Celluloid Savior: Jesus in the Movies

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Abstract
Films about Jesus attempt to interpret the gospel in light of both cultural issues and the concerns of individual filmmakers. Yet both 1) dominant assumptions about how to interpret Jesus and 2) the difficulty of presenting the narrative structures and worldview inherent in ancient texts within the forms of modern narrative cinema make this a difficult task. This article explores how this has been done, giving particular attention to how presentation of Jesus' divine and human natures are balanced in presenting the arrest, death and resurrection, in four well-known Jesus films available on video.

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