New Media Bible, as it is called, may be completed in 33 years, although that is considered an optimistic estimate.

"We'll be dead long before it's finished," said Mr. Heyman emphatically, prompting a wistful glance from the gentle-mannered Topol.

"We may live, John," Topol remonstrated. He plays Abraham in the series, but would like to see how the rest of it turns out, he said.

Actually the first 10 films—ranging from about 15 to 20 minutes each—are being produced now and should be ready by September. They cover the beginnings of the Old and New Testaments—the first 22 chapters of Genesis and the first two of Luke.

They will be offered for \$2,000 in a package that also will include supportive material—filmstrips, audio cassettes, teaching and study guides, to suit the needs of a particular church or synagogue.

For example, a church that taught a literal interpretation of the Bible would not want material suggesting that parts of the Scriptures that it considered literal may be seen as merely symbolic, or pointing out discrepancies between the Bible and modern science.

Simple Dramatizations

The films will be simple dramatizations with some narration, most of it from the King James version of the Bible. The voice of God, the producers hope, will be read by Gregory Peck.

There are obvious limits to the goal of being literal. "We're not going to tell anyone what the Garden of Eden 'really' looked like, so we have an abstract Rousseau-like garden," explained Topol, who does not use his first name, Chaim, professionally.

The list of who begat whom and Leviticus are omitted, and Noah's story is animated ("I mean, how do you start a flood, right?" asked Mr. Heyman). Adam and Eve are nude, but modesty is preserved through strategic shadows, which were difficult to get just right.

Dozens of scholars and experts have participated in seminars with the group, and those interviewed said they were impressed with its serious intent and with what they had seen of its first efforts. For example, Prof. Albert C. Outler, theologian at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said scripts he had read, involving Abraham and the infancy of Jesus, were "very high class, yet very delicate and reverent," avoiding "the usual sort of popularization; yet it is not a scholar's film."

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, said the series seemed to be a "new departure" that could "create a revolution in religious education—they've done their homework."

The general idea for the project came independently, it seems, to Topol, who told it to his friend Mr. Heyman five years ago, and to Michael Manuel, former general manager of the Metropolitan Opera's touring company. Mr. Manuel got the notion in 1969 after buying a Bible by mistake at an airport (it was billed as a best seller) and reading it all the way from London to New York.

They all got together in 1974 and formed the Genesis Project, a profit-making company that is producing the films and other material and that expects investments from bankers and other nonreligious sources. They will have spent nearly \$5 million when they complete the first package, spokesmen said.

Biblical Age a Problem

Topol has been producing the first films in Israel ("I know the locations," he explained) and is about to shoot the Abraham scenes. Wearing a tan turtleneck and looking nothing like either Tevye or anybody's idea of Abraham, the beardless 40-year-old actor described some of the filming problems he faced, as he and Mr. Heyman sat in a Genesis office whose walls were filled with sketches of Eden and the Creation.

Among the challenging problems in portraying Abraham are his age. He is 76 when the account begins, 100 when his son Isaac is born, "and one has to decide really how does the man walk or act," Topol said.

"Today we think of someone 100 as someone who doesn't move anymore."

In the part in which the Pharaoh takes away Sarah, and then God punishes him and his people by making them ill, the question was how to portray that illness—what was its nature? They are solving that particular problem, Topol said, by starting with "a very noisy room

with music and people rushing back and forth in a very happy, ruling mood" and when the narrator says God punished them, "we stop the music and freeze everything, almost."

"People are moving very slowly, and you know something is wrong. We did this instead of giving people terrible makeup to look diseased."

Mr. Heyman noted a possibility of exploiting the account in which Sarah offers her handmaiden to her husband, Abraham, because she believes she herself cannot bear a child, but later she is upset when the woman becomes pregnant.

This could be a 20th-century situation, "one we understand very well," Mr. Heyman said, adding that a "Virginia Woolf scene between Abraham and Sarah" definitely would not do.

Whatever the difficulties, Topol is pleased to be portraying Abraham. "He is the most important character for me in the Bible because he's the one who really divided himself from paganism, [turning] to the one God," he said.

"An important thing is that we are doing it really

in the environment where it happened," Topol said, adding: "Do you know, in Sodom the hills are white and craggy, very vicious, but in the Judean desert they are very round, almost feminine. When Ishmael is dying because he had no water, when you see the area, you will know that to survive he really needs a miracle."

Members of Genesis say their homework has been fascinating. For instance, Mr. Manuel disclosed in a separate interview that, according to a painting in an Egyptian tomb, Semites in the Patriarchal Period "didn't look a bit like Bedouin Arabs." He seemed pleased.

Mr. Heyman was exhilarated. "It's a terrific job," he said. "You learn something every day."



145 West 58th Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 757-4834



ARCHIVES

Scenes from "New Media Bible," as depicted on story boards from which the film directors work. Left: Cain hiding from the sight of God after slaying his brother, Abel. Above: Adam and Eve after being expelled from the Garden of Eden. Right: Noah and his wife in a scene by Dino Katopoulis, an artist for project.

