

lew wallace ben-hur a tale of the christ

Lew Wallace Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ

Lew Wallace Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ is a timeless literary masterpiece that has captivated readers worldwide for over a century. Published in 1880, this historical novel intertwines the life of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince, with the profound story of Jesus Christ, set against the tumultuous backdrop of Roman Judea. Renowned for its vivid storytelling, compelling characters, and exploration of themes like redemption, faith, and justice, Ben-Hur remains one of the most influential and best-selling books in history. This comprehensive guide delves into the origins of the novel, its plot, characters, themes, historical significance, and its enduring legacy.

The Origins of Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ

Who Was Lew Wallace?

Lew Wallace (1827–1905) was an American lawyer, Union general in the Civil War, politician, and author. His diverse career provided him with a rich perspective on history, leadership, and storytelling. Wallace's interest in biblical history and his Christian faith influenced his decision to write Ben-Hur.

Inspiration Behind the Novel

Wallace's inspiration for Ben-Hur stemmed from his fascination with biblical stories and his desire to create a work that combined historical detail with spiritual themes. The novel was initially conceived as a screenplay, but Wallace decided to expand it into a full-length novel, aiming to reach a broad audience with its moral and religious messages.

Writing and Publication

After years of research and writing, Ben-Hur was published in 1880. It was an immediate success, selling over a million copies within its first year. Its popularity was further boosted by serialized publication in magazines and word of mouth, establishing it as a major literary and cultural phenomenon.

Plot Overview of Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ

Setting and Context

Set during the time of Jesus Christ's ministry, the novel spans the early first century CE in Roman-occupied Judea. The story explores the turbulent period marked by political unrest, social injustice, and religious fervor.

Main Plot Points

Judah Ben-Hur's Journey

- Origins: Judah Ben-Hur is a wealthy Jewish prince living in Jerusalem. His life takes a dramatic turn when he is falsely accused of treason by a Roman officer.
- Betrayal and Slavery: Judah is condemned to serve as a galley slave after a brutal confrontation, enduring years of hardship on the sea.
- Revenge and Redemption: After surviving a miraculous rescue, Judah seeks revenge against his childhood rival, Messala, who betrayed him.
- Spiritual Awakening: Throughout his journey, Judah encounters Jesus Christ, whose teachings profoundly influence him, leading to a transformation from vengeance to forgiveness and faith.
- Final Redemption: Judah's story culminates in a personal spiritual awakening and reconciliation, emphasizing themes of redemption and divine grace.

The Life of Jesus Christ

- The novel depicts Jesus' ministry, miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection, providing a detailed and respectful portrayal that aligns with biblical accounts.
- Wallace's depiction of Christ emphasizes compassion, humility, and love, reinforcing the novel's moral messages.

Key Characters in Ben-Hur

Judah Ben-Hur

- A Jewish prince turned slave, whose journey embodies resilience, faith, and redemption.
- Represents the universal human struggle for justice and salvation.

Messala

- Judah's childhood friend and Roman tribune.
- His betrayal triggers the central conflict of the story, symbolizing the clash between personal loyalty and political allegiance.

Esther

- A Jewish princess and Judah's love interest.
- Her faith and loyalty serve as moral anchors in the narrative.

Jesus Christ

- Portrayed with reverence and depth, emphasizing his teachings and influence.
- Serves as the spiritual catalyst for Judah's transformation.

Other Notable Characters

- Simonides: A wealthy Jewish merchant who aids Judah.
- Quintus Arrius: A Roman admiral who adopts Judah after the shipwreck.
- Tirzah: A servant girl who helps Judah during his captivity.

Major Themes in Ben-Hur

Redemption and Forgiveness

- The novel's core message revolves around the possibility of redemption through faith and forgiveness.
- Judah's transformation underscores the power of spiritual awakening.

Justice and Revenge

- The narrative explores the destructive nature of revenge and advocates for justice rooted in compassion.

Faith and Spirituality

- The story highlights the influence of Jesus Christ's teachings, inspiring characters and readers alike to seek spiritual truth.

Conflict Between Good and Evil

- The novel portrays the ongoing struggle between moral righteousness and corruption, both personal and societal.

The Human Condition

- Ben-Hur delves into themes of suffering, hope, resilience, and divine grace, resonating across generations.

Historical Significance and Cultural Impact

Literary Milestone

- Ben-Hur is considered one of the most important works of 19th-century American literature.
- Its detailed descriptions of Roman and Judean life provide valuable historical insights.

Influence on Popular Culture

- The novel inspired multiple film adaptations, most famously the 1959 Hollywood epic Ben-Hur, which won 11 Academy Awards.
- Its scenes, such as the chariot race, remain iconic in cinematic history.

Religious and Moral Influence

- The novel's portrayal of Christ and its moral themes have influenced Christian thought and cultural attitudes toward faith and redemption.

Impact on Tourism and Archaeology

- The detailed depiction of ancient Jerusalem and Roman life spurred interest in biblical archaeology and historical tourism.

Adaptations and Legacy

Film and Television

- The 1959 film adaptation directed by William Wyler is considered one of the greatest movies of all time.
- Other adaptations include radio dramas, stage productions, and modern remakes.

Literary Influence

- Ben-Hur has inspired countless authors and writers, influencing the genre of historical and religious fiction.

Continued Relevance

- The novel's themes of forgiveness, faith, and resilience continue to resonate with contemporary audiences.
- Its enduring popularity underscores its status as a classic of American literature.

Why Ben-Hur Remains a Must-Read

Educational Value

- Provides insights into ancient history, Jewish and Roman cultures, and biblical narratives.
- Encourages reflection on moral and spiritual issues.

Literary Excellence

- Celebrated for its vivid descriptions, complex characters, and compelling storytelling.

Universal Themes

- Its messages of hope, redemption, and faith transcend time and cultural boundaries.

Cultural Impact

- Its influence on film, literature, and religious thought secures its place in the cultural canon.

Conclusion

Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* remains a monumental work that combines historical fiction with spiritual reflection. Its richly developed characters, intricate plot, and profound themes continue to inspire readers and viewers around the world. As an epic narrative of faith, resilience, and redemption, *Ben-Hur* not only offers a captivating story but also invites reflection on the enduring power of compassion and divine grace. Whether approached as a historical novel, a spiritual allegory, or a cultural phenomenon, *Ben-Hur* stands as a testament to the timeless human quest for meaning and salvation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of Lew Wallace's 'Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ'?

The novel explores themes of redemption, faith, forgiveness, and the transformative power of Christ's teachings set against the backdrop of ancient Judea.

Why is 'Ben-Hur' considered a classic in American literature?

'Ben-Hur' is regarded as a classic due to its compelling storytelling, vivid historical detail, and its influence on popular culture, including inspiring the first major film adaptation in 1959.

How does Lew Wallace depict the character of Judah Ben-Hur in the novel?

Judah Ben-Hur is portrayed as a noble and resilient Jewish prince who undergoes a profound spiritual journey, ultimately finding redemption through faith and forgiveness.

What impact did 'Ben-Hur' have on religious and cultural discussions when it was published?

Published in 1880, 'Ben-Hur' sparked widespread interest in Christianity and influenced religious dialogue by illustrating the life and teachings of Christ through a compelling narrative.

What are some notable adaptations of 'Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ'?

The most notable adaptation is the 1959 film 'Ben-Hur,' directed by William Wyler, which won multiple Academy Awards and remains one of the most acclaimed films based on a novel.

How does 'Ben-Hur' integrate historical events into its story?

The novel is set during the time of Jesus Christ's ministry and references major historical events and figures of the period, providing a rich historical context for the characters' lives.

Why has 'Ben-Hur' remained relevant and popular over the years?

Its universal themes of hope, redemption, and forgiveness, along with its compelling characters and historical setting, have kept 'Ben-Hur' relevant and cherished by readers across generations.

Additional Resources

Lew Wallace Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ — An In-Depth Analysis of a Literary Classic

Introduction

When discussing the evolution of American literature and historical adventure novels, one cannot overlook the monumental impact of Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. Published in 1880, this novel has cemented itself as a cultural touchstone, blending adventure, spirituality, and historical insight into a compelling narrative that has transcended generations. As a literary work, it stands out not only for its storytelling prowess but also for its influence on religious and popular culture worldwide.

In this comprehensive review, we will explore the origins, themes, characters, and enduring legacy of *Ben-Hur*, analyzing why it remains a vital piece of literature and a testament to Wallace's storytelling mastery.

Background and Context

Who Was Lew Wallace?

Before delving into the novel itself, understanding the author's background provides valuable insight. Lew Wallace (1827–1905) was an American lawyer, Union general in the Civil War, governor of New Mexico Territory, and diplomat. His diverse career imbued him with a nuanced perspective on history and human nature, which he wove into his literary work.

Wallace's interest in history and religion, combined with his travels, provided the foundational knowledge for *Ben-Hur*. Originally conceived as a simple adventure story, Wallace's personal spiritual reflections and historical research transformed the narrative into a profound exploration of faith, redemption, and human endurance.

The Literary Landscape of the 19th Century

Published during a period rich with literary experimentation and expansion, *Ben-Hur* entered a crowded

field of adventure and religious novels. However, its scope, detailed historical accuracy, and moral depth distinguished it from contemporaries, contributing to its immediate popularity and long-term influence.

Overview of Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ

Plot Summary

At its core, Ben-Hur traces the life of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince and merchant living during the time of Christ. The story begins with Judah's peaceful life shattered by betrayal, leading him into slavery and seeking revenge. His journey is marked by personal suffering, spiritual awakening, and ultimate redemption.

Parallel to Judah's story runs the narrative of Jesus Christ, whose teachings and miracles influence Judah profoundly. The novel culminates in Judah witnessing Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, which catalyzes his spiritual rebirth.

Major Themes

1. Redemption and Forgiveness

The core moral of Ben-Hur revolves around the possibility of redemption through faith and forgiveness, emphasizing that true salvation is spiritual rather than material.

2. The Power of Faith

The novel explores how faith influences characters' decisions and destinies, especially through Judah's transformation after encountering Christ.

3. Historical and Religious Intersection

Wallace skillfully intertwines historical events and figures with fictional characters, creating an authentic

depiction of Roman-occupied Judea.

4. Human Endurance and Resilience

Judah's physical and emotional trials highlight resilience, perseverance, and hope amidst adversity.

Deep Dive into Structure and Style

Narrative Technique

Wallace employs a third-person omniscient narrative, allowing insight into multiple characters' thoughts and motives. The novel's pacing balances action-packed sequences—such as chariot races and battles—with introspective moments that probe moral and spiritual themes.

Descriptive Richness

The language is vivid and detailed, immersing readers in ancient settings, from bustling Jerusalem streets to the grandeur of Roman courts. Wallace's meticulous research lends authenticity to the geographical and cultural descriptions.

Character Development

- Judah Ben-Hur: A quintessential hero, characterized by resilience, honor, and eventual spiritual awakening.
- Messala: The antagonist, embodying Roman authority and personal vengeance.
- Jesus Christ: Portrayed with reverence, His presence influences Judah's transformation.
- Tirzah: Judah's compassionate servant, representing loyalty and humility.

Key Components of the Novel

The Chariot Race

One of the most iconic scenes, the chariot race at Antioch, exemplifies Wallace's mastery of suspense and action. The detailed description and rapid pacing make it a pinnacle of adventure storytelling. It symbolizes the struggle between good and evil and has become emblematic of the novel itself.

The Role of Religion

Throughout the story, Wallace emphasizes the life and teachings of Christ, integrating biblical narratives seamlessly into the plot. The novel doesn't shy from depicting the political and social tensions of the era, providing context for the significance of Christ's message. The spiritual moments often serve as turning points for Judah and other characters.

Historical Accuracy

Wallace's extensive research resulted in a detailed recreation of ancient Judea, Rome, and the early Christian era. The novel references historical figures, locations, and customs, lending it an air of authenticity that appeals to history enthusiasts and scholars alike.

Impact and Legacy

Cultural Influence

Ben-Hur quickly became a bestseller, selling over 10 million copies within a few decades. Its influence extended beyond literature into theater, film, and popular culture. The most famous adaptation, the 1959 film directed by William Wyler, won 11 Academy Awards and remains a cinematic classic.

Religious Significance

The novel played a pivotal role in popularizing Christianity in America and abroad. Its portrayal of Christ's life and teachings introduced many readers to the biblical narrative through engaging storytelling, making it an accessible bridge between faith and literature.

Literary Significance

Critics praise Ben-Hur for its narrative scope, character development, and moral depth. It set a precedent for historical adventure novels and inspired countless authors to explore similar themes.

Critical Reception and Controversies

While widely celebrated, Ben-Hur also faced criticism. Some critics argued that the novel's religious portrayal was overly sentimental or idealized. Others questioned its historical accuracy, given its fictional elements intertwined with real events.

Despite this, the novel's popularity and cultural resonance overshadowed criticisms, cementing its status as a literary and religious landmark.

Modern Relevance and Adaptations

Film and Media

The 1959 Hollywood epic remains the most celebrated adaptation, but the story has been retold in various formats, including stage productions, radio plays, and newer film adaptations. The story's themes of faith and redemption continue to resonate.

Literary and Academic Interest

Scholars analyze Ben-Hur for its historical accuracy, religious symbolism, and narrative structure. Its influence on Christian literature and adventure storytelling remains a subject of study.

Contemporary Reception

Today, Ben-Hur appeals to a diverse audience, from religious communities to fans of historical fiction. Its universal themes of forgiveness, resilience, and spiritual awakening maintain their relevance.

Final Thoughts: A Timeless Classic

Lew Wallace's Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ stands as a testament to the power of storytelling to inspire faith, resilience, and hope. Its masterful blending of history, adventure, and spirituality creates a narrative that is both entertaining and enlightening. As a product of its time, it continues to influence literature, film, and religious discourse, making it a must-read for those interested in the intersection of history, faith, and human endurance.

Whether approached as a historical adventure or a spiritual journey, Ben-Hur remains a compelling, enduring masterpiece — a story that continues to captivate and inspire readers around the world.

[Lew Wallace Ben Hur A Tale Of The Christ](#)

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur: A tale of the Christ Lew Wallace, 2022-05-28 In Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ, Lew Wallace masterfully intertwines a gripping narrative of betrayal, redemption, and faith set against the backdrop of ancient Rome. Wallace employs a rich, descriptive literary style that captures the tumultuous atmosphere of the era, while the novel's structure interlaces an epic adventure with a powerful exploration of Christian themes. The story follows Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince falsely accused of treason, whose journey takes him from the heights of nobility to the depths of despair and ultimately leads him to encounter Christ. This 19th-century work, emerging from the historical fiction genre, offers readers a profound reflection on the moral questions of vengeance and forgiveness, embodying the spirit of its time—a

period marked by spiritual upheaval and burgeoning interest in biblical narratives. Lew Wallace was not only a writer but also a Union general during the American Civil War, a lawyer, and a politician, factors that shaped his worldview and narrative voice. His varied experiences imbued his storytelling with a sense of depth and authenticity, while his conversion to Christianity in later life influenced the conception of this work. Wallace sought to create a story that would inspire faith and moral contemplation, reflecting his desire to bridge the secular with the sacred. *Ben-Hur* is recommended for readers who appreciate historical fiction laced with spiritual inquiry. It resonates across generations, inviting contemplation on the complexities of the human condition and the enduring power of grace. This novel not only offers an engaging tale but also serves as a meaningful exploration of themes that remain relevant today.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: *Ben-Hur (Illustrated)* Lew Wallace, 2023-12-10 Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur (Illustrated)* is a monumental work that masterfully blends historical fiction with vivid adventure, capturing the essence of ancient Roman society and its moral dilemmas. The novel centers around Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince falsely accused of treason, whose odyssey from despair to redemption unfolds against the backdrop of the Christ narrative. Wallace's prose is rich and evocative, characterized by elaborate descriptions and thoughtful reflections, placing the reader firmly within the cultural and religious atmosphere of the time. The illustrations accompanying the text enhance its impact, bringing to life the dramatic chariot races and intense emotional confrontations that have captivated readers since its publication in 1880. Lew Wallace, a former Union general and lawyer, was inspired to write *Ben-Hur* partly in response to his own search for faith and meaning in the aftermath of the Civil War. His wide-ranging experiences, from battlefield leadership to religious debates and literature, informed his portrayal of the transformative power of love and forgiveness. Wallace's deep engagement with the themes of justice and redemption not only reflects his personal journey but also resonates with broader societal concerns of his era. *Ben-Hur (Illustrated)* is a must-read for anyone interested in the interplay of faith, history, and character development. It invites readers to engage with profound questions about justice, forgiveness, and the human spirit. Whether you are a long-time admirer of classic literature or newly exploring the genre, this beautifully illustrated edition offers an accessible portal into a timeless narrative that continues to inspire and challenge.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: *Ben-Hur* Lew Wallace, 2024-03-31 *Ben-Hur* by Lew Wallace is a captivating tale set against the backdrop of ancient Judea. At its core is the story of Judah Ben-Hur, a young Jewish prince who is betrayed by his childhood friend Messala and sentenced to a life of slavery. As he grapples with his newfound fate, Ben-Hur's path intersects with that of Jesus Christ, whose teachings of love and forgiveness ultimately transform his life. The novel takes readers on a journey through the tumultuous events of the time, from the grandeur of the Roman Empire to the humble beginnings of Christianity. Along the way, Ben-Hur encounters a cast of unforgettable characters and embarks on a quest for justice, redemption, and spiritual enlightenment. Through vivid prose and meticulous historical detail, Wallace brings the ancient world to life, immersing readers in the sights, sounds, and struggles of Judea during the time of Jesus. From the exhilarating chariot race in the Circus Maximus to the solemn crucifixion on Golgotha, *Ben-Hur* is a sweeping epic that captivates the imagination and touches the heart.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: *Ben-Hur (A Tale of the Christ)* Lew Wallace, 2016-09-05 This carefully crafted ebook: *Ben-Hur (A Tale of the Christ)* is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. *Ben-Hur* describes the adventures of Judah Ben-Hur, Jewish prince from Jerusalem who gets betrayed by his friend from childhood and enslaved by the Romans. He is taken to Rome where he becomes a charioteer and a Christian. Running in parallel with Judah's narrative is the unfolding story of Jesus, who comes from the same region and is a similar age. The novel reflects themes of betrayal, conviction, and redemption, with a revenge plot that leads to a story of love and compassion. Lew Wallace (1827-1905) was an American lawyer, Union general in the American Civil War, politician, diplomat, and author. Among his novels and biographies, Wallace is best known for his historical adventure story, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*,

a bestselling novel that has been called the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur Lew Wallace, 1892

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur, a Tale of the Christ, by Lew Wallace, ... Lew Wallace, 1880

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur Lew Wallace, 2016-05-10 Ben-Hur is a heroic story of a fictional hero named Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish nobleman who was falsely accused of an attempted assassination and enslaved by the Romans. He becomes a successful charioteer. The story's revenge plot becomes a story of compassion and forgiveness. The novel is divided into eight books, or parts, each with its own subchapters. Book one opens with the story of the three biblical Magi, who arrive in Bethlehem to hear the news of Christ's birth. Readers meet the fictional character of Judah for the first time in book two, when his childhood friend Messala, also a fictional character, returns home as an ambitious commanding officer of the Roman legions. The teen-aged boys come to realize that they have changed and hold very different views and aspirations. When a loose tile is accidentally dislodged from the roof of Judah's house during a military parade and strikes the Roman governor, knocking him from his horse, Messala falsely accuses Judah of attempted assassination. Although Judah is not guilty and receives no trial, he is sent to the Roman galleys for life; his mother and sister are imprisoned in a Roman jail, where they contract leprosy; and all the family property is confiscated. Judah first encounters Jesus, who offers him a drink of water and encouragement, as Judah is being marched to slavery aboard a galley. Their lives continue to intersect as the story unfolds. In book three Judah survives his ordeal as a galley slave through good fortune, which includes befriending and saving the commander of his ship, who later adopts him. Judah goes on to become a trained soldier and charioteer. In books four and five Judah returns home to Jerusalem to seek revenge and redemption for his family.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur A Tale of The Christ Lew Wallace, 2023-10-01 Presented in their complete text and updated for easier reading, each story in the Great Stories Collection is truly unique. Each has been rigorously critiqued and selected for the quality of its Christian content, the value in its message, and its ability to bring and bind a family together. In-depth introductions detail both the authors and the times in which they lived. Many books feature original woodcut illustrations. Complete with thought-provoking questions, these books are keepsakes to be treasured for years to come. Perfect additions to the adult fiction section. An unforgettable account of betrayal, revenge, and rebellion. Lew Wallace tells the story of a Jewish nobleman who fell from Roman favor and was sentenced to life as a slave-all at the hands of his childhood friend. Years later Ben-Hur regains his freedom in the famous chariot race. Through everything, Ben-Hur has an encounter with the grace of God.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur Lewis Wallace, 2021-03-09 Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ is a novel by Lew Wallace, published by Harper and Brothers on November 12, 1880, and considered the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century.[1] It became a best-selling American novel, surpassing Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) in sales. The book also inspired other novels with biblical settings and was adapted for the stage and motion picture productions. Ben-Hur remained at the top of the US all-time bestseller list until the 1936 publication of Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind. The 1959 MGM film adaptation of Ben-Hur is considered one of the greatest films ever made and was seen by tens of millions, going on to win a record 11 Academy Awards in 1960, after which the book's sales increased and it surpassed Gone with the Wind.[2] It was blessed by Pope Leo XIII, the first novel ever to receive such an honour.[3] The success of the novel and its stage and film adaptations also helped it to become a popular cultural icon that was used to promote numerous commercial products. The story recounts the adventures of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince from Jerusalem, who is enslaved by the Romans at the beginning of the first century and becomes a charioteer and a Christian. Running in parallel with Judah's narrative is the unfolding story of Jesus, from the same region and around the same age. The novel reflects themes of betrayal, conviction, and redemption, with a revenge plot that leads to a

story of love and compassion.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur Lew Wallace, 2015-07-29 This large print, unabridged, complete edition is cleanly formatted for easy reading. 16 point Garamond, 1.15 spacing. Hailed as the book that shook the world, Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ is the the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century. The book tells of the adventures of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince from Jerusalem, who is enslaved at the start of the 1st century and becomes a charioteer and a Christian. Together with Judah's narrative unfolds the story of Jesus, who is from the same region and of a similar age. The novel examines themes of betrayal, redemption, has a revenge plot and a love story.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur Lew Wallace, 2020-09 Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ is a novel by Lew Wallace, published by Harper and Brothers on November 12, 1880, and considered the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur; a Tale of the Christ Lew Wallace, 2017-01-07 Why buy our paperbacks? Printed in USA on High Quality Paper Standard Font size of 10 for all books Fulfilled by Amazon Expedited shipping 30 Days Money Back Guarantee Unabridged (100% Original content) BEWARE OF LOW-QUALITY SELLERS Don't buy cheap paperbacks just to save a few dollars. Most of them use low-quality papers & binding. Their pages fall off easily. Some of them even use very small font size of 6 or less to increase their profit margin. It makes their books completely unreadable. About Ben-Hur; A Tale Of The Christ By Lew Wallace Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ is a novel by Lew Wallace, published by Harper & Brothers on November 12, 1880. Considered the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century, it became a best-selling American novel, surpassing Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) in sales. The book also inspired other novels with biblical settings and was adapted for the stage and motion picture productions. Ben-Hur remained at the top of the bestseller lists until the publication of Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind (1936). Following the release of the 1959 MGM film adaptation of Ben-Hur, which was seen by tens of millions and won eleven Academy Awards in 1960, the book's sales increased and it surpassed Gone with the Wind. Blessed by Pope Leo XIII, the novel was the first work of fiction to be so honored. The success of the novel and its stage and film adaptations also helped it become a popular cultural icon that was used to promote numerous commercial products.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben-Hur Lew Wallace, 2012-02 In 1880, a retired Union General by the name of Lew Wallace completed his first historical novel while serving as governor in the Territory of New Mexico. He wrote it in response to questions raised by a famous agnostic sharing a train ride from Chicago to Indianapolis. At the time, Wallace wasn't as knowledgeable of the facts surrounding the life of Christ as he had thought. After doing extensive research, he was inspired to write what has become the definitive religious epic. Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ helped Wallace sort out his own beliefs about God and Christ, and inspired others to do the same. Today, it stands as the most widely read novel of the 19th Century, and one of the most popular works of all time. It has never been out of print in its 130 year history, and has been made into several plays and four films. Ben-Hur reflects the life and journey of Lew Wallace. At the Battle of Shiloh, through an accident, he and his men arrived too late to help, making the Union losses significantly higher than they would have been. As a result, Wallace was disgraced. Judah Ben-Hur, through the accident of a loose roof tile, loses his home and property, his family is sent to prison, and he is sent to the galleys. Through a miracle of courage and circumstances, Wallace worked his way back, became a successful statesman and author, and is today remembered in the Hall of Statues in Washington, DC. Through a similar miracle, Ben-Hur works his way back to save his family and get revenge over those who caused their calamity. Ben-Hur is a story of courage and revenge, but it is also a story of redemption and salvation. I believe Wallace saw his life the same. Ben-Hur crosses paths with Christ more than once, so that, in the end, his hate and destructiveness are swallowed up in Christ's love and forgiveness. I believe Wallace saw the same miracle in his life. Ben-Hur did not take off immediately; but, after several years of word-of-mouth, everyone was reading it, especially pastors and their congregations. In 1900, two producers, Klaw and Erlanger,

bought the rights to bring Ben-Hur to the New York stage. It was an amazing production that boasted five teams of horses and chariots on stage at once for the great chariot race. They used treadmills for the teams, with moving scenery. There was also a great sea battle that was considered spectacular. The success of the play inspired showmen in the fledgling industry of motion pictures to take note. There is far more focus on Christ in the novel, the 1900 stage play (in which he is played by a beam of light) and the 1925 film than in the 1959 version. The book wrestles with the question of whether He will be an earthly King or a Savior of souls. Ben-Hur, who is a Sadducee, hopes he will be an earthly King, and actually trains three legions of Galileans in preparation to help Him overthrow the occupying Romans. But Balthasar is convinced Christ will be a Savior of souls, and tries to convince Ben-Hur of the same. It is not until the miraculous events of the last of the eight books that he accepts that fact, and accepts Christ as his Savior. To date, Ben-Hur is still the greatest Christian novel ever written, as well as one of the all-time great classics. Men still struggle with the question of whether Christ is an earthly King or a Savior of souls. To find out, we must all take similar journeys to Ben-Hur and Balthasar, and be hindered along the way by various Messias. Not many of us will be like Balthasar and 'get' it so quickly. Most of us will be more like Ben-Hur: accept what life throws at us with defiance, deal with it as best we can, struggle, realize we can't do it on our own, accept God's salvation, transcend our troubles through faith, and be transformed into someone new, someone Christ-like. Ben-Hur isn't just about Lew Wallace's journey from failure to freedom; like Pilgrim's Progress, it reflects the common journey all Christians must take.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben Hur Lew Wallace, 2011-01-08 Lewis Lew Wallace (April 10, 1827 February 15, 1905) was a lawyer, governor, Union general in the American Civil War, American statesman and author, best remembered for his historical novel Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ. Ben-Hur (or Benhur) is a 1959 epic film directed by William Wyler, the third film version of Lew Wallace's 1880 novel Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ. It premiered at Loew's State Theater in New York City on November 18, 1959. The film went on to win a record of eleven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, a feat equaled only by Titanic in 1998 and The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King in 2004. It was also the last film to win the Oscar for both Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor, until nearly 44 years later when Mystic River achieved the same feat.

lew wallace ben hur a tale of the christ: Ben Hur Lew Wallace, 2023-04-01 Judah and Massala are close friends growing up, though one is Jewish and the other Roman. But when an accident happens after Massala returns from five years in Rome, Massala betrays his childhood friend and family. Judah's mother and sister are taken away to prison, and he is sent to a galley-ship. Years later, Judah rescues a ship's captain from drowning after a ship-to-ship battle, and the tribune adopts him in gratitude. Judah then devotes himself to learning as much as he can about being a warrior, in the hopes of leading an insurrection against Rome. He thinks he's found the perfect leader in a young Nazirite, but is disappointed at the young man's seeming lack of ambition. Before writing Ben-Hur, Lew Wallace was best known for being a Major General in the American Civil War. After the war, a conversation with an atheist caused Wallace to take stock of how little he knew about his own religion. He launched into what would be years of research so that he could write with accuracy about first-century Israel. Although Judah Ben-Hur is the novel's main character, the book's subtitle, "A Tale of the Christ," reveals Wallace's real focus. Sales were only a trickle at the beginning, but it soon became a bestseller, and went on to become the best-selling novel of the nineteenth century. It has never been out of print, and to date has inspired two plays, a TV series, and five films—one of which, the 1959 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer epic, is considered to be one of the best films yet made.

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takes a few chapters to get comfortable with the style of writing. It is also quite descriptive. It took me about 4 weeks to complete the book. I loved it. Out of that vast tomb Christianity issued to supersede the Caesars. Ben Hur is one of those classic works better recognised for its many adaptations. To this end it seems fair to compare it to another highly similar work - Les Miserables. Both are classic historical fiction works which use history to spread themes and ideas about humanity as a whole. Both novels also regularly divert from the storytelling to provide detailed insights into history. This is perhaps where Ben Hur is stronger than Les Miserables - in that as a novel it works historical detail better into the plot. However, Les Miserables' message of grace and redemption holds as much power as this tale, if not more. Ben-Hur, subtitled A Tale of the Christ, may have been the first notable work in this genre. And it's a really good one. When Judah Ben-Hur's estranged childhood friend, the Roman Messala, betrays him into a life as a galley-slave and leaves his mother and sister to rot in prison, Ben-Hur survives only by vowing revenge. The wheel of fortune eventually brings him wealth, power, and an incredibly well-developed physique, so he returns to Palestine hell-bent on exacting the kind of comeuppance that would make the Count of Monte Cristo raise his eyebrows and tut. Along the way he makes the acquaintance not only of Messiah claimant Jesus of Nazareth but also of the beautiful and scheming Iras the Egyptian. About Wallace: Lewis Lew Wallace (April 10, 1827 - February 15, 1905) was a lawyer, governor, Union general in the American Civil War, American statesman, and author, best remembered for his historical novel Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ.

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