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## Z for Zachariah

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## Z for Zachariah

### **Abstract**

This is a film review of *Z for Zachariah* (2015) directed by Craig Zobel.

### **Author Notes**

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



***Z for Zachariah***

(2015)  
Craig Zobel

Zechariah is an Old Testament prophet who had a message for the Jews who returned from exile after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Keep your faith in God, even though your faith may have been shaken by the destruction of the Temple and your exile. And, rebuild the temple.

*Z is For Zachariah* is the story of three people who survive a nuclear event and find themselves together in a valley that is safe from the nuclear radiation that has covered the Earth. Instead of rebuilding the Temple, they are building a huge waterwheel that will be used to bring electricity back to the valley, thereby providing them with a return to normality.

Beyond this simple parallel, however, any story about the last three human beings left on the earth is an opportunity to explore the very nature of our humanity and our relationship to the Creator. Unfortunately, the characters in the story are motivated by jealousy and lust; not a good omen for the end of days.

A story about the last three human beings on earth is also an opportunity to explore how we want the future to be. These three people have the opportunity to set the course for the future of humanity. Unfortunately, the characters in this story do not seem to think beyond themselves and the immediate moment. If the future of humanity depends upon human beings, the prediction of what most likely will happen is that we are all doomed.