

# King of Kings movie explores story of Jesus

BY RUSTY WRIGHT

Renowned storyteller Charles Dickens brought the world characters such as Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, David Copperfield, and Oliver Twist. He wrote a story for his own children that he read to them annually. He didn't want it published, but it was published posthumously and now is the basis for a major motion picture.

The King of Kings movie tagline is "A Story Told by Charles Dickens," and it features Dickens throughout. His fiction has captivated readers and theatergoers with A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, and more. He also wrote nonfiction, and this story uses real historical characters to explore some of his favorite themes, such as injustice, sacrifice, compassion, forgiveness, friendship, and redemption.

## A Tale Of Two Kings

In the film, young Walter Dickens imagines himself as King Arthur leading the Knights of the Round Table, wielding a magic sword, keeping enemies at bay. Wanting to encourage the lad in noble pursuits but also to inject reality, his father (Charles) tells him the fascinating, dramatic saga of another king, the King of Kings.

The story is portrayed in three-dimensional animation. As I watched, I felt like a master storyteller had me inside the scenes, feeling the sunshine and seawater, tasting the bread and fish, hearing the crowd roar, cringing at the persecution, angry at the injustice, inspired by the hero's compassionate heart.

Generous use of humor holds attention. Dickens reveals to his son the story of Jesus of Nazareth's life, with the two of them and Walter's cat Willa inserted in the biblical action.

Walter wants Jesus to draw a sword to slay his adversaries. The King of Kings doesn't need a magic sword, explains his father. Watching the film, one can imagine Dickens making the story so real to young Walter (a skeptic in the movie) and his siblings that they envision them-

selves actually being in Bethlehem at the manger, in the boat with Jesus' followers, in the courtyard at his trial. When a boy offers his basket of a few loaves and fish to help feed a hungry crowd, young Walter imagines himself taking part.

## A Profound Story

The profound nature of the King of Kings story is not lost on Dickens, for whom forgiveness is an essential concept. In the published version, titled The Life of Our Lord, he relates that one thief crucified beside Jesus asked him to remember him in eternity. Dickens notes Jesus' response: "Today, thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

"My dear children," Dickens wrote, "I am very anxious that you should know something about the History of Jesus Christ. For everybody ought to know about Him."

Prominent Hollywood stars voice several characters. Mark Hamill (Star Wars) is King Herod. Oscar nominee Uma Thurman (Hysterical Blindness) is Catherine Dickens. Pierce Brosnan (James Bond, 007) is Pontius Pilate. Academy Award-winners Forest Whitaker (The Last King of Scotland) and Ben Kingsley (Ghandi) are Peter and High Priest Caiaphas, respectively. Oscar Isaac (Marvel's Moon Knight) is Jesus.

Rated PG for some violence and tense situations inherent in the real story, it is appropriate for viewers of any faith or no faith. I suspect families will like it and that it will find a significant audience among children, who will identify with young Walter. Parents will find ideas on relating to their children from the Dickens spouses' dialogue, verbal and facial cues, and family interaction.

The movie is rated PG (USA) "for thematic material, violent content and some scary moments." It opened in U.S. theaters April 11 and on five continents April 10-11.

*Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. He holds Bachelor of Science (psychology) and Master of Theology degrees from Duke and Oxford universities, respectively. www.RustyWright.com.*

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## NOTICE

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court, Greenville, for fuel and oil products for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

Items to be bid shall include gasoline, diesel fuel, motor oil, anti-freeze, transmission fluids, hydraulic oil, and grease.

Bids will be a cost plus (cents) on all products.

Bids shall be submitted to the office of the County Judge Executive, P.O. Box 137, Greenville, KY 42345 (270) 338-2520 no later than 2:00 p.m. on April 26, 2025.

The Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids on the following items until 2:00 p.m. on April 26, 2025. Bids shall be delivered to the office of Muhlenberg County Judge Executive, P.O. Box 137, 100 South Main St., Greenville, KY 42345.

### ITEMS TO BE BID:

1. Crushed stone in various sizes
2. Bituminous concrete binder mix
3. Bituminous concrete surface mix

The Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all formalities in the awarding of the bids.

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