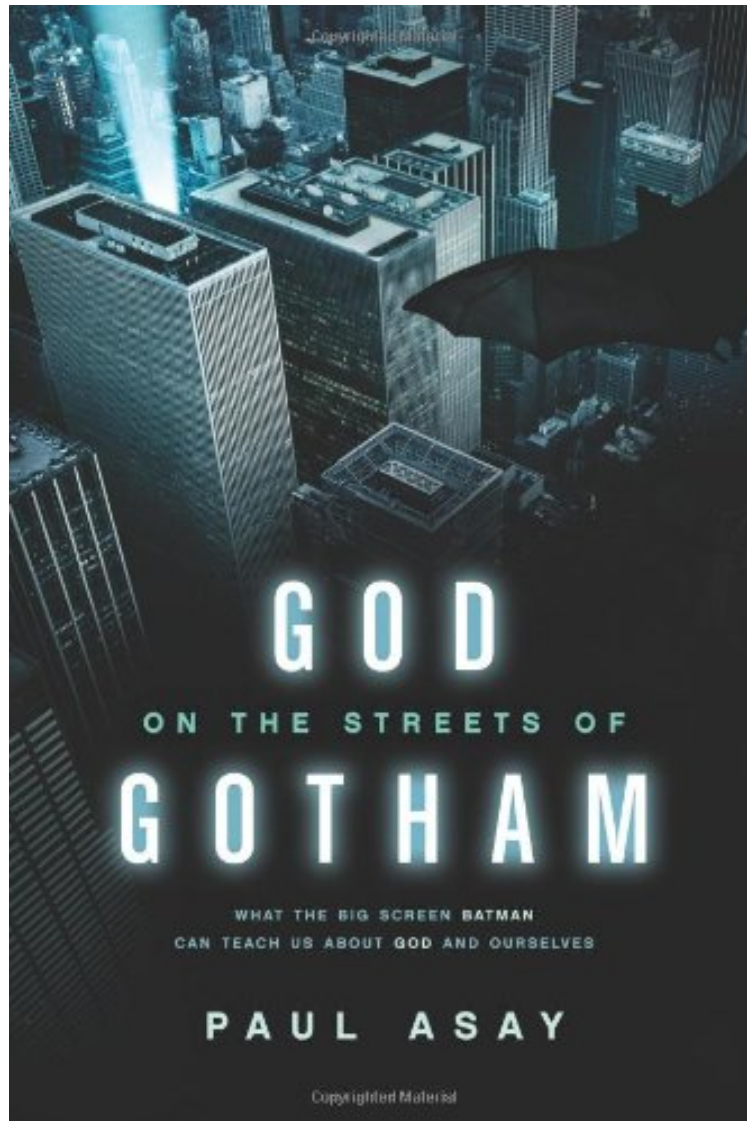


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## God on the Streets of Gotham: What the Big Screen Batman Can Teach Us about God and Ourselves

*Paul Asay*

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**Paul Asay : God on the Streets of Gotham: What the Big Screen Batman Can Teach Us about God and Ourselves** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God on the Streets of Gotham: What the Big Screen Batman Can Teach Us about God and Ourselves:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy Lisa M ZatezaloI ordered this to use as a study

guide for my youth group at church. With the release of the Dark Knight Rises I thought it would be a good way to tie in current culture with God's word. So far the book has been everything I was hoping it would be. I'm enjoying it and I think the kids are too. I would like to see a study guide with discussion questions!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. God on the Streets of Gotham...By Virg....What the Big Screen Batman can Teach us About God and Ourselves", finishes the title of one of the most fun and real books that I have read in 2012. Paul Asay, writer for Focus on the Family's pluggedin.com and all around nice guy based on our twitter interactions, takes us on a journey through the crime ridden streets of Gotham and all the personalities that dwell within in this amazing book. Now, if you are looking for a theological masterpiece, you probably need to go pick up Slave or the Truth War by MacArthur. Don't get me wrong, God on the Streets of Gotham is solid in regards to the Bible. This book, however, won't shore up your thoughts on soteriology (Calvanistic/Arminian) or reaffirm your beliefs on the rapture or the millennial Kingdom so if that's what your looking for try some Sproul or Begg. What it will do however (and possible just as importantly), is to let you know that there are others out there that share the same struggles, life issues, and sins that we do. And that is what I loved about this book. It's not some guy writing page after laborious page about how we ought to be, act, and live all the while most likely not even coming close to his own mark in his own life. This book feels more real than that. You can sense the author's passion, concerns, fears then ultimately and thankfully his faith coming through on the pages. Best of all, it's set in Gotham with the amazing characters we all know and love because...well, Batman is the best superhero. Right? You could look at the title and, like my beautiful bride, be concerned that this is a book comparing Batman to Jesus. That's not what this is all about. Only in one sense towards the end is that that the case and it is only in regards to sacrifice and humility(Philippians 2), not in perfection. Batman has his flaws and weaknesses and they are shown in this book. The cast of villains' issues are laid bare and are a good reminder of where we could all be without God's grace as well. From Carmine Falcone's corruption and compromise, to the fear instilled by the Scarecrow, to Ra's Al Ghul's zealous ambitions, to Two-Face's despair, Catwoman's amorality, Banes' addiction, and even Joker's annihilation mindset, Paul Asay runs the gambit of emotions and sins that these Gotham villains represent. Like I already alluded to, Batman isn't immune to the realities of a fallen world either. He battles through the same issues and emotions that we do as well. Pain, suffering, doubt, and of course loss just to name a few. Loss is how Batman started and so many of us can relate to that one. It is a great reminder for us to look to Christ and not to get trapped in these same lifestyles and emotions. In John 16:33 Jesus tells us, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Thank God for that promise. Now, the best part of all of this is that most of the references in the book are directly from the most recent Trilogy so it is all fresh in most of our minds. This book may not be for everyone(setting-wise, not content-wise). If you aren't a fan or familiar with Bats and his cast of arch nemeses, it might not be something you would put your time into. If you are like me, however, and Batman is your all-time favorite, you really can't go wrong with reading this book. It was an amazing page turning Batmobile ride and I loved every page of it. I'm sure any other fan of what takes place in Gotham will too. Pick up your copy today!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Something to think aboutBy lighthouse88In the wake of recent events in Colorado, this was one of the hardest reviews to write. Not because the book has no value or was too hard to understand, but because of the burden for those who are suffering. Therefore, I dedicate this review to those who are hurting in ways unimaginable in Colorado. May God carry you, comfort you, and touch your hearts during this inexpressible season of suffering. Paul Asay is a reviewer for Plugged In Ministries. This ministry helps "people understand popular cultural trends and how they intersect with spiritual issues" (back cover of the book). In the "Introduction", Paul shares his fascination with the comic world as a young boy. He shares how his father felt at that time about what was being projected to those who read the comics. Throughout the book, Paul as well shares the history of Batman from inception through the many various changes that he has undergone in various mediums whether print or movie. There is a lot of the history of the character of Batman included that was previously unknown to me. I enjoyed learning the background that brings us to the current day. Paul shares the author's original introduction of this "super hero" and the books that have been written to enlighten those who find this genre entertaining. What is it about a superhero that draws millions to watch movies that portray Batman? Does the Batman phenomenon touch something within us that causes many to flock to stores to buy the books, comics and movies? If there is something that speaks to us, exactly what can we learn from comic superheroes? Is there anything to be learned? With historical understanding, Paul then begins to help us as believers see if Batman does indeed have something to teach us. The other chapters in the book are titled: Masked, Marked, Nemeses, Submission, Code, Tool, Partners, Struggle, Sacrifice, ending with Hero. In the book, we see how culture has changed the character of Batman and how we can learn about the ultimate Hero, Jesus Christ, when we examine the fictional character of Batman. To me, page 207 summarizes the main difference between fictional superheroes and The Hero: "We may live in a world, in which we lose sight of our Creator, but he never loses sight of us, and we can never extricate ourselves from his design and purpose. We are his whether we acknowledge him or not." Batman on the Streets of Gotham provides information that you may not have previously known. You might learn something new about the history of this particular genre, and there is definitely food for thought in the nonfictional book. Perhaps as you read this book, you will remember to pray for people in Colorado for days to come. I hope so. My rating of the

book is 4- stars.

What do God and the Caped Crusader have in common? While Batman is a secular superhero patrolling the fictional streets of Gotham City, the Caped Crusader is one whose story creates multiple opportunities for believers to talk about the redemptive spiritual truths of Christianity. While the book touches on Batmans many incarnations over the last 70 years in print, on television, and at the local Cineplex for the enjoyment of Batman fans everywhere, it primarily focuses on Christopher Nolans two wildly popular and critically acclaimed movies that not only introduced a new generation to a darker Batman, but are also loaded with spiritual meaning and redemptive metaphors.