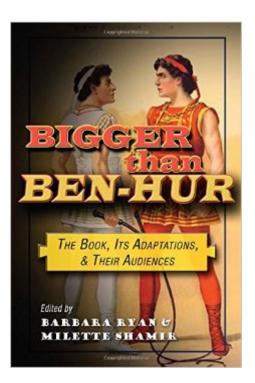
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# **Bigger Than Ben-Hur: The Book, Its Adaptations, And Their Audiences (Television And Popular Culture)**





## Synopsis

First published in 1880, Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ became a best-seller. Thepopular novel spawned an 1899 stage adaptation, reaching audiences of over10 million, and two highly successful film adaptations. For over a century, it hasbecome a ubiquitous pop cultural presence, representing a deeply powerful storyand monumental experience for some and a defining work of bad taste and falsepiety for others. The first and only collection of essays on this pivotal cultural icon,Bigger Than â œBen-Hurâ • addresses Lew Wallaceâ ™s beloved classic to explore itspolarizing effect and to expand the contexts within which it can be studied. In the essays gathered here, scholars approach Ben-Hur from multiple directionsâ •religious and secular, literary, theatrical, and cinematicâ •to understandnot just one story in varied formats but also what they term the â œBen-Hur tradition.â •Drawing from a wide range of disciplines, contributions include the riseof the Protestant novel in the United States; relationships between and amongreligion, spectacle, and consumerism; the â œNew Womanâ • in early Hollywood;and a â œwish listâ • for future adaptations, among others. Together, these essaysexplore how this remarkably fluid story of faith, love, and revenge has remainedrelevant to audiences across the globe for over 130 years.

### **Book Information**

Series: Television and Popular Culture Paperback: 304 pages Publisher: Syracuse University Press (January 21, 2016) Language: English ISBN-10: 081563403X ISBN-13: 978-0815634034 Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (1 customer review) Best Sellers Rank: #1,299,198 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Adaptations #4316 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > History & Criticism #4501 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States

#### **Customer Reviews**

Great discussion of the book and its adaptations, especially the epic 1959 film.

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