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Lew Wallace  
**Ben Hur**Read by **Jeff Harding**

*Ben Hur* could be said to be the first American blockbuster. When it was published in 1880, it sold over two million copies and was translated into numerous languages. It combines all the best elements of popular classic, epic and action story against a background of authoritative historical detail. The pace and immediacy of *Ben Hur* was the basis of its appeal to film-makers – Charlton Heston's portrayal of the title role became one of the classics of the cinema. Wallace's original novel has been largely forgotten now, but as this vivid reading shows, the story, together with the sweeping rhythm of the writer's prose, make it ideally suited to the audiobook.

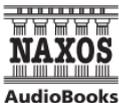


**Jeff Harding** is one of the most active American actors based in Britain. He is regularly seen in film and TV but he maintains an interest in fringe theatre. He is particularly active in voice-over and radio. Having competed in rowing for many years, he still lives by the Thames and rows regularly – an appropriate sport for the reader of *Ben Hur*.

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