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Son of God Detic release poster Directed by Christopher Spencer Produced by Roma Downey Mark Burnett Screenplay by Richard Bedser Christopher Spencer Colin Swash Nic Young Based on New Testament Starring Diogo Morgado Greg Hicks Adrian Schiller Darwin Shaw Sebastian Knapp Joe Wred Simon Kun Z Paul Marc Davis Matthew Gravelle Amber Rose Revah Roma Downey Music by Lorne Balfe Lisa Gerrard Hans Zimmer Cinematography Rob Goldie Edited by Robert Hall Production Company Lightworkers Media Distributed by 20th Century Fox Release date February 28, 2014 (2014-02-28) (United States) Running time 138 minutes Country United States Language English Budget \$22 million [1] Box office \$70.9 million [2] [3] Son of God is an American epic biblical film from 2014 directed by Christopher Spencer, produced by Mark Burnett and Roma Downey. The film tells the life of Jesus and is an adaptation of the ten-hour miniseries The Bible [4] which aired in March 2013 on the history channel, and immediately after the film begins another TV series called A.D. The Bible continues. Son of God premiered in New York and Los Angeles for a limited release on February 21, 2014 and then in a wide release on February 28, 2014. [5] The film made \$70.9 million worldwide against a \$22 million budget, but received mixed reviews from critics. Plot John, the last surviving follower of Jesus Christ, lives in exile as a hermit near the shore where he tells his story about his time with Jesus. In Bethlehem, Jesus is born to a virgin named Mary and her husband Joseph. Three wise men visiting Jesus declare him the future king. Thirty years later, an adult Jesus Christ (Diogo Morgado) travels to Galilee and begins to recruit followers, James, his brother John, Peter, a fisherman, Matthew, a tax collector, and Mary Magdalene. Soon these men and women eventually become his disciples. Through his teachings and numerous miracles, Jesus builds up a huge following, which begins to call him the Messiah. It also attracts the attention of the Pharisees, Jewish religious leaders. The Pharisees claim that Jesus blasphemers God by forgiving sins, something only God can do. Jesus responds by saying he is the son of God. Jesus tells the disciples to travel to Jerusalem for the upcoming Passover holiday. He enters the city on the back of a donkey and is met by a huge crowd of supporters, who lay palm fronds in his path. Caiaphas, the head of the Pharisees, is afraid that Jesus' presence in the city will further agitate his people, who are already in an almost state of rebellion against the oppressive Romans, led by Pontius Pilate. It turned out that earlier, Pilate caiphas had warned that if there were problems of the Jews, he would enter the temple which cancelled Passover. Upon entering the temple, Jesus sees a group of money changers and goes to upend their tables. This act draws cheers from the people and disdain of Pharisees. Later, Jesus tells a little girl that every stone of the temple will soon fall. The Pharisees see this as a plan to destroy the temple and decide that Jesus must be stopped. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, approaches the Pharisees. He believes that Jesus goes too far and wants to help. The Pharisees give him 30 pieces of silver for his help. The night before the Passover, Jesus tells the disciples that this will be their Last Supper together and says that one of them will betray him. Later, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas kisses Jesus' cheek, identifying Jesus to the Pharisees and revealing Judas' treachery. Jesus is arrested for blasphemy while the disciples flee the garden to save themselves. Fearing the closure of the temple due to an open process during Passover, Caiphas recommends an immediate trial during the late hours of the night in privacy, which violates of Jewish law, against the order of other priests. Caiphas asks Jesus if he is the son of God, and he replies: I am. This is all the Pharisees need to hear, and they immediately find Jesus guilty of blasphemy. That morning, to a growing crowd, Caiphas announces Jesus' guilt and reveals the punishment for blasphemy is death. Judas, shocked by what he has done, throws the silver to the Pharisees and runs away; He'll hang himself later. Caiphas believes that if the Pharisees were to kill Jesus on Passover, it would start a riot, so he gives it to the Romans for punishment. Pilate tells Caiphas that Jesus did not violate Roman laws, but orders him to be lashed 40 times. Because it is Passover, Pilate says he will follow tradition and free a prisoner from the choice of the people, and if they choose Jesus, he will be released. By this time, Mary (Roma Downey) has arrived in Jerusalem to see what happens to her son. Pilate orders the crowd to enter his courtyard to choose whether to release Jesus or Barabbas, a convicted murderer. Since none of Jesus' followers are allowed into the courtyard, Caiphas easily swings the mood to release Barabbas. Pilate then asks what to do with Jesus, and again Caiphas waves to the crowd to have him executed by crucifixion. Fearing a riot between the hostile people, Pilate orders the crucifixion and literally washes his hands of the situation. A battered and bloodied Jesus then carries a cross to Calvary and is nailed to it by the mocking Roman guards, who had previously placed a crown of thorns on his head. Before the cross is put in place, Pilate orders a sign attached to it, with the text: The king of the Jews, much to Caiphas's displeasure. With Mary and Magdalene look on in horror, Jesus hangs on the cross for several painful hours. After forgiving the Romans and the Pharisees who sentenced him to death, he asks why God left him, and declares it's done. Accomplished, Jesus dies when the temple and the earth are his by an earthquake. As the lamps are brought down, the curtains in the temple where God's spirit was to be present tear apart. He is then lowered from the cross and placed in a grave, which is sealed with a large rock. Three days later, Magdalene goes to visit the grave, but is shocked to see the rock broken into pieces and the grave empty. Magdalene soon sees a man at the entrance to the tomb and realizes that he is Jesus, who has been resurrected. Magdalene goes to the disciples' shelter and tells them the good news, but they don't believe her at first. Jesus then appears to them, and they all believe now, except Doubting Thomas. As soon as Thomas touches Jesus, he believes. Forty days later, Jesus speaks to his disciples, where he tells them to travel the world and spread his message. He then ascends to heaven, and the disciples go their own way. After ending his story, an elderly John says that all disciplines were eventually killed for their beliefs except him. He's banished from living alone on a desert island until he dies. Jesus then visits him and tells him that he will not die, but live forever, and he will return one day. Cast Diogo Morgado as Jesus Christ Darwin Shaw as Simon Peter Sebastian Knapp as John Amber Rose Revah as Mary Magdalene Roma Downey as Mary, mother of Jesus Leith Mimmack as young Mary Jo Coen as Joseph Said Bey as Matthew Matthew Gravelle as Thomas Paul Mann Davis as Simon the Pharee Jon Wreddem as Judas Iscariot Louise Delamere as Claudia Simon Kunz as Nicodemus Adrian Schiller as Caiphas Anas Cherin as Lazarus Fraser Ayres as Barab Greg Hicks as Pontius Pilate Rick Bacon as Herod Antipas Sanaa Mouziane as Martha Production The film includes selected scenes from the miniseries and images that are not broadcast. [4] [6] However, the film does not include scenes featuring Satan (played by Mohamen Mehdi Ouazan) due to claims that the actor resembled the American President Barack Obama. [7] The similarity was first noticed by Glenn Beck prior to the premiere of that episode. [8] The film's casting director Carl Proctor claimed that the resemblance is entirely coincidental. The trailer for the film also shows some scenes from the miniseries with David (played by Langley Kirkwood), Adam (played by Paul Knops), destruction of the city of Sodom and Moses (played by Will Houston) saying goodbye to the Red Sea. Reception Box office Son of God grossed \$59.7 million in North America and \$11.2 million in other areas for a global total of \$70.9 million. [3] Following a production budget of \$22 million. [1] The film was expected to be around \$27 million in its gross. [9] It made \$1.2 million from Thursday night advances, benefiting greatly from advance ticket sales; [10] it ended up making \$26.5 million in its first weekend. [11] Critical Response Rotten Rotten reported that 21 percent of critics have rated the film a positive based on 72 reviews, with an average rating of 4.69/10. The critics of the site consensus reads: The audience may find their spirits raised, but in purely cinematic terms, Son of God is too boring and heavy-handed to spark much fiery. [12] Another review aggregator, Metacritic, attributed a weighted average score of 37 out of 100 based on 25 critics, reflecting generally unfavorable reviews. [13] The audience surveyed by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of A- on a scale to F. Nell Minow of Beliefnet gave the film a B grade, saying: It tells the story in a Westernized, conventional way that can seem superficial at times, more a cinematic Sunday School lesson than a film. It is unlikely to convince anyone, but it is undoubtedly moving and many believers will find it inspiring. [14] Jim Slotek of the Toronto Sun gave the film 3 stars. [15] Ben Kenigsberg of The A.V. Club gave the film a mixed view, sorting it a C and saying: Unlike Gibson's film, with its relentless and gory focus on the last days of Christ, the Son of God finds time for lessons along with his bloodletting. [...] Accompanied by a score that sounds recycled from The Fountain, the most famous scenes are decked out: I give my stone to the first man who tells me that he has never sinned; loaves and fish: the resurrection of Lazarus; the last supper. It is unlikely that Paul Verhoeven will ever make his historical Christ film, but to the extent that Son of God has a degree of dramatic impact, it is how it illustrates the radicalism of Jesus' message and the threat it posed to the establishment. In any case, the core ideas are more compelling than the bad effects shots of Jerusalem, the cheesy CG water-walking, or what exchanges require the actors to emit anything other than a declarative scream. [16] References ^ a b In 'Son of God,' the Bible told in low-budget, Hollywood style. The Washington Times. Picked up April 1, 2014. ^ Son of God (2014). Box Office Mojo. Amazon. Picked up on November 29, 2014. ^ a b Son of God (2014) - Financial Information. The numbers. 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