

PRESENTED BY
COOKE MEDIA GROUP

THE RESURRECTION TRIAL



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title:

The Resurrection Trial

Length:

Feature Film

Genre:

Courtroom Drama/Faith-based

Rating:

PG

Budget:

TBD

Status:

Completed Screenplay



LOGLINE

A rising attorney, torn between ambition and conscience, is ordered to disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ in a high-profile trial—forcing her to betray her beliefs or sacrifice her career.

SYNOPSIS

In the legal arena of a New York courtroom, meet junior attorney Chelsea Tobolik. She's young, she's bold—she hasn't lost a case yet and she doesn't plan to. Give her a couple years and she'll be the top defense attorney in Manhattan.

But when a wealthy client contracts the law firm of Harris, Mendel & Smith to disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Chelsea's wings get clipped as she is assigned to prosecute in the trial.



CONT...

Under threat of jeopardizing her first-year review, she takes the case, pitted against her colleague Michael Ford, a laid-back junior associate who's out to prove to his parents that his Harvard education was worth it.

For Chelsea, it's another case to win—until it isn't. Old wounds open when a friend from her church days reappears, reminding her of her mother's lost battle to cancer and the faith Chelsea abandoned.

As the trial goes public and intensifies, so does her crisis of faith.



CONT...

With her defenses down, Michael proves to be a formidable opponent with a mountain of evidence defending the resurrection.

But when presented with an unexpected opportunity to sway the jury through the testimony of a TikTok influencer, Chelsea faces an impossible choice...

...win the case and betray her beliefs or forfeit the case and lose her career.



THE RESURRECTION TRIAL

is a courtroom collision of
ambition and integrity.

It's about faith, sacrifice and
standing up for what you
believe, regardless of the
cost.



WHY NOW —AND WHY THIS STORY?

“IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN
RAISED, OUR PREACHING
IS USELESS AND SO IS
YOUR FAITH.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14

Everything in Christianity hinges upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, we will be saved. If not, our proclamation of the gospel is in vain.

The crisis we face is that only 66% of Christians in America believe in the resurrection, leaving a third in doubt and disbelief. In a society marked by rising anxiety, depression and gender dysphoria, we are desperately in need of saving.



WHY NOW

—AND WHY THIS STORY?

Inspired by L. James Harvey's book and stage play *The Resurrection: Ruse or Reality?*, the feature film ***The Resurrection Trial*** delivers a compelling narrative story with a presentation of the opposing views of the resurrection.

The film invites audiences to consider what they believe as they cast their vote as the jury in this engaging courtroom drama.

TO NE

SUITS CROSSED WITH *GOD'S NOT DEAD*



As a legal drama, *The Resurrection Trial* carries the tone of the television series *Suits*—smart, fast-paced, and set in the high-stakes legal arena of Manhattan.



As a presentation of truth, the story's tone resembles the popular *God's Not Dead* movies—hopeful, enlightening, and inviting conversation surrounding the gospel.

MAIN CHARACTERS

CHELSEA TOBOLIK (30s)

Bright, cheery and unstoppable, she hasn't lost a case as a junior attorney and she doesn't plan to. But when assigned to prosecute and disprove Christianity's claims of the resurrection, winning becomes a personal matter when her faith comes into question and she realizes that to win means to betray what she truly believes. Now she must choose between saving her soul or saving her career.

MICHAEL FORD (30s)

Average in every way as a junior attorney, he's happy to let Chelsea be the alpha in the relationship. But when he gets the chance to defend in the highly publicized trial, he steps up to prove his worth to the law firm and prove to his parents that the Harvard education was worth it.

MAIN CHARACTERS

KATHLEEN ROBERTS (70s)

Rich and recently widowed, Kathleen engages the Manhattan law firm to conduct the trial to prove or disprove Christianity's claims of the resurrection "beyond reasonable doubt." Although her husband was a strong believer, Kathleen seeks surety for her faith.

WILL ROBERTS (30s)

Kathleen's grandson Will is another motivation for the trial. He's strayed from the faith and the highly publicized trial is Kathleen's tactic to force him to consider what he believes. In retaliation, Will becomes an ally for Chelsea, inspiring her to play hard ball and win the case.



COMPS

COURTROOM/LEGAL DRAMAS

Courtroom and legal dramas are a consistently popular genre for both television and film.

The television series *Suits* became the most-streamed show on Netflix in 2023, and the two most influential movies of the genre, *12 Angry Men* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* continue to be remade. New releases *The Trial of the Chicago 7* and Clint Eastwood's *Juror #2* build on the genre.

COMPS

FAITH FILMS

The market for faith-based media is experiencing unprecedented growth, largely due to the success of movies like *I Can Only Imagine* (2018), a box office success garnering \$17.1M its *opening* weekend, and the immensely popular television series *The Chosen*.

In 2024, Amazon strategically surged ahead with faith based content, inking a deal with Wonder Project. Hollywood is taking notice that audiences crave faith-based content.

JESUS YOU'RE THE NAME WE'RE LIFTING HIGH
GLORY SHAKING UP THE EARTH AND SKIES

A city street scene with tall buildings and green trees in the foreground. The Chrysler Building is prominent in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

THE RESURRECTION TRIAL

meets audience expectations
of an engaging courtroom drama
with built-in faith elements and
high entertainment value.



**Suits (2011-2019)
TV Series**

Most-streamed show
on Netflix (2023).

Streaming on major
platforms.



**The Trial of the
Chicago 7 (2020)
Movie**

Budget: \$35M

Now streaming on
major platforms.



**Juror #2 (2024)
Movie**

Budget: \$30M

Ltd. theatrical: \$24M

Now streaming on
major platforms.

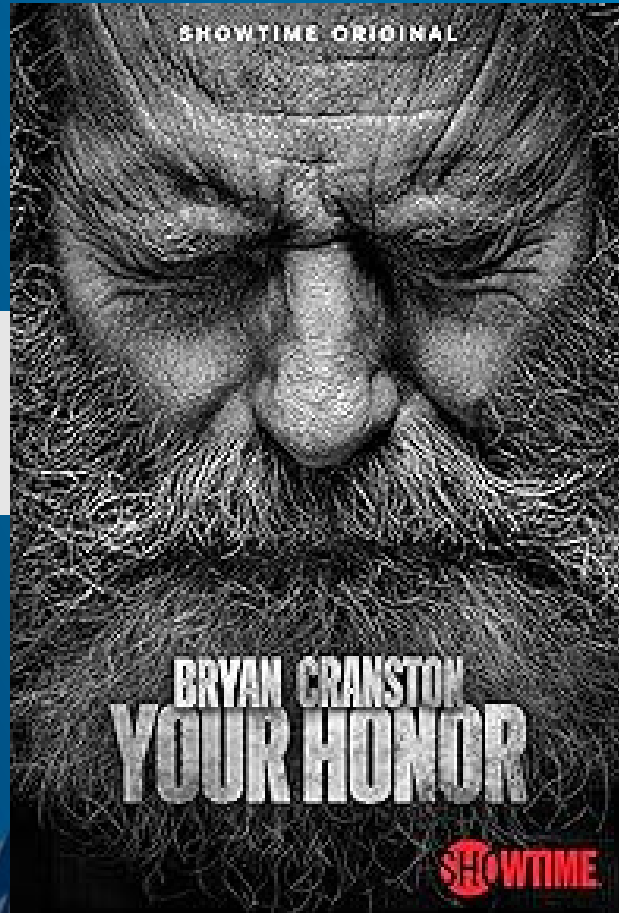


**The Lincoln Lawyer
(2022 -) TV Series**

Spinoff from the 2011
movie.

Streaming on major
platforms.

(Comps reflect the new trend for feature films to be released directly to streaming platforms.)



Your Honor (2020-2023) Limited TV Series

Starring Bryan Cranston/Produced by CBS.

Streaming on Netflix.



The Passion of the Christ (2004) Movie

The sequel is in pre-production.

Budget: \$30M

Box Office: \$610,063,438

Now streaming on major platforms.



God's Not Dead (2014) Movie

Sequels: 2016, 2018, 2021, 2024

Budget: \$2M

Box Office: \$64,676,349

Now streaming on major platforms.



I Can Only Imagine (2018) Movie

Sequel in production

Budget: \$7M

Box Office:
\$86,086,881

Now streaming on
major platforms.



Jesus Revolution (2023) Movie

Budget: \$15M

Box Office: \$54,293,684

Now streaming on
major platforms.



The Chosen (2017 -) TV Series

Over 200 million viewers.
A “run-away hit” (The
Hollywood Reporter).

Streaming on major
platforms with theatrical
release strategy.

THE TEAM

LAURA WOODWORTH WRITER

Laura Woodworth is an **award-winning screenwriter** with 20+ years experience in film and television. A development executive at Cooke Media Group and a script consultant with Stage 32 in Hollywood, she is a graduate of UCLA's Professional Program in Producing.

Woodworth's writing engages audiences. Her devotionals on YouVersion's Bible app have 300K+ subscribers and her book *Write Above the Noise* is endorsed by ministry leaders and Hollywood executives.



THE TEAM

PHIL COOKE PRODUCER

Phil Cooke is the co-founder and CEO of Cooke Media Group, and producer of many of the most influential inspirational TV programs in history. A **Telly Award-winning producer and acclaimed storyteller**, his work spans partnerships with Hollywood studios, global nonprofits, and some of the world's most respected churches and ministries.

His recent credits include *Day of the Christian Martyr* (2024, Voice of the Martyrs) and the feature-length documentary *Inexplicable – Asia: The Great Wall and Beyond* (TBN).



THE TEAM

DAN WATHEN PRODUCER

Dan Wathen is an **award-winning producer** known for equipping production and media teams to craft bold, story-driven content that connects with audiences. His work spans both television and theatrical releases, including documentaries and original series.

He is a producer on *10 Nights in Vegas*, a new television series by Taylor Sheridan premiering on Paramount+ in Fall 2025.

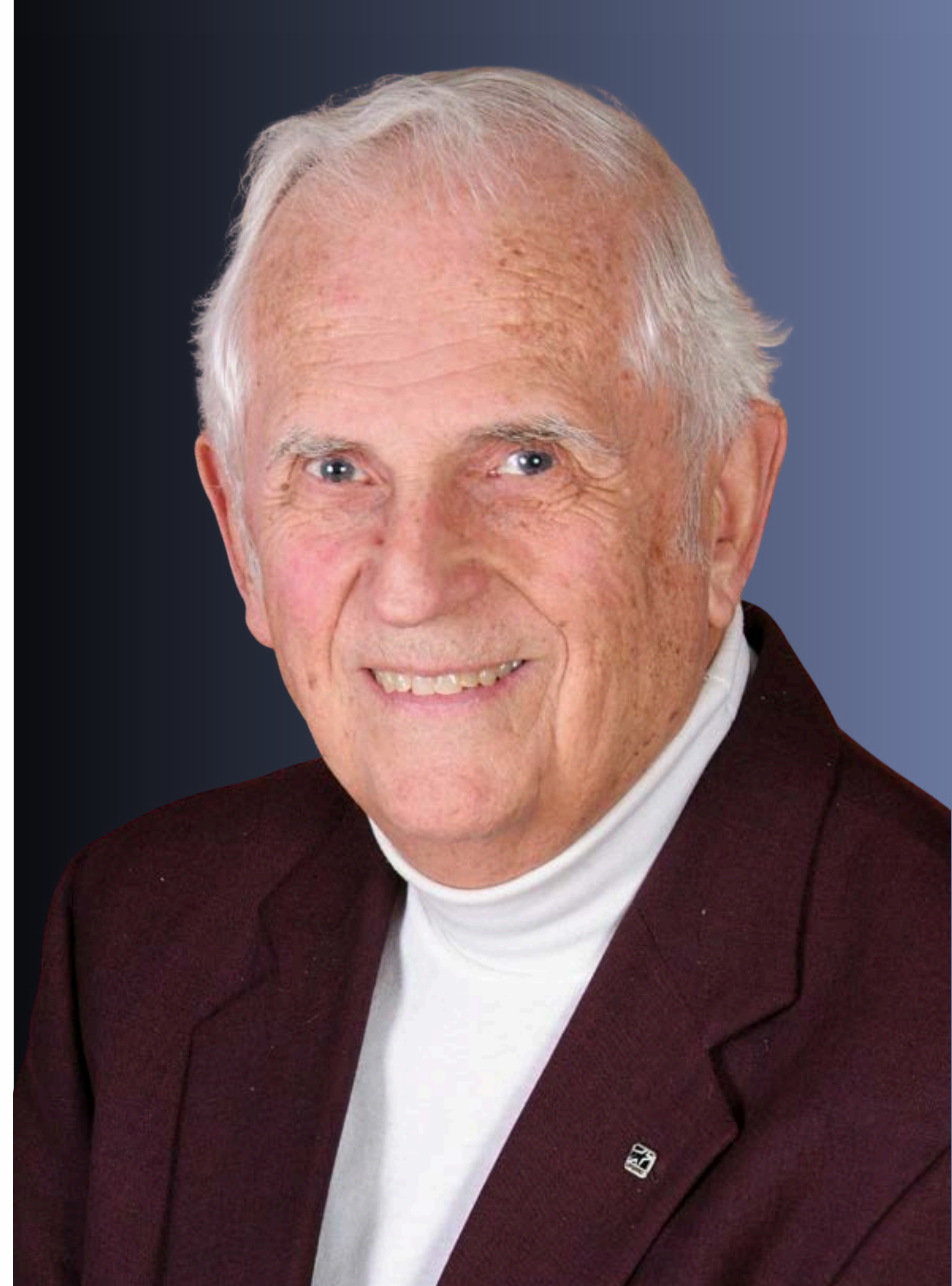


THE TEAM

L. JAMES HARVEY, PhD
**AUTHOR, "THE RESURRECTION:
RUSE OR REALITY?"**

The Resurrection Trial is adapted from the book and stage play by **Dr. L. James Harvey**, a respected author, lecturer, and former college president.

An honors graduate of Hope College with an M.A. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University, Dr. Harvey brings decades of academic study and theological inquiry to his lifelong examination of the historical evidence surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



2000 YEARS

IN 2033, THE WORLD WILL CELEBRATE THE 2000-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS NOW WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND GLOBAL EVANGELISM.

“
WHAT BETTER FILM TO GET BEHIND THAN ONE THAT CLEARLY PRESENTS EVIDENCE FOR THIS PIVOTAL MOMENT IN A TRUTHFUL AND ENTERTAINING WAY?

—PHIL COOKE

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THE
RESURRECTION
TRIAL