

THE CHOSEN 501

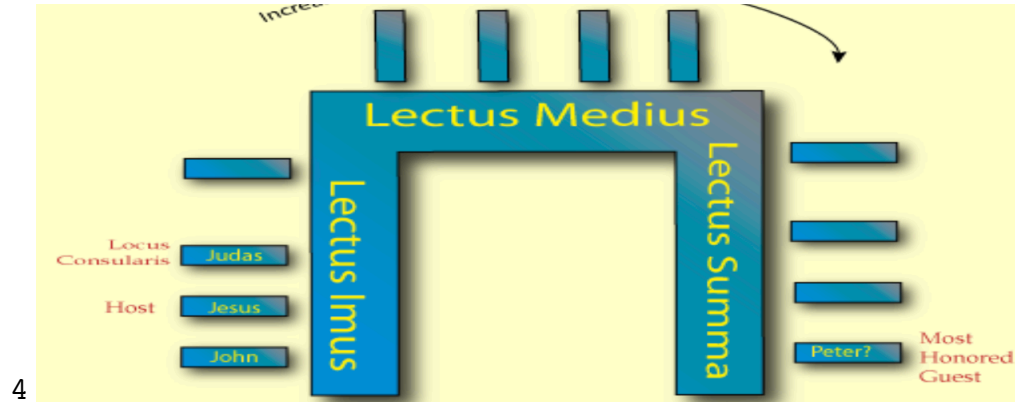
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PREFACE

A note on the Triclinium seating arrangement of the Last Supper:



Jesus and the disciples would be arranged around a U-shaped table, reclining on their sides on cushions, their bodies stretched outward from the table.

Based on the rituals of special feasts in the 1st Century in conjunction with descriptions from John's gospel, there is consensus among scholars regarding the seating assignments pictured above.

TEASER

100 INT. UPPER ROOM - EVENING

100

We begin in darkness, hearing only a familiar voice.

JESUS (O.S.)
Listen carefully. Because I'm
going to tell you what is about to
happen.

We see a closeup of the face of Jesus, lit by candlelight.

JESUS (CONT'D)
**In a little while you will not see
me, and than after a little while
you will see me.**

OPEN ON PETER, reclining at Passover table. We move down the
line of DISCIPLES, each one RAPT with attention, hanging on
His every word.

JESUS (CONT'D)
**Truly, truly, I say to you, you
will weep and lament, but the world
will rejoice.**

Passing MATTHEW -

JESUS (CONT'D)
**You will be sorrowful, but your
sorrow will turn into joy.**

BIG JAMES -

JESUS (CONT'D)
**When a woman is giving birth, she
has sorrow because her hour has
come, but when she has delivered
the baby,**

THOMAS, intensely focused -

JESUS (CONT'D)
**-she no longer remembers the
anguish. It's replaced by joy that
a human being has been born into
the world.**

Rounding corner to ANDREW -

JESUS (CONT'D)

**So yes, you have sorrow now, but I
will see you again, and your hearts
will rejoice,**

NATHANAEL -

JESUS (CONT'D)

**-and no one will take your joy from
you. In that day you will ask
nothing more of me.**

THADDEUS -

JESUS (CONT'D)

**Truly, truly... whatever you ask of
the Father in my name, he will give
it to you.**

LITTLE JAMES -

JESUS (CONT'D)

**Until now you have asked nothing in
my name. Ask, and you will
receive, that your joy may be full.**

PHILIP, rounding the final corner -

JESUS (CONT'D)

I have said so many things to you
in figures of speech, and you have
seen so many things that you
haven't fully understood. Some
because you cannot fully grasp all
this until my time is complete.
But you have remained faithful, and
**the hour is coming when I will no
longer speak to you in figures of
speech but will tell you plainly
about the Father.**

ZEE -

JESUS (CONT'D)

**In that day you will ask in my
name, and no longer will you need
me to ask the Father on your
behalf;**

Passing an EMPTY SEAT (vacated earlier by Judas) -

JESUS (CONT'D)

**-for the Father himself loves you,
and you can ask him directly
because you have loved me and have
believed that I came from God.**

We at last see JESUS Himself, with JOHN at His right. (Turns out John DID get to sit at Jesus' right hand. At least for tonight.)

JESUS (CONT'D)

**I came from the Father and have
come into the world, and now I am
leaving the world and going to the
Father.**

John has been looking down, listening. He looks up, expecting more. But Jesus appears to have finished his speech. The disciples appear astonished. Until...

MATTHEW

Thank you.

JESUS

For what?

MATTHEW

**You said it plainly, no longer
using figures of speech.**

THADDEUS

I feel less anxious now.

PETER

**Now we know that you know all
things and do not need anyone to
question you;**

JOHN

**this is why we truly believe that
you came from God.**

Jesus' eyebrows go up.

JESUS

Do you now believe?

A chorus of variations on "Yes!" "We do!" and "Of course, Rabbi!" resounds. Jesus is compassionate, but shakes His head, worn down.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Hold on to that belief. Because I
tell you, **the hour is coming,
indeed it has come, when you will
be scattered, each to his own home,
and will leave me alone.**

A more emphatic chorus of variations on "never!" "no we won't!" and "we will never leave you alone!" erupts, but He speaks over them authoritatively.

JESUS (CONT'D)

This is not the time for your declarations of loyalty. I have heard them and I do not doubt your earnest intentions.

Time will reveal all things.
Andrew, let's close with a hymn.
One from the Sons of Korah,
according to the Gittith.

Andrew quickly reaches for a STRINGED INSTRUMENT.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Be assured, all of you:
**I am not alone, for the Father is
with me. I have said these things
to you, that in me you may have
peace.**

**In this world you will have
tribulation. But take heart; I have
overcome the world.**

He nods at Andrew, who strikes the first string and sings the first line of PSALM 84--

ANDREW

(singing)

**How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!**

The rest gradually join in, in three-part harmony:

ALL

(singing)

**My soul longs, yes, faints for the
courts of the Lord;**

Their singing gradually lowers to a low background volume as we focus in on Jesus.

JESUS

Father, the hour has come...

ALL

(singing)

**my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God...**

Jesus lifts up His eyes heavenward, whispering the opening lines of the HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER (John 17).

JESUS

Glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

ANGLE ON - Disciples continuing to sing Psalm 84 -

DISCIPLES

(singing)

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise...

JESUS

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

END TEASER

101 FADE IN ON: 101

CREDIT SEQUENCE:

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

DISSOLVE TO:

102 SUPER: **FOUR DAYS EARLIER** 102

103 EXT. JERUSALEM - CITY CENTER - DAY 103

The last beats of the previous episode (408) for Shmuel, as he moves through the city preparing to celebrate Passover.

Shmuel is surrounded by the humanity of his fellows. PEOPLE in all states of being -- deep thought, worship, practical preparation, reverie, and fellowship.

SMOKE wafts into his face. SMELLS reach his nostrils. In the midst of it, Shmuel is somehow in his own capsule. Deep in thought, troubled, angry, and lost.

Finally, Shmuel reaches the door to the building that houses CAIAPHAS' QUARTERS. TEMPLE GUARDSMEN (planting them as an image now) open the door for him.

104 INT. CAIAPHAS' QUARTERS - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 104

Shmuel is alone inside a long, STERILE hall -- the opposite of the crush of humanity he passed through moments ago.

Shmuel makes his way to CAIAPHAS' QUARTERS. Inside, He sees Caiaphas. Shmuel NODS at Caiaphas' right hand, MALCHUS (20s).

SHMUEL

It's everything I feared.

105 EXT. ROAD TO JERUSALEM - CONTINUOUS 105

Jesus of Nazareth has five days left to live.

He is on the donkey, attended by the Disciples and various Followers.

From the walls of Jerusalem less than a half-mile away, they clearly hear crowds roar --

CROWD (O.S.)
*Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of
David! Hosanna in the highest!*

Heartened by the enthusiasm, Peter brims with infectious excitement.

PETER
"The Son of David..."

JOHN
The Messiah!!

JUDAS, giddy with delight and anticipation --

JUDAS
(to Zee)
Do you hear that?! It sounds like
multitudes! This is the moment!

Zee stays near the front.

TAMAR is slightly confused. She leans into MAGDALENE --

TAMAR
Hosanna?

MAGDALENE
It means save us.

Andrew turns the crowd's chant into a song --

ANDREW
(singing)
Hosanna to the Son of David...

The REST follow --

ALL
(singing)
*Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna to the Son of David!*

As they press forward, they hear voices up ahead and a little off the path...

TURN TO SEE -- YUSSIF, along with GEDERA and ZEBEDIAH (from the stoning in ep 406).

Zee takes up a defensive posture. John unsheathes his KNIFE.

JOHN

STOP! Stay away from us!

GEDERA

We mean no harm!

BIG JAMES

You tried to kill us!

ZEBEDIAH

No one wants a riot.

JUDAS

John! Zee! I want to hear them out.

ZEBEDIAH

If you turn back now, it could save your life.

JUDAS

Wait. We're not going to do that, but--

ANDREW

Do you hear that chanting? The people sound like they're ready to crown Him king!

GEDERA

And for declaring yourself a sovereign, Rome will descend on us all.

JESUS

I have said nothing about an earthly crown. Ever.

ZEBEDIAH

You're riding a donkey! For those of us who know prophecy, your meaning could not be more clear!

TAMAR

(aside)

What does he mean?

PHILIP

Zechariah's prophecy of the Messiah -- Behold, your king is coming to you, righteous and having salvation, riding on a donkey.

ZEBEDIAH

The people haven't even seen the donkey yet.

GEDERA

Once they do, everything they've hoped for will be confirmed.

A personal, earnest plea to Gedera and Zebediah --

JUDAS

It is! Don't you see? You should be rejoicing! This is the moment! We will all be saved!

Judas turns to the city, pumps a fist in the air --

JUDAS (CONT'D)

Hosanna to the Son of David!

The rest join in --

ALL

Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna in the highest!

Yussif pulls Peter and John aside --

YUSSIF

I don't stand with these men but they are right. Raising Lazarus changed everything. Jesus will not be safe inside the city gates.

Zebediah and Gederā attempt to shout down the chanting disciples.

GEDERA

You're calling for His killing,
don't you see?!

ZEBEDIAH

Teacher, if you value your own
life, tell your students to stop!

Jesus looks out at the gathered crowd, His followers...

JESUS

I could tell them to stop. But, I
tell you, **if they were to be
silent, these very stones around us
would cry out** in their place!

The followers cheer. Jesus nudges His donkey with His heels
and rides onward.

ALL

Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna in the highest!

Gedera and Zebediah are speechless, offended as the group
moves past.

ZEBEDEE enthusiastically grabs Gedera by the shoulders --

ZEBEDEE

Come on, man, it's good news for
you, too!!

Gedera swats Zebedee away. Zeb continues on with the others.

ZEBEDIAH

What do we do now? We can't walk
in behind them, we'll look like
followers!

GEDERA

We'll take one of the other gates,
come on.

TAMAR turns back to Yussif, makes a beckoning motion,
joyfully, as if to say, "Join us!"

Pained, Yussif gently shakes his head, *no*. She shrugs and
continues on with the group.

ZEBEDIAH (O.S.)

Yussif!

With a last look at the family he wants so desperately to
join, Yussif goes with the Pharisee and Sadducee. For now.

Jesus and the disciples get closer, and as they approach the gathered crowd, Jesus takes in the Holy City before Him. His eyes land on something OFF --

CLOSE ON -- A CORNER STONE of the city gate. The meleke limestone has a DISTINCT BRIGHT RUST COLORED STREAK running through it.

REVERSE of Jesus' eyes. They brim with tears.

His eyelids flutter as though He'll fall asleep, when --

Jesus JOLTS as if waking from a dream. Stirred but not shaken. He wipes the tears from His eyes.

IN THE BG, the disciples and crowd SING and chant.

ANGLE ON -- Magdalene and Mary Mother -- they saw. They exchange concerned looks.

MAGDALENE

Rabbi, are you alright?

He nods. Mary Mother isn't convinced, but she has no time to follow up -- they're at the crowd.

106 EXT. GOLDEN GATE - JERUSALEM - STREETS - CONTINUOUS 106

Cloaks are thrown to the ground. Crowd CHEERS and SINGS the ANTHEM from the cold open of 408, exulting the Davidic King.

Children on the shoulders of their parents wave palm fronds joyfully. It's a party!

106a ANGLE ON ATTICUS -- he moves through the procession, we track the participants through his eyes. 106a

ON JESSE - chanting and waving a palm branch.

ON VERONICA - singing the Davidic anthem.

Atticus' eyes land on something curious --

JOANNA passing out the last of her palms. She looks out of place...and yet so rapturous.

Atticus is intrigued by Joanna but continues on toward the gate where --

THE WATCHER (from last season) with a canvas colored hood pulled up, partially obscuring his face. Watcher jots on a parchment.

Atticus clocks Watcher as a spy. Takes one to know one.

Atticus turns his gaze upward to see -- CAIAPHAS standing at his balcony.

106b ON CAIAPHAS -- he observes with concern for a beat and then quickly withdraws inside with purpose. 106b

Atticus STEALS an apple off a passing cart and vanishes into the crowd.

106 The volume and intensity of the crowd surges as Jesus enters the city gates. The fluttering of green all around is almost psychedelic. 106

CROWDS

**Blessed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord!! Hosanna in the
highest!!**

Peter turns to Andrew --

PETER

Remember what He said the first day
we met Him?

ANDREW

I met Him before you.

PETER

(not taking the bait)

He said we'd be fishers of men. We used to fish to feed. Now we'll feed them spiritually.

(a beat, steels himself)

I'm going to learn how to preach.

ANDREW

Now??

PETER

What better time? All these people.

Overhearing --

THOMAS

Exactly why it's risky.

John pokes his head in --

JOHN

What are we looking at?

THOMAS

All these strangers.

Veronica emerges from the crowd, waving wildly. Magdalene reaches, clasps her hand lovingly for a moment as she passes.

JOHN

Not all strangers.
Friends...family, even!

Jesse emerges to embrace Zee. Jesse's face streaked with tears of joy.

THOMAS

No doubt we'll encounter just as many who want to send us home.

PETER

Thomas, can't you just take a moment to appreciate all this?

NATHANAEL

Give him a break. He's not well.

THOMAS

My mind is clear. Remember Shmuel,
in the house of Lazarus? He said
some were waiting here with open
arms, others with daggers.

Peter, John, Andrew, and Nathanael stay with that for a beat.
Peter turns.

PETER

Zeb!

ZEBEDEE steps over.

PETER (CONT'D)

Take Salome, Eden, and Laz's
sisters to the Court of Women until
things calm down, I'll meet you
there later.

ZEBEDEE

Understood.

Zebedee hustles off.

Tense...when suddenly a huge palm frond THWACKS Peter.

BARNABY (O.S.)

Oops!

WE TURN TO SEE -- SHULA and BARNABY.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Sorry sorry sorry!

PETER

Watch where you're waving that
thing!

Hugs and love.

A short distance away, we return to The Watcher. Zebediah,
Gedera, and Yussif enter his view, having come through the
southeast gate. He CLOCKS the religious rulers and tenses.

Passing a merchant booth, Yussif stops.

YUSSIF

You two go on ahead, I'll catch up!

The other two rush onward. Yussif leans over the merchant's
table and points at something under the covered section of
the tent.

He fishes coins out of his pockets and hands them to the merchant in exchange for a bundle wrapped in brown paper and a side-bag.

Watcher looks on intently as Yussif asks something inaudible of the Merchant, who nods and shows him around back.

107

EXT. MERCHANT BOOTH - STORAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS

107

Yussif steps behind a changing screen and pulls off his headdress. He unties the rope around his waist.

We SEE his outer tunic flop over the back of a chair.

We SEE his exposed arms untie the string of the bundle and peel back the brown paper to reveal...plainclothes.

108 EXT. JERUSALEM - STREETS - PERCH - CONTINUOUS 108

WATCHER'S POV -- Yussif emerges from the storage area of the Merchant's tent disguised as a COMMONER, carrying a bag.

Watcher conspicuously does not write this down...

109 INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - MOMENTS LATER 109

Atticus strides into PILATE's Quarters to find Pontius looking out an open window. Without turning --

PONTIUS

All that fuss and he rides in on an ass. Pathetic.

He turns to Atticus. With a wry smirk.

PONTIUS (CONT'D)

I'll admit the fervor of the crowds had me nervous for a minute.

ATTICUS

A whole minute?

PONTIUS

Oh, come now. Did you see his grubby little followers? Not a soldier in the lot.

ATTICUS

That's what Antiochus said about the Maccabees.

Side doors to Pilate's chambers swing open as SERVANTS wheel in a cart of steaming OYSTERS, SHRIMP, and BRAISED PORK.

Atticus swipes a shrimp and pops it in his mouth.

PONTIUS

Where are your manners?

ATTICUS

You hate shrimp.

PONTIUS

Hate is too strong. I disfavor them. I enjoy that they're forbidden.

From the same entry, two more SERVANTS push in a giant WARDROBE on wheels. Reacting --

ATTICUS

Ah. Happy Caiaphas Day.

PONTIUS

He needs me.

ATTICUS

You need *him*. And his temple.
What do you get, a quarter of your
annual revenue from this week?

PONTIUS

Maybe. Sometimes more.

ATTICUS

He keeps the peace and the exchange
rates high. So, play nicely.

Claudia emerges from her bedroom in her underclothes,
distracted and on edge.

CLAUDIA

Pontius, you know I hate the smell
of--

She freezes at the sight of Atticus and quickly pulls on a
robe.

ATTICUS

What, me? I bathed... A week ago?

CLAUDIA

Shellfish. You offend these people
by bringing that kind of meat into
this city.

PONTIUS

There *is* braised pork, my love.
From the shoulder cut.

CLAUDIA

I'm not hungry, thank you.

Claudia turns on her heel, exits. Atticus doesn't say a
word.

PONTIUS

Shut up. She's fine.

ATTICUS

No, she seems great.

A SERVANT appears in the doorway.

PONTIUS

The High Priest has arrived?

The servant nods.

PONTIUS (CONT'D)

Send him in!

(to Atticus)

Care to stay for the show?

Atticus plucks another shrimp.

ATTICUS

I've seen enough pageantry for one day. I'll be back later.

As he passes Caiaphas, Atticus' cape hits the High Priest.

PONTIUS

Joseph ben Caiaphas! Do you mind if I call you Joe?

CAIAPHAS

You ask that every time.

Pontius walks toward a desk, gesturing to the non-kosher platters as he passes --

PONTIUS

Help yourself! Fresh from the Mediterranean and rushed here overnight in cold water vessels.

Caiaphas glares. Pontius pulls open a drawer and takes a KEY.

PONTIUS (CONT'D)

We have this lovely appointment three times a year, and your disposition never strikes me as grateful.

CAIAPHAS

Governor, pardon me for saying, but you should be washing my feet for ensuring an orderly festival.

Pontius unlocks the wardrobe to reveal the priest's ritual garments, with the gleaming breastplate of gemstones.

PONTIUS

In the Empire we tolerate other religions because we see them all as variations on the same thing. For instance --

He reaches out to touch one of the gemstones and Caiaphas comes out of his skin --

CAIAPHAS

DON'T!!

Pilate backs off. *Jeez.*

PONTIUS

If I touched them, the garments would be unclean for five days?

CAIAPHAS

Seven.

PONTIUS

Soooo many lambs would thank me.

CAIAPHAS

I'll take the garments and be out of your way.

PONTIUS

Ah ah ah! Not take. *Receive.*

Pilate uses a rod with a hook to gently lift the hanger holding the ceremonial robes and extends it to Caiaphas.

PONTIUS (CONT'D)

Your twelve gemstones correspond to our Zodiac in the heavens, first put forth by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy.

CAIAPHAS

Okay, enough, I get it.

Caiaphas carefully removes the robes from the hook.

PONTIUS

To the victor belong the spoils. So because these are OURS, remember that your right to borrow them is given PROVIDED you keep your people under control -- no riots.

Pontius tosses back an oyster.

PONTIUS (CONT'D)

I noticed there are nearly double
the number of pilgrims this year.

CAIAPHAS

I do not a recall a greater turnout
in my lifetime.

PONTIUS

Is it unreasonable to assume double
the revenue? Simple math.

CAIAPHAS

Between currency exchange and the
temple tax, coffers are already
beginning to overflow.

PONTIUS

Ensure they do. Is there anything
else?

A staring contest ensues. It's each man's chance to address
the elephant in the room. After a tense beat --

CAIAPHAS

No. Thank you, Governor.

Caiaphas turns to go. Just as he's about to reach the door --

PONTIUS

Oh, Caiaphas? One quick thing --
(Caiaphas turns back)
We have three executions scheduled
Friday -- one including a zealot
murderer -- please make sure your
people are there to see. I want to
send a clear message.

CAIAPHAS

To the extent I have any control,
it will be done.

PONTIUS

Thank you.

Caiaphas nods, moves to leave with the garments. Calling
after him --

PONTIUS (CONT'D)

We're going to be friends one day.

Caiaphas exits without acknowledging. Off Pilate's smirk --

110 EXT. JERUSALEM - TEMPLE STEPS - MOMENTS LATER

110

Jesus delivers a sermon to a crowd on the steps of the Temple. The sky is OVERCAST.

Disciples and Followers are rapt. Yussif (plain clothed), Veronica, Jesse, and The Watcher are among the crowd.

JESUS

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone;

ON PETER, paying close attention.

JESUS (CONT'D)

but if it dies, it bears much fruit. What does this mean? Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternity.

As Jesus continues this teaching in the background (**the remainder of text is in John 12**) --

ON MAGDALENE is also listening quite intently, Tamar next to her.

Joanna approaches the two women. Magdalene is emotional at the sight of their friend. Tamar, lights up --

TAMAR

You are a sight for sore eyes.

JOANNA

Where else would I be?!

Magdalene turns quickly back to the teaching but holds Joanna's hand.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Where are you all staying?

TAMAR

(shrugs)
Maybe the men know.

JOANNA

Well, I have use of a large home in the Essene quarter, owned by my friend, Phoebe.

TAMAR

Is she comfortable with 15
strangers?

JOANNA

She leaves Jerusalem during these
festivals because she hates the
crowds. Plenty of beds and a
discrete entryway through the alley
in the back.

TAMAR

It sounds perfect.

JOANNA

Say the word, and I'll see to it
that the rooms are prepared. And I
can tell her to have it
ceremonially cleaned as well.

A sudden quiet has come over the entire crowd, and the two
women turn their attention quickly to the scene.

Jesus has fallen silent, clasping His hands together, seeming
to struggle.

The Crowd is uneasy at this disturbing sight.

Peter teeters, deciding whether to intervene. Jesus mutters
to Himself with a quavering voice --

JESUS

(sotto)

Now my soul is troubled.

Scandalized and confused whispers ripple through the crowd
("What did He say?" "What was that? "His soul what??")

JESUS (CONT'D)

(a little louder)

And what should I say?

(becoming more centered)

'Father, save me from this hour'?

(full volume declaration!)

**But for this purpose I have come to
this hour. Father, glorify your
name!**

Instantly, THUNDER RUMBLES loudly overhead, then AGAIN, with
a CRACK, and something almost resembling a DISTORTED VOICE,
but INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

The crowd cowers in shock, wonder, and fear. The Watcher
searches the heavens. Amidst MURMURS, Andrew turns to Peter -

ANDREW

Was that an angel voice? I'm sure
I heard the word "glorify."

PETER

Keep listening.

Veronica is with Jesse and Zee.

VERONICA

Did you hear that?

JESSE

(still looking up)
Strange thunder.

VERONICA

That wasn't thunder.

The other disciples are speechless. Yussif is rattled.

JESUS

Those of you who heard a voice...it
was for your benefit, not mine.
There will be many signs this week,
as **now is the judgment of this
world; now will the ruler of this
world be cast out. And I,**

ON MAGDALENE --

JESUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

**-when I am lifted up from the
earth,**

She is struck by this.

JESUS (CONT'D)

-will draw all people to myself.

Stunned silence.

NATHANAEL

What do you mean?

JESUS

**The light is among you for a little
while longer. Walk while you have
the light, so that darkness doesn't
overtake you.**

John and Mary Mother absorb this.

JESUS (CONT'D)

**The one who walks in the darkness
does not know where he is going.
While you have the light, believe
in the light, that you may become
sons and daughters of light.**

A gentle thunder rolls again. This time Jesus acknowledges it frankly.

JESUS (CONT'D)

This time it's just thunder, and I think we all know what that sound means. Time to find shelter. I will speak with you again soon.

Jesus turns as Zee and John intercept Him on either side and accompany Him away.

A barrage of questions and protestations fly from the crowd, but Peter rises quickly to his feet and faces them with his arms outstretched.

PETER

Everybody, He said He will preach again soon. You will hear more! Until then, find shelter.

The disciples rush to catch up with Jesus. But Magdalene doesn't move, as though her feet were stuck in cement. John approaches her, bothered by the same thing.

JOHN

"Father, save me from this hour"?

She locks eyes with him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Save Him from what?

MAGDALENE

He's said it before. I think we all just haven't wanted to hear it or it's not sinking in or--

JOHN

Sometimes He speaks in parables.

MAGDALENE

Then why did He seem so unsettled? Have you ever seen Him anxious?

JOHN

The pharisee and sadducee -- they said turning back could save His life.

MAGDALENE

They don't care about Him.

JOHN

Does He? Care? He's acting more and more like someone with no regard--

MAGDALENE

"A grain of wheat falls into the earth and has to die before it can bear fruit."

JOHN

But die in the what sense?

They share a look as if to say, "we both know?" Nathanael calls out --

NATHANAEL

Mary! John!

PHILIP

Are you coming?

They join the others, burdened by their thoughts.

111 EXT. TEMPLE EDGE - CONTINUOUS

111

The group is assembled around Jesus as John and Magdalene arrive.

JESUS

Joanna has graciously provided a place for us to stay.

ANDREW

Thank you, sister.

JESUS

As you all move through the city, spread My Message.

Andrew looks to Peter who winks back.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Any parable or teaching you have heard from me, you may repeat to anyone with ears to hear. Time is running out.

JOHN

Before Passover.

It's a statement but posed as a question. OTHERS are confused too. Eyeballs dart about the room for a beat.

JUDAS

The Passover is a deadline for what?

JESUS

Take your bags. Let's get settled.

Jesus turns away to leave.

ZEE

But what about you?

JESUS

I'll be there...mm...see if you can take a guess.

ALL

"Soon."

He smiles as He backs away.

Peter hands off his rucksack to Andrew as the rest of the group follows Joanna.

PETER

Take my things to the house, I'm going to get started doing what He said. Spreading the word.

ANDREW

Alone?

PETER

No.
(calling out)
Matthew!

Matthew turns around from the group that is following Joanna.

PETER (CONT'D)

Come with me. I'm going to preach.

Philip takes Matthew's bags.

MATTHEW

And...?

PETER

You should write it down in your little book.

Intrigued, Matthew joins Peter.

MATTHEW

That would be redundant.

PETER

Re-what?

MATTHEW

Redundant. You'll just be repeating words He's already taught and that I have recorded.

PETER

Matthew, you're assuming I'll be good at this.

Matthew looks at Peter quizzically before...the lightbulb --

MATTHEW

You'll be terrible.

PETER

The first time. I need to know what crazy things come out of my mouth. C'mon.

Peter pulls him along excitedly.

112

EXT. GOLDEN GATE - JERUSALEM - LATE DAY

112

Some of the excitement and buzz from the early arrival of such a mass of pilgrims for the festival has died down.

Late afternoon brings in the stragglers to the Northern Damascus Gate. Conspicuous among them is a boisterous bunch with a familiar leader --

KAFNI leads a CHANTING caravan into the city. The energy of his bunch matches the Triumphal Entry, but in stark contrast. They chant David's Imprecatory Psalm (11) --

KAFNI AND GROUP

*The Lord tests the righteous, but
his soul hates the wicked.*

*Let him rain coals on false
prophets; fire and sulfur and a
scorching wind shall be the portion
of their cup.*

*For the Lord is righteous;
the upright shall behold his face.*

Watcher frowns at this dark Psalm -- and at the notable SIZE OF THE RABBLE. He approaches his disgruntled Jewish brethren and we see him clearly for the first time.

WATCHER

Welcome, pilgrims! From what part of Israel does the Holy City greet you?

RABBLE 1 (AMNON)

Tel-Dor.

RABBLE 2

Joppa.

AMNON

Others from Jezreel, Shechem...

WATCHER

All in the North... Are you traveling as a family clan?

AMNON

You might say that.

WATCHER

Of what Tribe and House?

RABBLE 2

The House of Justice.

WATCHER

Justice for whom? Israel?

Kafni has overheard and approaches.

WATCHER (CONT'D)

Brothers, please, this is no time for violence, the Passover is a sacred--

KAFNI

What's going on here?

WATCHER

I was just welcoming your...group
to Jerusalem. Shalom shalom.

KAFNI

I heard you say something about
violence. The opposite of Shalom.

WATCHER

Oh, I just--was--

KAFNI

There's a false prophet scourging
the land, luring young minds,
deceiving people into heresy and in
some cases even into death.

WATCHER

(intimidated)

He--or she--sounds dangerous.

KAFNI

Has Jesus of Nazareth made his way
into the city yet?

WATCHER

He...more than "made His way in."
It was something of a scene.

KAFNI

(menacing)

I bet it was.

WATCHER

Are you seeking an audience with
this Jesus?

KAFNI

Could you secure me one?

WATCHER

No, we...haven't met. Many people
greeted Him, but too many to
actually meet him. I must warn
you, if you've come to oppose Him
you will find yourself in the
minority. There's a fervor around
that man that no one alive has seen
before.

Kafni nods darkly, repeating --

KAFNI

No one *alive*.

Watcher cocks his head, unsure what he means.

KAFNI (CONT'D)

(chanting)

***The Lord tests the righteous, but
his soul hates the wicked.***

The others join in and resume their march.

KAFNI AND GROUP

(singing)

***Let him rain coals on false
prophets; fire and sulfur...***

Watcher, um, watches the sinister mob march onward and we --

113 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - DISCIPLES QUARTERS - LATE AFTERNOON 113

Andrew swings the door open to a vast bedroom with sleeping mats, and a cot that resembles a modern bed. Andrew, Philip, Little James, Nathanael, Zee, and Big James enter. In awe -- *

ANDREW

Whoa. I thought Lazarus' house was an upgrade.

PHILIP

Little James, take this taller one, it will be easier to get out of.

LITTLE JAMES

Thanks.

Little James sits on the bed with a wince, clearly in pain from the day's hectic events and travel.

NATHANAEL

This is going to be the nicest Passover I've ever had.

ZEE

We'll see.

NATHANAEL

What? This is too comfortable for you, Zee?

BIG JAMES

He's deeply suspicious of anything soft or comfortable. *

Big James luxuriates on a mat with lavish pillows. *

ZEE

I'm thinking of the elders outside the city -- the ones who tried to stone us.

ANDREW

Two people against a thousand.

ZEE

Yes, singing of victory for a king. I can think of at least two powerful institutions who might be very threatened by that.

LITTLE JAMES

He rejects the notion of an earthly crown.

ZEE

You trust Rome to hear nuance? Regardless of what He may or may not say, the people have clearly made up their own minds.

BIG JAMES *

Nothing happens outside of His intention, Zee. You know that.

But knowing doesn't relieve Zee. Just then, Thomas trudges in with his bag and the group falls silent. Only one man lacks the etiquette to stay that way --

NATHANAEL

How's your headache?

THOMAS

The crowds did not help.

Behind Thomas' back, Big James makes an abortive motion to Nathanael. Zee's mind is stuck on Jesus -- *

ZEE

On the temple steps, He did not seem to relish their enthusiasm. In fact, He literally said, "My soul is troubled."

A beat. Then --

LITTLE JAMES

And He *looked...troubled*.

ZEE

He wondered aloud if He should ask
God to *save Him* from this hour!

BIG JAMES

Yes, John wrote that down, but then
immediately after He resolved, "For
this purpose I have come to this
hour."

*
*

ZEE

So what is it about "this hour"
that troubles Him?

Insight from an unexpected source --

THOMAS

He has told us at least twice that
he would **suffer many things from
the elders and chief priests and
scribes.**

ANDREW

Yes, and He handles them all. Rome
is the real threat.

LITTLE JAMES

What about the thunder and what
sounded like a voice? Do you think
it meant anything?

All avert their looks. They clearly thought so, too.

BIG JAMES

It did...sound...almost like a
voice.

*

THOMAS

When people want to believe
something, they can certainly make
the skies talk.

The room is disquieted by this cynicism.

NATHANAEL

And do you want to believe?

Thomas turns to meet Nathanael's gaze. Off his deadpan --

Tamar runs her fingers along a textile draped over a chair.

TAMAR
Imported silk!

Turning to the bowls and vessels --

TAMAR (CONT'D)
Terra sigillata. Your friend has
high taste.
(indicating vase)
What is this image?

JOANNA
Heracles slaying Laomedon of Troy.

TAMAR
Dramatic.

Joanna smiles.

JOANNA
Phoebe says she prefers her drama
on stage or on pots, not in her
streets, which is why she's gone
this week.

MAGDALENE
It's probably for the best.

Mary's continues unpacking, without looking at them. Her
tone bumps Joanna and Tamar. Proceeding cautiously -

JOANNA
My husband and I have accompanied
the royal court here for years and
never seen anything like this.

TAMAR
Does your husband know you're
staying here with us.

JOANNA
No. And even if he did, Chuza
isn't dangerous -- he's a fool.

MAGDALENE
Fools can be dangerous.

Tamar watches Joanna for a reaction. Joanna agrees, sadly.
Agree or not, Mary regrets saying it.

MAGDALENE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I just...need a minute.

Mary stands and quickly walks to the open door --

115

EXT. COURTYARD - SCULPTURE GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

115

Magdalene emerges into the high-walled courtyard behind the stately home, ornately adorned with exotic plants, trees, and sculptures.

She rubs her temple as she walks at a brisk pace amid the decor. Rounding a corner, she is startled to find JOHN, stone-still on a bench, gazing at a fountain.

MAGDALENE

I didn't mean to disturb you.

JOHN

Disturb?

They both get the irony. He scoots over to make room for her on the bench, nodding at the spot for her to sit.

Several paces off, a GARDENER quietly prunes a rose bush.

Magdalene regards the pool. The sculpture in the center depicts TWO SLEEPING FIGURES adapted from this vase image --

MAGDALENE

This woman's home is filled with strange scenes.

JOHN

It's the ghost of Clytemnestra attempting to wake the sleeping Erinyes.

MAGDALENE

You've read everything.

JOHN

Don't tell my parents. The Erinyes are winged spirits driven by blood vengeance. They chase people and torment them until they are driven mad.

MAGDALENE

Sounds familiar.

JOHN

Blood? Vengeance? Torment?
Madness?

She regards the sculpture, settling into her rumination.

MAGDALENE

Mysteries too great to comprehend.
Or worse...not mysterious at all.
Terrifyingly plain.

Beat. Like minds. Picking up the same wave length.

JOHN

Yes. He entered today through the
The Sheep Gate where all the
sacrificial lambs are brought in
from Bethlehem. Is He...making
this so painfully obvious that
people would never think to put it
together?

MAGDALENE

If He is, what do we do?

But John has no response. They both know it.

JOHN

I hate the feeling of
powerlessness.

She regards him almost fearfully.

CLOSE ON - The sleeping Erinyes.

116

EXT. JERUSALEM - STREETS - EVENING

116

A CLOAKED FIGURE moves through the streets. Is it our
Watcher? A group of PILGRIMS recite prayers from Psalm 136
in a call-and-response fashion wherein a person says one line
and all chant back the liturgical refrain -

PILGRIM

To him who made the great lights,

ALL

For his steadfast love endures
forever;

PILGRIM

The sun to rule over the day,

ALL

For his steadfast love endures
forever;

PILGRIM

the moon and stars to rule over the
night,

ALL
for his steadfast love endures
forever;

PILGRIM
to him who struck down the
firstborn of Egypt,

ALL
for his steadfast love endures
forever;

PILGRIM
and brought Israel out from among
them,

Cloaked Figure joins in-

ALL
for his steadfast love endures
forever;

PILGRIM
with a strong hand and an
outstretched arm,

ALL
for his steadfast love endures
forever;

As the figure moves on from the group, their prayers fade
away in the background -

PILGRIM
(fading)
to him who divided the Red Sea in
two,

ALL
(fading)
for his steadfast love endures
forever;

PILGRIM
(fading)
And made Israel pass through the
midst of it,

ALL
(fading)
For his steadfast love endures
forever;

117 EXT. JERUSALEM - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

117

Cloaked Figure continues on past an alleyway where men huddle around a fire -- Kafni and his Rabble.

WE STAY with Kafni and co.

AMNON

King Herod can't have been pleased by the entry today. Maybe he'll do to the Nazarene what he did to the cousin.

KAFNI

I don't believe Herod wanted to kill the Baptizer. It sounded like things got out of hand.

RABBLE 2

It was Herodias.

AMNON

Let's get *her* to dislike Jesus.

The others LAUGH.

RABBLE 2

Jesus doesn't seem preoccupied with the Tetrarch's family the way John was.

AMNON

He's a coward, further proof he's not the real Messiah. The true Christ would have gotten that traitor out of the way by now.

KAFNI

Don't you wonder why he doesn't condemn the Empire? Tiberius Caesar throws his rivals off cliffs in Capri, has his enemies executed *with* their children. Not a word from Jesus on that? He's insulting our own more than our oppressors.

AMNON

No one seems ready to hold Him to account for that.

RABBLE 2

Present company excluded.

KAFNI

I can think of others in the temple. But they're less concerned about the death of one girl in the Galilee than their positions.

Amnon tosses a log on the fire and the sparks fly into the night.

AMNON

We'll just have to make this as personal for them as it for us.

Kafni stares into the gleaming flame as the fire pops and cackles in embrace of the added fuel.

118 EXT. JERUSALEM - STREET - CONTINUOUS 118

As the Figure moves into the open street, he is nearly PLOWED OVER by a TRIO OF CHILDREN running and cheering-

CHILDREN

Mazel Tov to Reuben and Rutti!
Mazel Tov to Reuben and Rutti!

119 EXT. JERUSALEM - COMMON URBAN SPACE - CONTINUOUS 119

He follows their joyful path into a festively lit common urban space, not unlike a town square.

A PAIR OF MUSICIANS play a lyre and tambourine as MALE WEDDING GUESTS dance.

Cups are poured, and food served.

Figure leans in to a CELEBRATING MAN near the edge of the merriment, and we recognize the voice as --

JESUS

Not that I mind, just curious -- this is quite a bit of mirth for such a solemn holiday, no?

CELEBRATING MAN

Reuben and Rutti's parents have just announced their betrothal!

JESUS

Ahh! How wonderful!

Before anyone knows it, the "arms-around-shoulders" conga-line-like snake of dancing men has careened into them singing "Lylalylylylalylylyly..."

The Celebrating Man grabs Jesus by the arm --

CELEBRATING MAN

Come on!

They both join the dancing line, kicking and hopping and singing along.

They form a dancing circle, with children jumping up and down in the middle, waving shakers excitedly.

Laughing, Jesus gets carried away and his hood FALLS DOWN, revealing his face.

So caught up in the revels is He, Jesus doesn't notice the fallen hood, and continues singing and dancing with the men.

A CHILD stops his jumping and stares with astonishment at Jesus, recognizing Him from the Triumphal Entry, points -

CHILD 1

Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

The other children join -

CHILDREN

Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

When the ADULTS RECOGNIZE Him as well, their jaws drop. The music and dancing stop. Hushes and gasps become audible in the new void of sound.

Suddenly, as if the proper response just occurred to everyone, they DROP TO THEIR KNEES, bowing.

Men remove hats and uncover their heads, as if in the presence of a King.

JESUS

Thank you, please rise, there's no need to draw attention.

The groom-to-be speaks -

REUBEN

W--what are you doing here?

JESUS

I was just out for a walk, and
I...suppose I got swept up in your
joy. Congratulations on the
engagement.

No one knows what to do. It's awkward and sweet.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I'll...leave you to your
celebration. This night is not
about me.

Turning to leave, the bride-to-be blurts out -

RUTTI

Rabbi! Will You bless us before
You go?

Scolding whisper-screams shower her, but Jesus smiles warmly,
almost relieved. He extends His arms.

JESUS

Come here, my children.

In awe, Reuben and Rutti float to Him, entranced. He places
His hands gently on each of their heads.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Blessed are You, LORD, our God,
sovereign of the universe, who
created joy and gladness, groom and
bride, mirth, song, delight and
rejoicing, love and harmony and
peace and companionship. May God
bless you, Reuben, and Rutti. May
your daughters be like Sarah,
Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah. And
your sons like Ehpraim and
Manasseh.

REUBEN

(to Rutti)

Our union was blessed by the son of
David.

Deviating from the traditional script...

JESUS

And to all present here tonight,
 may the light of the Paschal feast
 burn within you, that with heavenly
 desires and pure minds you may
 attain the festival of everlasting
 light -- the Kingdom I am bringing
 into this world.

Many become wide-eyed at that last part. *What is even happening right now?!*

Just before turning to leave:

JESUS (CONT'D)

Chag Pesach Sameach, my friends.

A stunned smattering of "chag pesach sameach"s murmur from the group. But one little girl is bold and confident, shouting after Him exuberantly one last time-

CHILD 1

HOSANNA!!

Jesus chuckles to Himself as walks away, pulling the hood back up over His head.

120 EXT. JERUSALEM - STAIRCASE - MOMENTS LATER 120

Jesus ascends a staircase.

121 OMITTED 121

122 EXT. JERUSALEM - COURT OF THE GENTILES - ROOFTOP - MOMENTS 122
 LATER

Jesus walks on a catwalk overlooking the temple's Outer Court of the Gentiles where business is booming.

MONEYCHANGERS sit at tables PILED WITH COINS.

TRAVELERS wait in long lines to exchange Roman coins for the only acceptable form of currency for purchasing an offering -- the Temple Tax coin.

Those with shekels shop among the pens of ceremonially approved animals for purchase and slaughter -- in descending order of price (and the depth of your sin) -- oxen, bulls, heifers, rams, sheep, goats, doves, pigeons.

Shekels are handed over and animals are led on rope leashes up the steps to the Nicanor Gate where white-robed priests await, and we can see the smoke of animal sacrifice behind them.

Jesus watches every step like a robber casing the joint.

The LEVITE CHOIR bellows psalms alongside musicians playing cymbals and lyres.

Suddenly, the sound of COINS CLINKING on the tables begins to coincide in UNHOLY HARMONY with the CYMBALS of the Levite band as we ANGLE ON- an INCREASINGLY UNSETTLED Jesus.

WINE LIBATIONS are poured out. Animals BLEAT and BELLOW in their death cries. Jesus' pulse races and His chest heaves.

Shofar trumpets BLAST, but their tones are DISSONANT. INCENSE rising from the temple COILS UPWARD into the night forming DEVILISH FIGURES.

His bloodshot eyes land on --

A STONE with the same DISTINCT BRIGHT RUST COLORED STREAK running through it that He saw entering the city.

As his eyes fill...

JESUS
(quietly)
Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

We flash to --

123

EXT. JERUSALEM - COURT OF WOMEN - INDETERMINATE

123

The Temple turned to RUBBLE, smoke rising from it -- The Siege of Jerusalem in AD 70 that will level the city.

OS -- screams, hoof beats, the clink of swords. SEE BUILDINGS ON FIRE, a Crowd flees in terror and -- A STONE with a rust streak FALLS.

JESUS
For the days will come upon you,
when your enemies will set up a
barricade around you and surround
you and hem you in on every side
and tear you down to the ground,
you and your children within you.
(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.

And as suddenly as it started --

122a WE'RE BACK -- Jesus jolts, as if awakened. 122a

Coins are EXCHANGED. Customers and Levites HAGGLE over the price of animals. Teeth are bared. The cacophony of business and band and bleating begins to crescendo into a terrifying climax as we push in on Jesus and abruptly --

124 OMITTED 124

125 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 125

Jesus enters the house, walks down a hallway.

126 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - MEN'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS 126

He enters a doorway where we find sleeping on a mat -- Zebedee.

Jesus reaches out to touch Zebedee's shoulder.

Gently waking him Zebedee.

JESUS

Zeb.

Zebedee's eyes open and he is immediately alert, alarmed.

JESUS (CONT'D)

It's alright, shhh. I need you to do something for me.

Rising up on his elbows -

ZEBEDEE

Of course.

JESUS

In the morning, will you take my Eema back to the house of Lazarus, along with his two sisters?

ZEBEDEE

I can but...the Passover. Don't
you want--

JESUS

I have a plan, Zeb. I just don't
want her in the city for the next
few days. Please trust me.

In the other room, John's EYES OPEN.

ZEBEDEE

I always do.

JESUS

Be sure to leave immediately at
dawn. Tell her I will come to
visit soon.

Zebedee grips Jesus' forearm in solidarity and confirmation.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Now go back to sleep.

Zebedee nods, and rests his head back on the pillow, still
looking at Jesus, wondering.

Jesus slips out of the room -- but John is awake, watching
surreptitiously, having overheard.

John cautiously sits up in bed. He carefully peers at
Zebedee turning over on one side, his back to him. John
turns to look at the door where Jesus exited. He lifts the
blanket off of himself.

127 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - WOMEN'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS 127

Jesus tiptoes into the room where the women are sleeping. He
slowly, gently kisses His mother on the head.

He kneels down and removes a long, slender box from beneath
her bed and sneaks out.

128 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - DISCIPLES' QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER 128

John is about to step out into the hallway when he abruptly
jerks backward, flattening himself against the wall inside
the room and sucking his breath in -- Jesus passes in the
hallway without looking into the room or seeing him. Phew!

129 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 129

Jesus continues down the hall carrying the long box. John ever so cautiously peers out from his room just in time to see Jesus reach the end of the hall to enter a room.

130 INT. PHOEBE'S HOUSE - WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS 130

Jesus lights an oil lamp and sets the box down on a workshop table. He opens it and lifts out the BIT AND BRIDLE we've come to know so well.

Jesus the Carpenter takes a SAW and severs the old leather reins from the metal bit. He lays them on the workbench.

John sneaks ever-so-carefully down the hall and very slowly cranes his neck to see what Jesus is doing in the lamplight.

Jesus saws the reins in two, then again, into four leather strips. John is wide-eyed.

Jesus twists the cords together and ties a rope around the end, forming... A LEATHER WHIP.

CUT TO BLACK.

END EPISODE.

(John 2:15 "Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple")