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978-1-107-04260-5 - The Bible on Silent Film: Spectacle, Story and Scripture in the Early Cinema

David J. Shepherd

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## THE BIBLE ON SILENT FILM

Between the advent of motion pictures in the 1890s and the close of the 'silent' era at the end of the 1920s, many of the longest, most expensive and most watched films on both sides of the Atlantic drew upon biblical traditions. David J. Shepherd traces the evolution of the biblical film through the silent era, asking why the Bible attracted early filmmakers, how biblical films were indebted to other interpretive traditions, and how these films were received. Drawing upon rarely seen archival footage and early landmark films of directors such as Louis Feuillade, D. W. Griffith, Michael Curtiz and Cecil B. DeMille, this history treats well-known biblical stars including Joseph, Moses, David and Jesus, along with lesser-known biblical subjects such as Jael, Judith and Jephthah's daughter. This book will be of great interest to students of biblical studies, Jewish studies and film studies.

DAVID J. SHEPHERD is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester. He is the editor of *Images of the Word: Hollywood's Bible and Beyond* (2008).

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*Spectacle, Story and Scripture in the Early Cinema*

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AMPAS	Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
AFF	Archives Françaises du Film
ASV	American Standard Version
BFI	British Film Institute
BFR	Cinemateca Brasileira National Film Archive (Rio de Janeiro)
<i>Bio</i>	<i>The Bioscope</i>
BYU	Brigham Young University
CF	Cinémathèque Française
<i>C-J</i>	<i>Ciné-Journal</i>
DMA	DeMille Archives
ESM	Filmoteca Española (Madrid)
ESR	George Eastman House
<i>FI</i>	<i>Film Index</i>
FJS	Fondation Jérôme Seydoux-Pathé ( <a href="http://www.fondation-jeromeseydoux-pathe.com/">www.fondation-jeromeseydoux-pathe.com/</a> )
FRB	AFF (Bois D'Arcy)
FRL	Lobster Films
GPA	Gaumont Pathé Archives
ITG	Cineteca Friuli (Gemona)
LOC	Library of Congress
MOMA	Museum of Modern Art (New York)
<i>MPW</i>	<i>Moving Picture World</i>
NJDH	New Jersey Digital Highway ( <a href="http://www.njdigitalhighway.org/">www.njdigitalhighway.org/</a> )
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
<i>NYC</i>	<i>New York Clipper</i>
<i>NYDM</i>	<i>New York Dramatic Mirror</i>
<i>NYH</i>	<i>New York Herald</i>
<i>Var</i>	<i>Variety</i>
<i>VB</i>	<i>Vitagraph Bulletin</i>