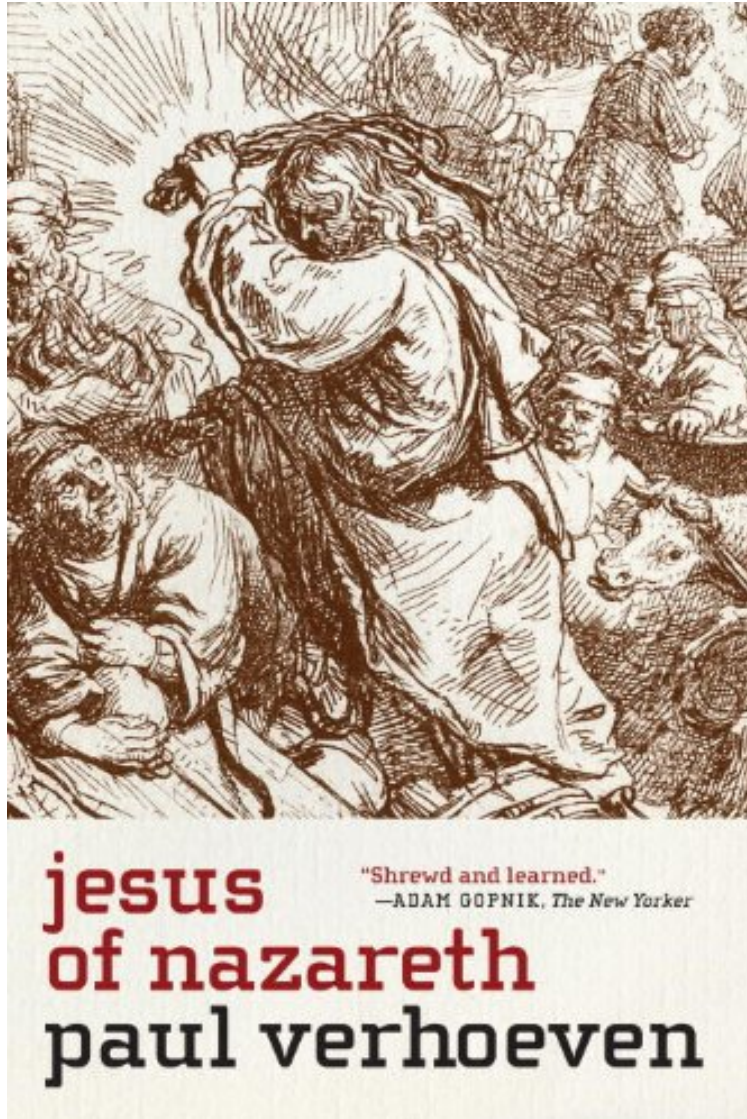


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Jesus of Nazareth

Paul Verhoeven

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Paul Verhoeven : Jesus of Nazareth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jesus of Nazareth:

Building on the work of biblical scholars Rudolph Bultmann, Raymond Brown, Jane Schaberg, and Robert Funk, among others filmmaker Paul Verhoeven disrobes the mythical Jesus to reveal a man who has much in common with

other great political leaders throughout history human beings who believed that change was coming in their lifetimes. Gone is the Jesus of the miracles, gone the son of God, gone the weaver of arcane parables whose meanings are obscure. In their place Verhoeven gives us his vision of Jesus as a complete man, someone who was changed by events, the leader of a political movement, and, perhaps most importantly, someone who, in his speeches and sayings, introduced a new ethic in which the embrace of human contradictions transcends the mechanics of value and worth that had defined the material world before Jesus. "The Romans saw [Jesus] as an insurrectionist, what today is often called a terrorist. It is very likely there were wanted posters of him on the gates of Jerusalem. He was dangerous because he was proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven, but this wasn't the Kingdom of Heaven as we think of it now, some spectral thing in the future, up in the sky. For Jesus, the Kingdom of Heaven was a very tangible thing. Something that was already present on Earth, in the same way that Che Guevara proclaimed Marxism as the advent of world change. If you were totalitarian rulers, running an occupation like the Romans, this was troubling talk, and that was why Jesus was killed." Paul Verhoeven, from profile by Mark Jacobson in New York Magazine