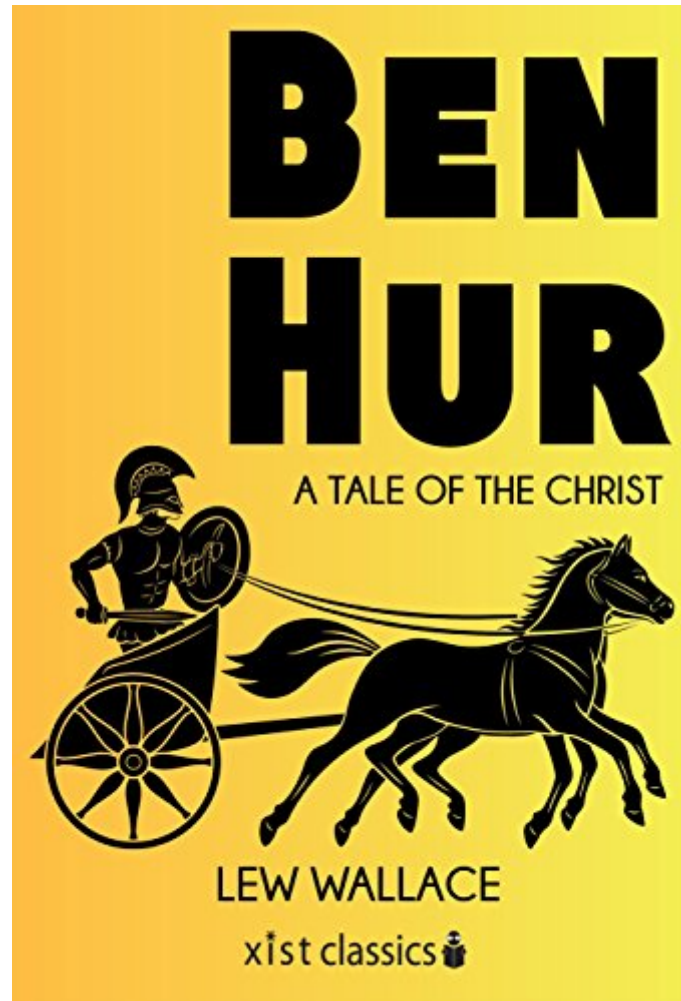


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# Ben Hur: A Tale Of The Christ (Xist Classics)



## Synopsis

Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ is a novel by Lew Wallace and was considered the most influential Christian book of the 19th century. Ben Hur tells the adventures of Judah Ben-Hur, a fictional Jewish prince from Jerusalem, who is enslaved by the Romans at the beginning of the 1st century and 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. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This ebook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes. Get your next Xist Classic title for Kindle here: <http://amzn.to/1A7cKKI> Find all our books for Kindle here: <http://amzn.to/1PooxLI> Sign up for the Xist Publishing Newsletter here. Find more great titles on our website.

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## Customer Reviews

I love Ben Hur. It is one of my favorite books of all time. I got into it after I fell in love with the 1959 movie, which is my favorite film. I also enjoy audio books quite a bit. I got this one for Christmas last year and finally managed to find the time to get through the whole thing. I wanted to post a review of the audio book because it is difficult to find one that actually reviews the audio book rather than just the book, which is of course excellent. I felt it was warranted because those who enjoy audio books often wonder about the quality of those they are looking to purchase, which can vary wildly depending on how well the reader(s) invests him or herself into the characters. Thus, this is for you, fellow audio book lovers. Voice Lloyd James reads the book, and his voice is quite good for the reading. He does do a few different voices depending on the character. These become fairly recognizable, though he doesn't have quite the range of Jim Dale (see his phenomenal readings of the Harry Potter books). However, Ben Hur, Simonides, and other major characters are distinct in how they speak. James sounds about the right age for Ben Hur himself, which lends some credibility to the reading. Recording Quality The recording is generally excellent as well, with no shifting volume between tracks. (That is, there are no portions I could tell where it was louder or quieter than the rest of the book, such that I had to mess with the volume.) It is steadily recorded, with track breaks at around 3 minutes on the dot every time. It runs about 24 hours and spans 19 discs. I do have two problems with the recording, which are minor enough for me to still give it 5 stars on here, though my overall score I would say is 4.5 because of this.

It's amazing that after nearly 140 years, Ben-Hur continues as a cultural touchstone in American society. Written by a former Union general Lew Wallace after meticulous research at the Library of Congress and a study of 1st century Palestine, it touches many themes such as Christian redemption, honor, spiritual forgiveness, and piety. Wallace does this with action, romance, tragedy and intrigue. The book comprises eight smaller books, all of which have chapters. For those acquainted with the 1959 movie starring Charlton Heston, the book is nothing like what you remember (because, of course). Here, Judah Ben-Hur still accidentally knocks the tile off the roof and injuring Valerius Gratus, is still condemned as a galley slave, and is eventually redeemed by Quintus Arrius. From there, Ben-Hur comes home and does the chariot race against Massala (minus his spiky wheels). Eventually, mother Miriam and sister Tirzah are freed from prison, healed of their leprosy and the family does reunite and are spectators to Christ's crucifixion. Ironically, for a

book that became the best-selling book of the 19th century, the author himself was not a Christian when he began the novel. He came to faith after his work on the novel was done. Even so, Wallace took great pains not to offend Christians in having the crucifixion take place within the confines of a work of historical fiction. As an added bonus, the character of Balthasar expounds on the reason for the soul that is a perfect apologetic for the presence of the afterlife. Wallace's efforts to illustrate 1st century Palestine come through with stunning clarity and precision.

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