

1 Overcoming the Matrix

the dream world vs. the real world

2 Scripture

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. (Luke 1:39–40)

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,

the baby leaped in her womb, and

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:41)

3 Scripture

In a loud voice she exclaimed:

"Blessed are you among women, and

blessed is the child you will bear!" (Luke 1:42 NIV)

"But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43 NIV)

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. (Luke 1:44 NIV)

Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" (Luke 1:45 NIV)

4 The Magnificat

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant." (Luke 1:46–48a NIV)

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. (Luke 1:48b–49 NIV)

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. (Luke 1:50 NIV)

5 Scripture

He has . . .

performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. (Luke 1:51 NIV)

He has . . .

brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble. (Luke 1:52 NIV)

6 Scripture

He has . . .

filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty. (Luke 1:53 NIV)

He has . . .

helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers." (Luke 1:54–55 NIV)

7

8 Introduction

In the early 21st century, a war broke out between humans and intelligent machines.

After human beings prevented the machines from getting access to solar energy,

the machines responded by capturing humans and

using their bodies to provide bioelectric power.

The machines didn't kill the humans, but they pacified them — creating a simulated reality called The Matrix.

9 Introduction

"The Matrix is the world that has been pulled over your eyes," says a character named Morpheus, "to blind you from the truth."

The human battle with the Matrix has played out over the course of three movies,

the first released in 1999 and

the second and third in 2003.

Now, a fourth Matrix movie is scheduled to open in theaters on December 22, 2021, with simultaneous release on HBO Max.

The film industry is hoping for a Christmas blockbuster.

10 Introduction

The Matrix is a land of illusion, as well as a place of really cool, slow-motion, science-fiction shoot-outs.

"Wake up, Neo," says Morpheus to the star of the movie, played by Keanu Reeves. "As long as the Matrix exists, the human race will never be free."

Neo is a computer hacker whose real name in the movie is Thomas Anderson.

He senses that something is wrong with the world, so he goes on a search for the truth.

His love interest is Trinity, a woman who has been freed by Morpheus to do battle with the Matrix.

11 Introduction

Throughout the Matrix movies, Neo is referred to as "the One."

He is symbolically . . .

the chosen one,
the Christ,
the messiah,
the one who is sent to save his people.

The name Neo means “new,” a name that also indirectly connects to Jesus, the new man who leads us to new life and freedom.

12 Introduction

But there’s more!

Neo’s real name, Thomas Anderson, contains additional Christian meanings.

“Anderson” literally means “Son of Man,” a phrase often used in the Bible to describe Jesus.

The first name “Thomas” reminds us of the disciple Thomas, who wouldn’t believe in the resurrection until he saw the truth with his own eyes.

13 Introduction

“Wake up, Neo,” says Morpheus. Wake up, Thomas Anderson. See the truth with your own eyes.

The character Trinity makes us think of God, of course: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

Neo and Trinity fall in love, showing the same powerful love that exists between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Together, they are on a mission to save the world.

14 The Gospel Matrix

Tonight, I’m inviting us all to overcome the Matrix.

Not that you must go to the movies to do so.

This invitation is connected more to Mary’s song of praise than it is to a science-fiction film.

To “overcome the Matrix” is to see the truth clearly, perhaps for very first time.

15 The Gospel Matrix

Mary’s adventure begins when she leaves Nazareth in Galilee and goes with haste to a Judean town in the hill country.

She has just received a message from a mysterious visitor — not Morpheus, but the angel Gabriel.

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,” said Gabriel, “and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

In other words, Mary will be the mother of Neo, the One — Son of Man and Son of God.

16 The Gospel Matrix

Gabriel knows that his message is hard to accept, so he offers an illustration of how nothing will be impossible with God.

He tells Mary that her relative Elizabeth has conceived a son, even though she was thought to be too old to have children.

So, Mary travels from Galilee to Judea and enters the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth hears Mary’s greeting, her child leaps in her womb, and Elizabeth cries out, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (v. 42).

17 The Gospel Matrix

Clearly, God is working in some surprising and powerful ways.

Elizabeth’s baby senses the presence of Mary’s baby, and he shows his happiness by leaping for joy.

In “The Matrix,” Morpheus says to Neo, “Free your mind.”

God was saying the same to Elizabeth and Mary:

“Free your mind, and

believe that I am doing amazing things through you.”

18 The Gospel Matrix

Then Mary offers a song of praise:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant” (vv. 46-48).

According to the Matrix of this world, honor comes to those who are strong or powerful.

It says that a teenage girl is in a low position, a bottom rank, an unimpressive place.

But Mary overcomes the Matrix and blows it apart, discovering that the truth of the matter is that God has looked on her with favor, allowing her to be the mother of God's Son.

19 The Gospel Matrix

We live in a world that values worldly success, position and power.

But this matrix is really an illusion and will fail on the day of God's visitation.

The truth is that God is acting to honor humility and the result is new life. As long as the Matrix exists, the human race will never be free.

But when we through the Spirit of Prophecy (Revelation) understand this illusion, we will be empowered

to walk in faith,
confidence, and
power and freedom.

20 The Gospel Matrix

Mary goes on to say that God has . . .

brought down the powerful from their thrones, and
lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and
sent the rich away empty.

I don't know if you recognize this but Mary is speaking in the aorist tense in the Greek, which can refer to a past event that has present connotations.

In other words, what Mary is saying is that the Matrix of this world system is already falling and that those who have eyes that see and ears that hear should already start seeing the truth of its demise.

21 The Gospel Matrix

In the world around us, the world of illusion,
the powerful stay on their thrones no matter how corrupt they may or may not be, and
everyone else stays in their place and serves them.

But Mary shatters this Matrix and praises God for turning the world upside-down.

In the end, the rich and powerful will be sent away, and when they are sent away they will be sent away empty.

In other words, Jeff Bezos who is worth \$200 billion dollars will cash out at \$0.00, if he doesn't wise up.

As the Scripture says, Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death. (Proverbs 11:4)

22 Gods of this World

According to the Apostle Paul,

The god of this age {just like the Matrix} has blinded the minds of unbelievers,
so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV)

Moreover, Paul explains that the real powers in the world are spiritual not physical, even though they are manifested in the physical. As he says in Ephesians 6:12,

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

23 Gods of this World

Just as the Matrix had an army of enforcers who tried to stop those who were enlightened (with the truth), so we have spiritual forces of evil who are against us.

If fact, they shoot at us too.

Not with bullets, but with flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16) to destroy what we know to be true.

In other words, they're aimed at our Faith in the ONE who has come and will come again.

24 Summary

So then, the Matrix of the spiritual forces of evil has blinded the eyes of those who have hardened their hearts against God's Holy Spirit.

Swallowing the wrong pill their spiritual assumptions and expectations are all an illusion and they live life accordingly.

Instead of turning to God and accepting the ONE he has sent, they go on with their lives and fail to notice the signs of the times.

For just as Mary prophesied, there is a regime change coming to the earth and the earth will indeed be the home of righteousness and justice.

When this happens, no one will make us afraid and peace will rule among all nations because all lies were finally exposed.

25 Conclusion

Therefore, let us not fall for the illusion of the Matrix and live like those who have no spiritual insight or discernment.

While the people of the Matrix shoot at us with all kinds of weapons, let's not let anything move us from our trust in the ONE that God has sent.

Let us put on the full armor of God and

.....

take our stand of faith and

live a blameless life before the Lord—filled with God’s Spirit.

In other words, when the Holy Spirit offers you the “Red Pill,” take it, for justice is coming to the earth and the wicked will be no more—just as through the Spirit of prophecy, Mary has said!