

# 'The Shack' Mania Heads To Big Screen

## *Oprah part of team to portray God as elderly, black woman*

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*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.*



Hollywood insiders report the next major leap for the message in William Paul Young's million-selling book "The Shack" is a first-run movie featuring the talents of Oprah Winfrey, Idris Elba and Forest Whitaker.

According to [an Indiewire report](#), Whitaker will direct and star in the Summit Entertainment film based on a book that has become iconic among evangelicals but also has drawn strong criticism for its theology.

One of the chief critics of "The Shack," James B. De Young, is a former neighbor and colleague of Young who authored a response, ["Burning Down 'The Shack.'"](#) De Young charges that "The Shack" minimizes God's holiness and judgment, distorts the work of Christ on the cross and falsely grants forgiveness and salvation to everyone, a doctrine known as universalism.

"I remain convinced that 'The Shack' is aberrant theology," De Young told WND on Tuesday. "'The Shack' goes to the heart of universal reconciliation, Christian universalism." Universalism is the belief that a God of love and goodness never would allow people to be separated from him forever, which means everyone ends up in heaven.

But De Young said that's simply not what the Bible teaches. He pointed, for example, to the words of Jesus in Matthew chapter 25 after Jesus told the parable of the handmaidens and their lamps. In his parable of the 10 talents, Jesus said: "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left."

After explaining how the sheep are rewarded, Matthew records Jesus saying: "Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'" The chapter concludes with Jesus' words, "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

[The Christian Post reported](#) the \$30 million Lionsgate film will begin shooting in Atlanta or Vancouver later this summer.

Controversy has followed the book since it was self-published in 2007. It created shock waves among many Christians not only for its theology but also for its portrayal of the Trinity as an elderly black woman, an Asian woman and a carpenter.

Many Christian organizations [have concluded the book contains "heresies."](#)

One evaluation, from the Reformed Nazarene church, said the book incorrectly conveys that God is limited by his love and cannot practice justice. It also incorrectly suggests, the church said, that ...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

*<http://www.wnd.com/2014/05/the-shack-mania-heads-to-big-screen/>*

**Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:** *In the years since "The Shack" book came out, I have encountered several professing Christians who say they read it and loved it. When asked my opinion, I would respond that it is so heretical that only someone who does not know the God of the Bible or His gospel of salvation could embrace it.*

*In other words, how could someone say they are believers in Jesus and then love a book that denies the very things that Jesus taught about Himself and the Father, and also denies that someone must believe in Jesus in order to be saved from Hell?*

*Answer – Only someone who has been deceived into believing a lie. Now Satan has inspired people to make it into a movie so that he can deceive even more people. How sad!*

