



BEN-HUR (1959)
(212 minutes)

Story: Set at the time of the Savior's earthly ministry, this film captured 11 Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor.

Lew Wallace, the author of the novel, went to the Holy Land with the purpose of writing a story to portray Jesus as "a man among men." During the course of his research he learned to revere him as the Son of God.

The story tells of two men, Judah Ben-Hur (Charlton Heston) and Messala (Stephen Boyd) who were friends as boys. When an unlikely accident provides an opportunity to secure his position with his Roman leaders, Messala withholds information that causes Ben-Hur to be sentenced as a galley slave and his family to prison. Ben-Hur vows to avenge the betrayal.

Ben-Hur's path of courage and integrity leads to his deliverance and eventually to Jesus, while Messala's choices center on wealth and position. The eventual confrontation between these two powerful men provides a striking lesson as to which path leads to true fulfillment.

Category: Drama

Rating: Not rated

Values: Following God or the world, forgiveness, kindness, service

Who Might Like This: Young teens and up

Cautions: Battle scenes and the chariot race show scenes of violence which may be too intense for younger children

Cast: Charlton Heston, Jack Hawkins, Stephen Boyd

Gospel Principle: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).