

“REEL FAITH”

The Gospel according to Hollywood

Film and Faith in Dialogue

***Schindler's List* - Overview**

Directed by Steven Spielberg (1993)

Summary

This is the true story of Czech-born Oskar Schindler, a businessman who tried to make his fortune during WWII by exploiting cheap Jewish labor, but ended up penniless having saved over 1100 Polish Jews from almost certain death during the Holocaust.



Main Cast Members

- Liam Neeson (Oskar Schindler)
- Ben Kingsley (Itzhak Stern)
- Ralph Fiennes (Amon Goeth)

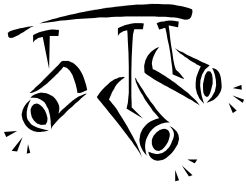
Interesting Facts about the Movie

- It is based on the book by Thomas Keneally.
- There were 20,000 extras in this movie. To get costumes for all these people, the costume designer took out advertisements seeking clothes. Because economic conditions were bad in Poland, many people were eager to sell clothing they still owned from the 1930s and '40s.
- Martin Scorsese turned down the chance to direct the film in the 1980s, feeling he couldn't do as good a job as a Jewish director. He agreed to swap films with Spielberg, taking on *Cape Fear* (1991) instead.
- Spielberg was unable to get permission to film inside Auschwitz, so the scenes of the death camp were actually filmed outside the gates on a set constructed as a mirror image of the real location on the other side.
- Spielberg was not paid for this film. He refused to accept a salary, citing that it would be "blood money."
- Spielberg offered the job of director to Roman Polanski. Polanski turned it down because the subject was too personal. He had lived in the Krakow ghetto until the age of 8, when he escaped on the day of the liquidation. His mother later died at Auschwitz. Polanski later directed his own film about the Holocaust, *The Pianist*.
- This is the first black & white film to win a Best Picture Oscar since *The Apartment* (1960).
- About 40% of the film was shot using a handheld camera.
- The movie won 7 Oscars (including Best Picture and Best Director), along with 59 other awards and nominations.
- In 2001, Steven Spielberg's personal fortune was estimated at \$2.1 billion.



Memorable Lines

- Amon Goeth: "They cast a spell on you, you know, the Jews. When you work closely with them, like I do, you see this. They have this power. It's like a virus. Some of my men are infected with this virus. They should be pitied, not punished. They should receive treatment because this is as real as typhus. I see it all the time."
- Itzhak Stern: "This list... is an absolute good. The list is life. All around its margins lies the gulf."
- Schindler to Goeth: "Power is when we have every justification to kill, and we don't."
- Schindler: "I could have got more out. I could have got more. I don't know. If I'd just... I could have got more. This car. Goeth would have bought this car. Why did I keep the car? Ten people right there. Ten people. Ten more people. I could have gotten one more person... and I didn't! And I... I didn't!"



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***Schindler’s List* - Discussion Guide**

SIDE A

Krakow, Poland

Start 1/0:00:23, Stop 1/0:03:21

Start 2/0:03:25, Stop 2/0:05:41

Start 5/0:17:28, Stop 5/0:20:53

Start 9/0:35:42, Stop 9/0:38:20

Amon Goeth’s Plaszow Labor Camp

Start 16/1:17:02, Stop 16/1:19:54

Start 21/1:44:15, Stop 21/1:45:31

Start 26/2:06:45, Stop 26/2:10:02

SIDE B

Auschwitz

Start 2/0:05:07, Stop 2/0:11:24

Start 3/0:13:03, Stop 3/0:14:42

Start 6/0:27:31, Stop 6/0:29:51

Brinnlitz, Czechoslovakia

Start 8/0:34:33, Stop 8/0:36:31

Start 10/0:42:39, Stop 10/0:48:00

Catholic Cemetery outside Jerusalem

Start 12/0:51:28, Stop 12/0:54:58

Questions for Your Table

1. What are the main themes of this movie?
2. How does this movie help us understand the gospel?
3. What specific Scripture passages came to mind as you watched these movie clips?
4. How did the cinematography, music, and other technical & artistic elements contribute to the message of the movie?
5. What positive contributions does this movie make to this and future generations? How can Christians use this movie to help shape the culture of our church and the world around us?