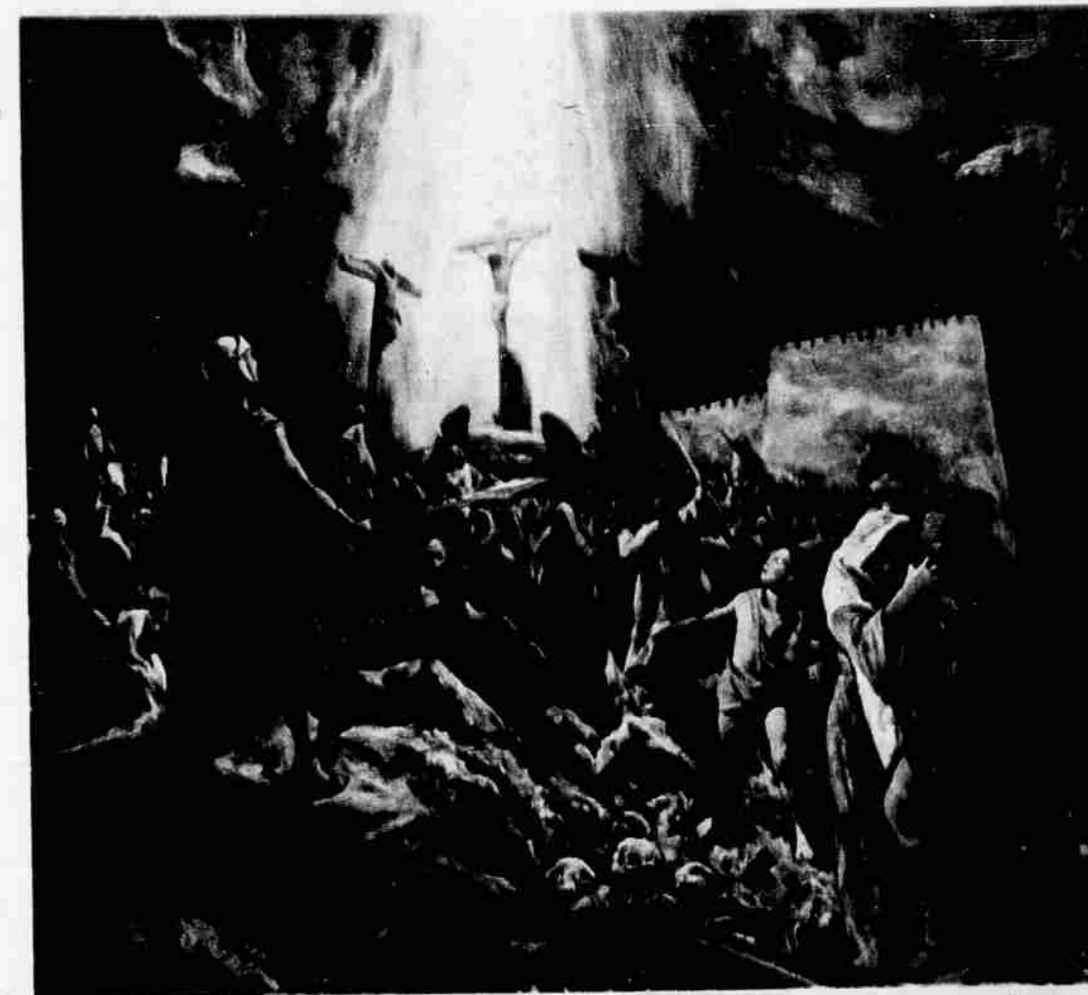




Ben Stahl found most difficult this painting of the spectacular chariot race between Ben-Hur and Messala.



Stahl captured the starkness of a tragic scene in the canvas depicting The Crucifixion of Christ.

## Masterpieces for "Ben-Hur"

*A noted artist interprets some of the moments from a great classic—a collection of four paintings published exclusively for your enjoyment*



**F**IVE YEARS ago, when M-G-M decided to remake the silent-film classic, "Ben-Hur," on a lavish scale, publicists felt it would require "extraordinary" promotional illustration on the level of "art."

While studying the de luxe editions of the Catholic Bible, published by Catholic Press, they were struck by the magnificent illustrations. The originals were by noted American artist Ben Stahl, who researched in Palestine for the series.

To M-G-M, Stahl seemed the logical choice to capture the drama of Gen. Lew Wallace's epic novel. He combined the necessary Biblical background with artistic talent. For Stahl, the "Ben-Hur" illustrations are the latest in a series of successes. He came into prominence as illustrator for national periodicals, and his work now hangs in museums.

Of all his assignments this was probably the most challenging. His success is reflected in these reproductions.



Christ preaches His Sermon on the Mount. Each painting took Stahl approximately two weeks.



Ben-Hur woos Esther, the girl he loves. Although Stahl was guided by the film, he was given great freedom of expression.

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