

Truth and Baloney Detector™



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

Sometimes we hear (or read) a *little* Truth mixed with a *lot* of baloney. Sometimes we hear (or read) a *lot* of Truth mixed with a *little* baloney. Sometimes it's *all* baloney with *no* Truth. Occasionally it's *all* Truth with *no* baloney. Recognizing the difference is called *discernment*. Use this *Truth and Baloney Detector* to determine which elements of a song, story, speech, film, or book *fit* God's Big Picture (the *Biblical Worldview*) and which elements *do not fit*. Think about this in relation to the worldview components of God, Creation, Humanity, Moral Order and Purpose, as outlined below.

FOCUS OF THIS ANALYSIS WAS: Reading Rainbows Episode #129

Truth

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

I hear nothing in the Reading Rainbow episode that says anything about the God of the Bible. It totally ignores the real Creator.

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

It is true that plants and animals are beautiful, valuable things, worthy of our care.

Baloney

God:

This TV program teaches that the Earth itself is the provider of all things, and that the Earth is a good and fitting object to thank. This is *idolatry*: worshipping a false god.

It reminds me of Romans 1, where Paul talks about those who "worship the creature rather than the Creator."

Creation:

This program teaches that "Nature" is the giver of good gifts (such as crops), and "Nature" is the provider of the air we breathe and the food we eat. This lifts "Nature" above God, and replaces God with "Nature."

The scene about forming a clay pot teaches *animism*: that "Nature" has a spirit or a mind of its own. The idea of "giving back to the Earth" assumes that we owe something to "Mother Earth."

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

We have an amazing ability to manage plants, animals and the things of the material world, such as clay. It is a privilege and a responsibility to manage these things well.

Humanity:

This program implies that people ought to take directives from “Nature,” and that humans are subject to “Nature.” This contradicts God’s First Commission to humans, to rule over His creation.

This program teaches that we should serve “Mother Earth” instead of Father God.

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

It is good, proper and right for people to give thanks.

People should not be wasteful or harmful to the environment, but take care of it. This is part of the role that God gave humans when He first created us: to govern over, or, “steward” all the earth.

Moral Order:

This TV program condones thanking “Mother Earth.” It implies that what is good for “Nature” is right for human beings. This elevates “Nature” above God *and* humans!

Moral order, here, seems to be “Earth first, humans second, and never mind the God of the Bible.”

In this program, there is no higher law than “love Nature.” Again, this is idolatry.

Purpose (*meaning, intention, destiny, etc.*):

Caring for plants and animals provides a great purpose for human beings.

Purpose:

In this TV program, there is a “calling” to “save the Earth,” and to serve Nature. This is a purpose that is totally Earth-centered, with no mention of accountability to the God of the Bible, or serving Him through the way we manage plants, animals and clay, etc.