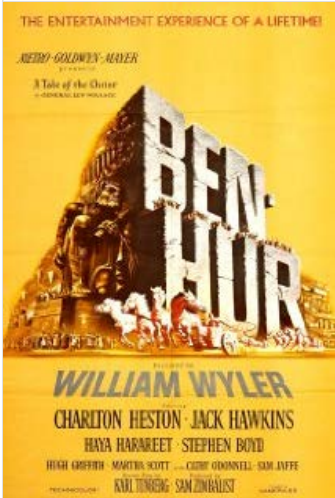




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Ben-Hur (1959)

G | 212 min | Adventure, Drama, History | 26 December 1959 (UK)



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Ratings: 8.1/10 from 138,631 users

Reviews: 355 user | 106 critic

When a Jewish prince is betrayed and sent into slavery by a Roman friend, he regains his freedom and comes back for revenge.

Director: William Wyler

Writers: Lew Wallace (novel) (as General Lew Wallace) ,
Karl Tunberg (screenplay), 4 more credits »

Stars: Charlton Heston, Jack Hawkins, Stephen Boyd |
See full cast and crew »

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Ben Hur (TV Mini-Series 2010)

Action | Drama

★★★★★ ★★ 6.6/10

A young Jewish prince seeks revenge
after an old friend wrongly imprisons
him and his family.

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Stars: Joseph Morgan, Stephen Ca...

Cast

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Complete credited cast:

	Charlton Heston	...	Judah Ben-Hur
	Jack Hawkins	...	Quintus Arrius
	Haya Harareet	...	Esther
	Stephen Boyd	...	Messala
	Hugh Griffith	...	Sheik Ilderim
	Martha Scott	...	Miriam
	Cathy O'Donnell	...	Tizim
	Sam Jaffe	...	Simonides
	Finlay Currie	...	Balthasar / Narrator
	Frank Thring	...	Pontius Pilate
	Terence Longdon	...	Drusus
	George Relph	...	Tiberius Caesar
	André Morell	...	Sextus

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Storyline

[Edit](#)

Judah Ben-Hur lives as a rich Jewish prince and merchant in Jerusalem at the beginning of the 1st century. Together with the new governor his old friend Messala arrives as commanding officer of the Roman legions. At first they are happy to meet after a long time but their different politic views separate them. During the welcome parade a roof tile falls down from Judah's house and injures the governor. Although Messala knows they are not guilty, he sends Judah to the galleys and throws his mother and sister into prison. But Judah swears to come back and take revenge. *Written by Matthias Scheler <tron@lyssa.owl.de>*

[Plot Summary](#) | [Plot Synopsis](#)

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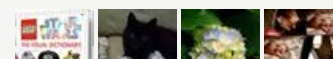
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8.1 / 10

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Details

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Official Sites: [Official site](#)

Country: [USA](#)

Language: [English](#)

Release Date: 26 December 1959 (UK) [See more](#) »

Also Known As: Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ [See more](#) »

Filming Locations: [Anzio, Italy](#) [See more](#) »

Box Office

Budget: \$15,900,000 (estimated)

Gross: \$70,000,000 (USA)

[See more](#) »

Company Credits

Production Co: [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer \(MGM\)](#) [See more](#) »

Show detailed [company contact information](#) on [IMDbPro](#) »

Technical Specs

Runtime: 212 min | 219 min (1970) | 224 min (1962) | 222 min (1993 re-release) | 214 min (DVD edition) | 222 min (2005 DVD)

Sound Mix: [Mono](#) (Westrex Recording System)

Color: [Color](#) (Technicolor)

Aspect Ratio: 2.66 : 1

See [full technical specs](#) »

Did You Know?

[Edit](#)

Trivia

Judah Ben-Hur was called "41" seven times total. The first five were by Quintus Arrius ([Jack Hawkins](#)), the sixth was by slave 42 ([John Glenn](#)), the seventh was by Quintus Arrius as he and Ben-Hur floated on the debris from the sunken ship. [See more](#) »

Goofs

Most of the Roman soldiers seen are not displaying the Roman Army's "Winged Lightning" symbol on their shields. [See more](#) »

Quotes

[immediately after Miriam and Tirzah were healed of their long time of having leprosy, they walk out of the cave, they were in, into the rain, that was occurring]

[Tirzah](#): Thank You.

[numerously and silently]

[Tirzah](#): You can read her lips.

[See more](#) »

Crazy Credits

The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer lion is shown in a still-frame to appear looking peaceful at the beginning rather than roaring. [See more](#) »

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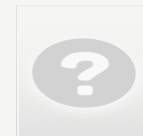
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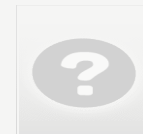
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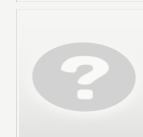
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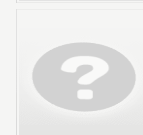
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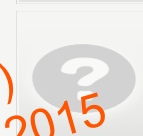
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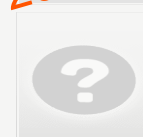
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No. 12-57302 archived on June 5, 2015

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Soundtracks

Triumphal March From Quo Vadis
(uncredited)
Written by [Miklós Rózsa](#)
[See more](#) »

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: [What are some differences between the different versions of the story?](#)

[See more \(Spoiler Alert!\)](#) »

User Reviews

★★★★★★★★★ **Deserved All The Honors**

8 November 2005 | by [ccthemoviemfan-1](#) (United States) – [See all my reviews](#)

Wow, what can you say about a film that won 11 Academy Awards back in the days where the best films actually were honored, not the garbage they salute today.

In other words, this film lives up to its reputation and has to be ranked as one of the most memorable movies of all time. Nobody who ever saw this film ever forgot the chariot race, for instance, perhaps the greatest action scene filmed without special effects.

This can be a very sad film as well. I doubt if I've ever watched this without a few tears in my eyes at certain points. The scenes with hero's mother and sister suffering with leprosy are still some of the most heart-wrenching scenes I've ever witnessed on film. They can just tear you apart.

The combination of drama, action and romance, along with very involving storyline is aided by an incredible soundtrack, once again one of the best ever put on film. The more one hears this music, the more one is moved by it.

To fully appreciate the cinematography in this film, I recommend you purchase the recently-released 4-disc DVD special edition which also includes the first rendition of this story, the silent movie "Ben-Hur: A Tale Of The Christ." That was name of the book, by the way, the second part of the title being left out of the 1959 movie as Hollywood slowly began deemphasizing Christianity in films. However, there is a reverence for Jesus Christ in this film, which should be there since it's a key element of the storyline, even though most folks forget that.

In summary, this is about as good an example as ever found of what is labeled an "epic" movie. It's an incredible story transferred memorably on screen.

132 of 181 people found this review helpful. Was this review helpful to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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