

# The CHOSEN<sup>®</sup>

VOL 1 - CALLED BY NAME

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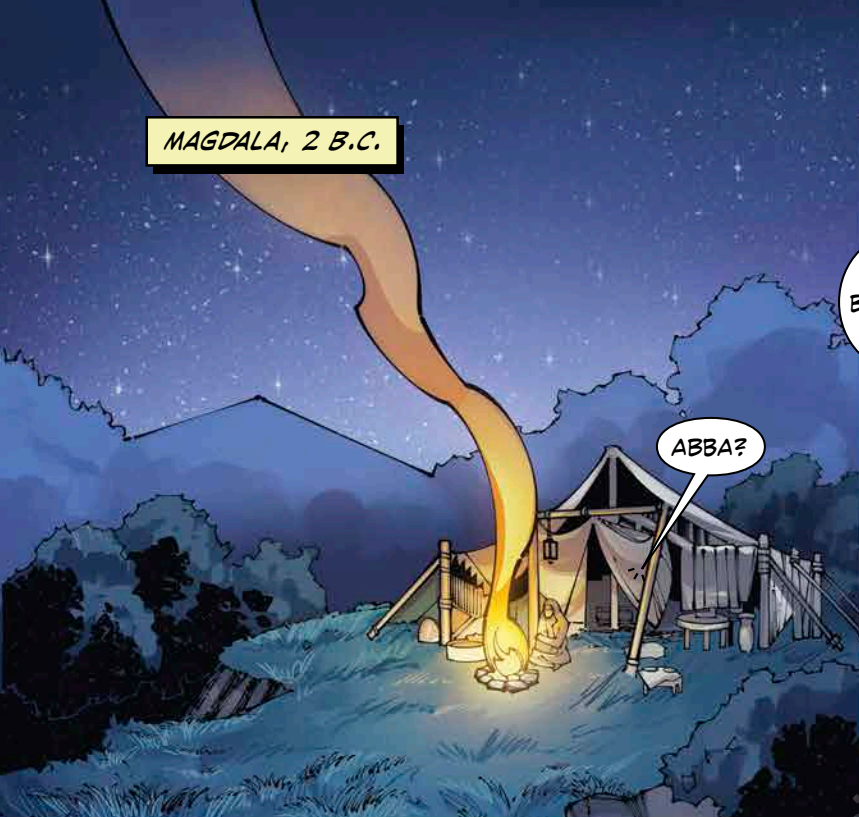
**CRUX**  
STUDIOS  
VISUAL STORYTELLING FROM DAVID C COOK

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MAGDALA, 2 B.C.



YOU SHOULD BE IN BED, LITTLE ONE.

I CAN'T SLEEP.

COME HERE.

ABBA?



DOES YOUR HEAD HURT AGAIN?

NO.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE **BIG NEW STAR**? IT'S OVER THERE NOW...

NO.



WHY CAN'T YOU SLEEP?

I'M SCARED.

HEY, WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE'RE SCARED?

WE SAY THE WORDS.



APONAI'S WORDS, FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH...

"THUS SAYS THE LORD WHO CREATED YOU, O JACOB, AND HE WHO FORMED YOU, O ISRAEL: FEAR NOT--"

COME NOW, LET ME HEAR YOU SAY IT. I LIKE YOUR PRETTY VOICE.



"--FEAR NOT, FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU; I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME; YOU ARE MINE."

THAT'S RIGHT.

MAGDALA, 17 A.D.

FEAR  
NOT...



FEAR  
NOT...



FEAR  
NOT...



CITY OF CAPERNAUM,  
28 YEARS LATER



HELP ME!  
SHE TRIED TO  
KILL ME--

AUGH!



HELP ME!  
SOMEBODY,  
HELP ME!

WHAT  
IS GOING  
--?!



DEMONS!  
--DEMONS  
LIVE INSIDE  
HER!





WHOA.

FORGIVE ME, RABBI-- WE MUST STOP.



I CAN SEE THAT.

MAY I ASK THE MEANING OF THIS?

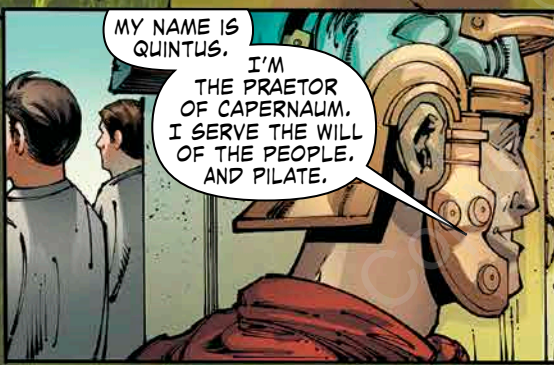
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY HELLO?



RESPECTED TEACHER, "NICODEMUS," IS IT?

I'M ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

ONLY ROMAN BUSINESS IS OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

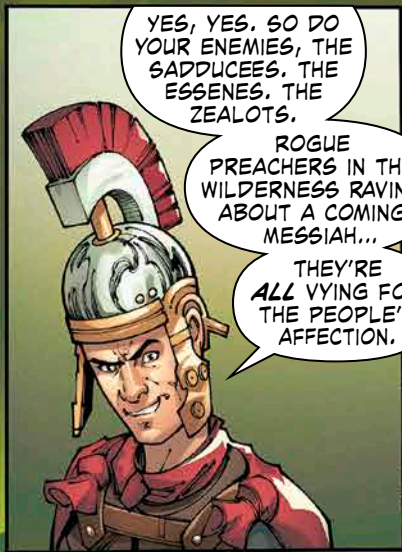


MY NAME IS QUINTUS.

I'M THE PRAETOR OF CAPERNAUM. I SERVE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. AND PILATE.



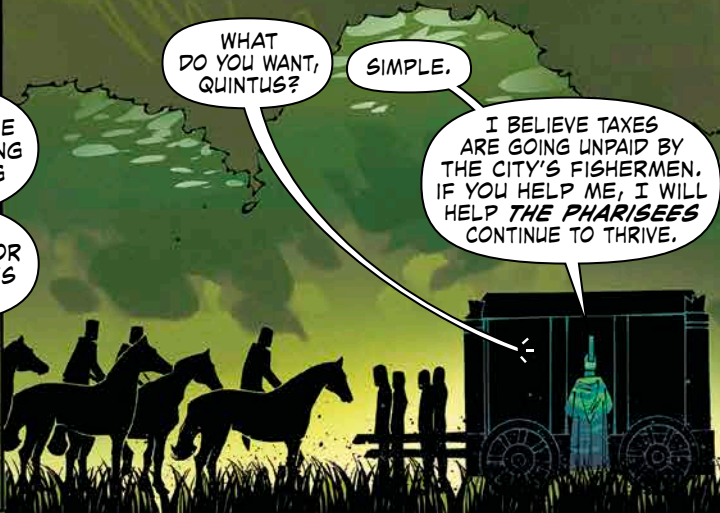
I SERVE ONLY GOD.



YES, YES. SO DO YOUR ENEMIES, THE SADDUCEES, THE ESSENES, THE ZEALOTS.

ROGUE PREACHERS IN THE WILDERNESS RAVING ABOUT A COMING MESSIAH...

THEY'RE ALL VYING FOR THE PEOPLE'S AFFECTION.

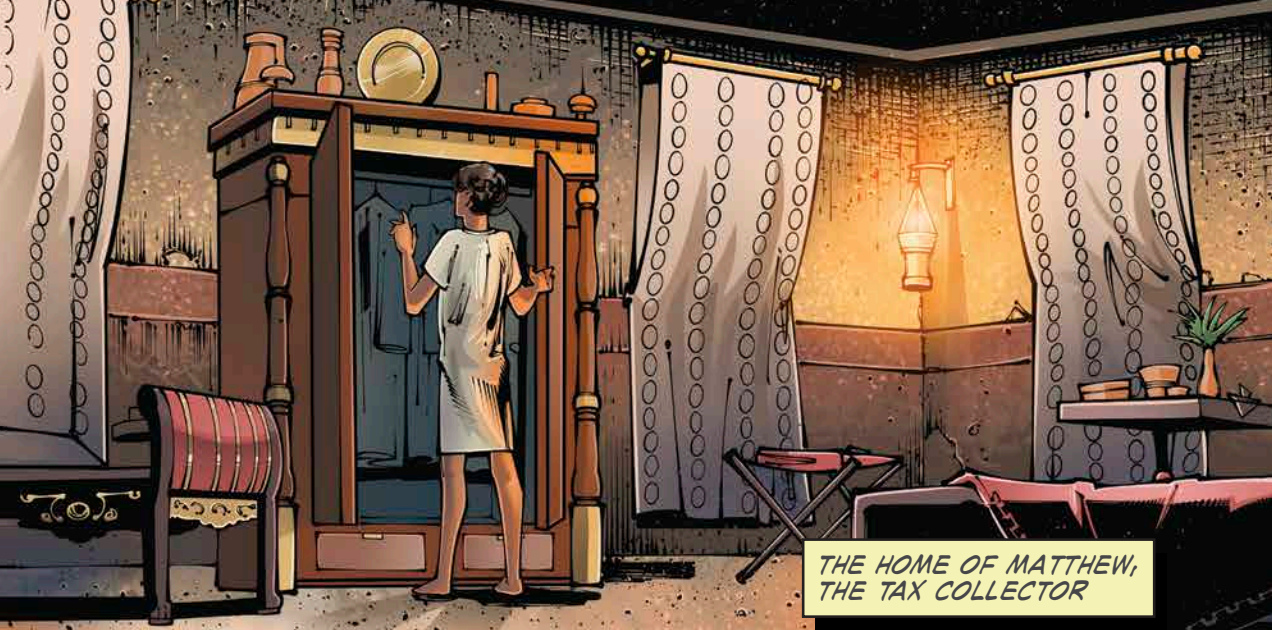


WHAT DO YOU WANT, QUINTUS?

SIMPLE.

I BELIEVE TAXES ARE GOING UNPAID BY THE CITY'S FISHERMEN. IF YOU HELP ME, I WILL HELP THE PHARISEES CONTINUE TO THRIVE.





THE HOME OF MATTHEW,  
THE TAX COLLECTOR







I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO MY ANNUAL VISIT TO CAPERNAUM, AND TO YOUR SEA OF GALILEE. IT IS TRULY THE ENVY OF THE KINGDOM.

IT BOASTS THE MOST EXQUISITE FISH.

THE ACADEMY



HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT THOSE WHO DO THE ACTUAL FISHING ARE UNHOLY...

...GIVEN TO GAMBLING IN SECRET DENS, FOUL-MOULTHED...



...EVEN FISHING ON THE SABBATH.



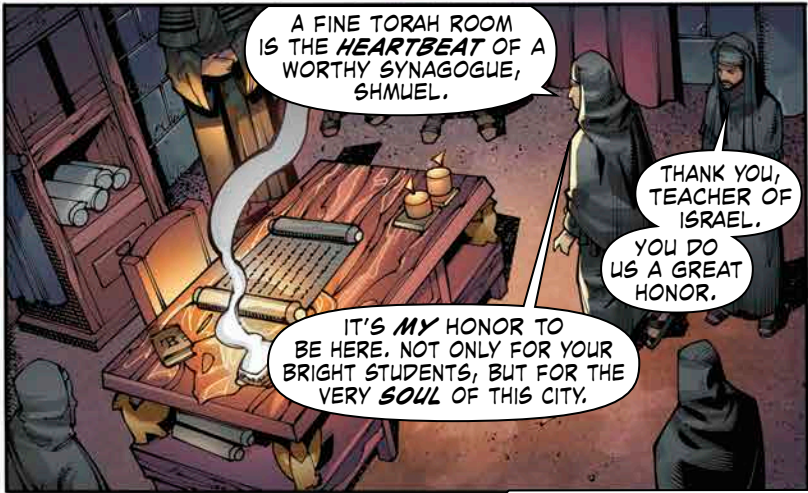
CAN WE EAT THE CATCH WITHOUT BEING STAINED BY THE SINS OF THE CATCHER? WHAT GOES INTO THE BODY OF A MAN DEFILES HIM.



WHY ARE OUR JEWISH BROTHERS TAKING THEIR BOATS TO SEA ON SHABBAT?



I ASSURE YOU, THE MESSIAH WILL NOT COME UNTIL THIS WICKEDNESS IS PURGED FROM OUR MIDST.



A FINE TORAH ROOM IS THE **HEARTBEAT** OF A WORTHY SYNAGOGUE, SHMUEL.

THANK YOU, TEACHER OF ISRAEL.

YOU DO US A GREAT HONOR.

IT'S **MY HONOR** TO BE HERE. NOT ONLY FOR YOUR BRIGHT STUDENTS, BUT FOR THE VERY **SOUL** OF THIS CITY.

A CENTURION IS HERE! HE DEMANDS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

PLEASE TELL HIM--

IT CAN'T WAIT.



WHY **ARE** JEWS TAKING BOATS TO SEA ON SHABBAT, RABBI SHMUEL?

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, RABBI?

THE REPORTS ARE BECOMING TOO FREQUENT TO IGNORE.



THE **DISRESPECT!** THIS IS NICODEMUS!

TEACHER OF TEACHERS!!

**JUST** THE MAN I WANT TO SEE THEN. I'M HERE ABOUT A HEBREW WOMAN IN THE RED QUARTER. LET'S JUST SAY SHE'S CAUSING A **DISTURBANCE**.

YOU HAVE AN **ENTIRE** ROMAN LEGION AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

THANK YOU, JEW! BUT SHE NEEDS A HOLY MAN.



WE ARE MEN OF GOD. IT IS NOT OUR **CUSTOM** TO FREQUENT THE RED QUARTER.

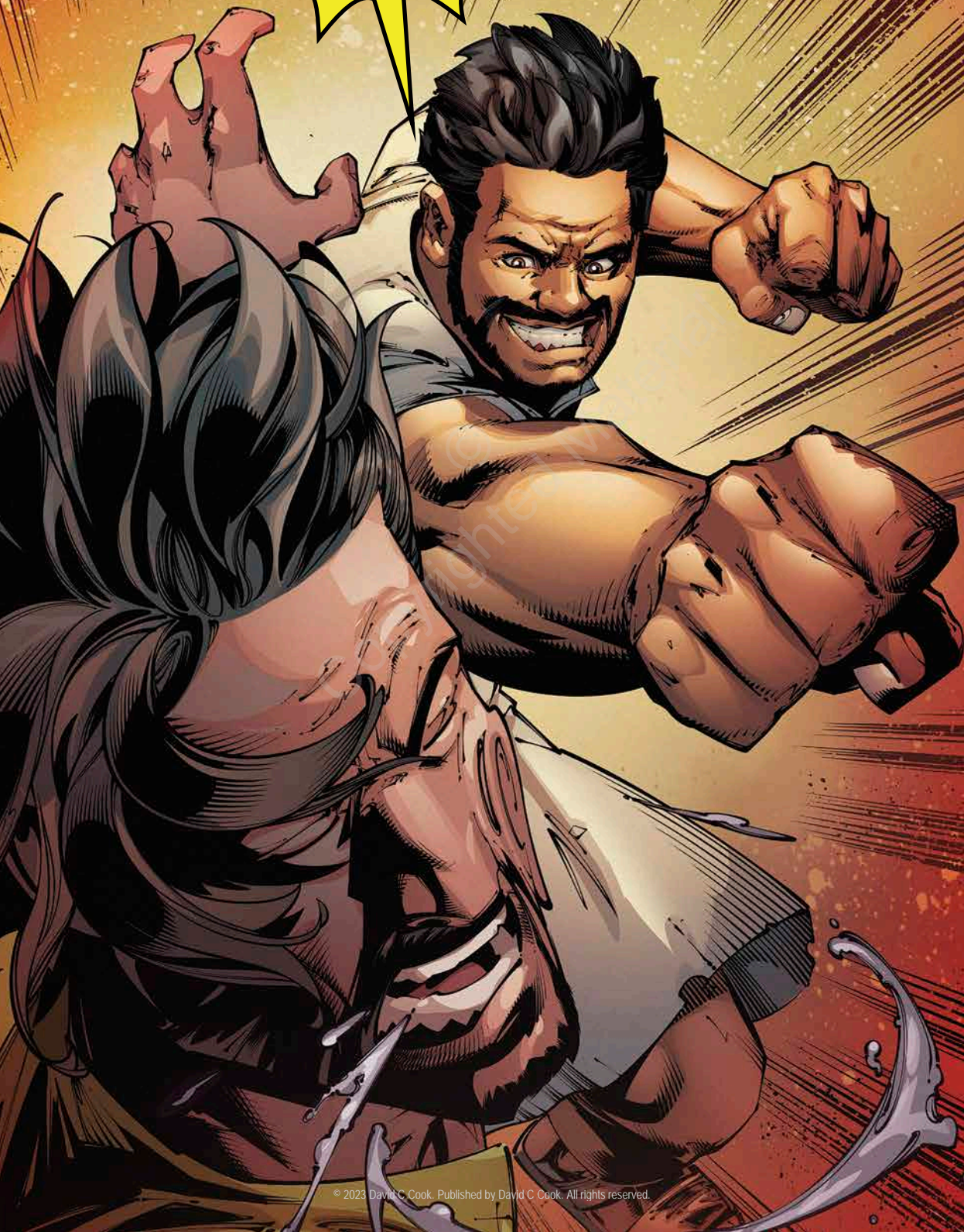


PERHAPS I WASN'T CLEAR, "**TEACHER OF TEACHERS**"

--**YOU'LL** ACCOMPANY ME TO THE RED QUARTER...

...OR **WE'LL** BURN IT DOWN WITH OUR "**FIRE OF FIRES**."

**STAY  
DOWN,  
SIMON!!**





YOU'RE TOO MUCH, JEHOSEPHAT.

THAT'S RIGHT!

SERIOUSLY, I CAN ONLY TAKE, MAYBE, TWO...

NO--ONE MORE PUNCH. ONE MORE AND I'M DONE.



SIMON SAYS HE'S HAD IT!

UH...HEY, JOE?



THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME "WINE HANDS"!



BECAUSE OF WHAT I DO TO YOUR LIVER!





I DON'T WANNA DO THIS, JEHOSEPHAT.

YOU KNOW I LOVE YOUR SISTER MORE THAN ANYTHING. THAT'S WHY I MARRIED HER.

CAN WE PLEASE STOP FIGHTING EVERY WEEK?



ALL RIGHT, SIMON, I'LL STOP FIGHTING YOU.

YOU WILL?

YEAH, BUT MY BROTHER WON'T.

YOUR BROTHER?



"WINE HANDS"?

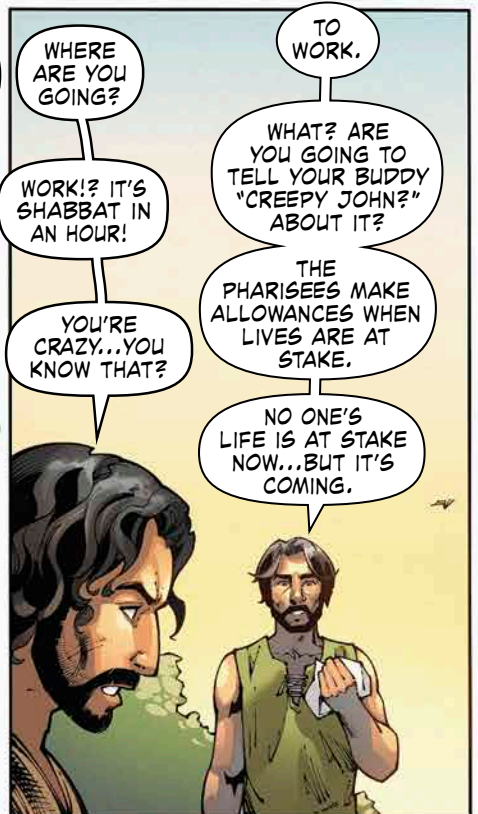
IT SOUNDED BETTER IN MY HEAD.

HOW'S A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT A PUSH IF IT'S TWO-ON-ONE?! MADE UP RULE RIGHT THERE.

I'M SO FOOLISH.

WE LOST OUR MONEY.

IT'S MY FAULT. I TALKED YOU INTO IT. TAX DAY'S COMING.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO WORK.

WORK!? IT'S SHABBAT IN AN HOUR!

WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO TELL YOUR BUDDY "CREEPY JOHN?" ABOUT IT?

YOU'RE CRAZY... YOU KNOW THAT?

THE PHARISEES MAKE ALLOWANCES WHEN LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

NO ONE'S LIFE IS AT STAKE NOW... BUT IT'S COMING.