SERIES: COME FLY WITH ME SEASON TWO

EPISODE #11

"WEAPONS OF DUST"

(Revolutionaries - Bullying)

Written by Katheryn Maddox Haddad

Based on They Met Jesus
A TRUE STORY

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LAST SEASON (#1 - BETHLEHEM)

- 1 Mary & Herod Dayspring Dawning
- 2 Elizabeth Bastion of Barrenness.
- 3 Joseph Two Fathers, One Son.
- 4 Joseph Walking Tall.
- 5 Shepherds Glory of the Ordinary
- 6 Anna & Simeon Flaming Hope with a Flickering Candle
- 7 Wise Men Celestial Secrets and Star Search
- 8 Wise Men Cradle of Majesty
- 9 Zechariah Silent Thunderbolt
- 10- Archelaus and the Boy Lost in Wonder

SEASON #2 - DREAM MAKER

Episode #11 - "REVOLUTIONARIES: WEAPONS OF DUST"

TITLE SEQUENCE

BLACK:

OUTER SPACE

A shooting star streaks through the sky and lands on planet earth.

EXT. EARTH - DAY

Angry waves churn, then calm to circling ripples. A crown rises out of the baptismal water.

MUSIC similar to Army of Kings or Mozart's Coronation Mass.

Next rising out of the water is his head, shoulders, torso.

GOD-KING JESUS (30) has black eyes and hair to his shoulders and a short beard. He looks Middle-Eastern.

He is muscular like the lumberjack and carpenter he is. He wears a sparkling gold robe and holds a diamond-tipped gold scepter.

He continues to grow until his head is among the stars.

UGLY EVIL ONE looks down at him from a top corner of the sky.

God-King Jesus points his scepter at him.

GOD-KING JESUS

I will destroy you!

Lightning flashes out of his scepter.

He lowers the scepter and shrinks down until he is normal human size.

Tall trees surround him. He hangs his robe and crown on one of the branches.

He picks up an ax, finishes felling a tree, hoists it (minus its branches) onto one shoulder, and heads out of the woods with it.

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. STEEP HILL - DAY

SUPER: OUTSIDE NAZARETH, GALILEE PROVINCE, PALESTINE - AD 18

The steep hill has a few bushes and spindly trees.

BOY JESUS (12) walks beside a wooden flatbed wagon pulled by an ox. The boy wears a short dirty tunic.

Wagon wheels bump along on the rough trail. There is a hint of the wheels echoing from the tall trees at the top.

BOY JESUS (Sings a song with gusto.)

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

SUPER: JERUSALEM, JUDEA PROVINCE, PALESTINE - AD 27

Mobs run through all side tributaries, merging into one roaring river headed to the city gates.

Some wave their fists in the air.

Some cling to knives and slings at their side.

MOB

The wrath of God is upon us!
Destroy them!
Burn them!
Crush them!
Rip them!
Save our city!
Save our kingdom!
Down with Rome!
Down with Pilate!
Down with Caesar!

Some clasping hands, eyes heavenward, connecting with an angry God.

At the head of the roar are white-robed priests walking with hands lifted to heaven but eyes penetrating hell.

MOB (CONT'D)

Save our kingdom! Down with Rome! Save our kingdom! Down with Rome!

Young men club up the sides of buildings and tear down banners with Caesar's image on it.

Young ladies at high windows cut ropes holding the banners to the buildings.

MOB (CONT'D)

Save our kingdom!
Down with Rome!
Save our kingdom!
Down with Rome!

Golden carvings of the Roman eagle atop pillars erected during the night and pulled over by horses and mules whose reins are tied around them.

Bon fires appear along the way where banners of the forbidden idolatrous images are burned and gold eagles are melted away.

MOB (CONT'D)

Save our kingdom!
Down with Rome!
Save our kingdom!
Down with Rome!

At the city gate, citizens of God climb the city walls, stand full and strong and determined. They throw rocks, darts, and knives at the legionnaires below.

In turn, legionnaires shoot their arrows at the disobedient. Some duck in time, sway just right, but others fall to their deaths.

MOB (CONT'D)

Save our kingdom! Down with Rome! Save our kingdom! Down with Rome! On the street, priest clad in white with stripes of black on the edges stand at attention, hands folded, and chanting.

EXT. OUTLYING NEIGHBORHOOD OUT OF HEARING SHOT - DAY

DANIEL (20) runs down his residential street and bangs on a gate as fast as he can while catching his breath.

DANIEL

Open up, Samuel, Open up!

SAMUEL (30) opens his gate slightly, yawns and runs a hand through his mussed black hair.

SAMUEL

What's so important that you interrupt my fast breaking? Has someone taken over my spot at the market? I'll...what's wrong?

DANIEL

They've taken over Jerusalem!

SAMUEL

Who has taken over Jerusalem?

Samuel grabs his coat and joins Daniel, rushing back up the street. They try to talk as they run.

DANIEL

The whole Roman auxiliary legion.

SAMUEL

Here All here?

DANIEL

What's worse...

SAMUEL

What can be worse?

Daniel pulls on Samuel's sleeve. They stop.

DANIEL

Images. Graven images of Caesar on their banners.

Samuel hits the wall.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And graven images of Rome's eagle.

SAMUEL

God will destroy us.

They hear marching.

As they draw nearer their main street, they see the consortium of Roman legionnaires marching through the intersection carrying their Caesar banners and eagle standards.

Once the occupation army is passed, they see banners already hanging from buildings.

DANIEL

If only our promised God-King would come.

SAMUEL

We've never needed him more.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. DEEP CANYON - DAY

SUPER: HIDEOUT SOMEWHERE IN GALILEE PROVINCE, PALESTINE

Giant boulders surround the hidden canyon at once protecting and daring the young recruits to scale them.

Far above, stalwart trees stand at attention like Rome's legions, daring the upstarts to cut them down.

REUBEN (50) is half guerilla and half Goliath and wears a tattered Roman centurion's uniform. His unruly black hair blows in the wind that carries his deep husky voice to the far reaches of the compound.

REUBEN

Fall in! Stop whatever you're doing and fall in! You there! Fall in!

YOUNG RECRUITS in their teens run to line up, and put on their best killer faces.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

You deaf? Line up or get out!

Other recruits meander over as though the Romans will come to them. They snicker and snort to each other like bullies.

A STOUT REVOLUTIONARY

Yes, sir. No, sir. Yes, sir.

REUBEN

Get moving!

Sweat pours off the teenage boys. Some stick out their chests and look around as though searching for an audience to applaud their bravado.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

All right, men. We're going through this again.

Reuben looks down long enough to see a SNAKE crawl out from under a rock.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

I don't see hate in your eyes.
Until I see that, Roman will
destroy our kingdom and you with
it.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Yes, sir!

REUBEN

You do what I tell you right or you do it dead.

Reuben looks down and notices the snake opening its mouth wide.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

My count to ten is all you scale that cliff without falling and killing yourself.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Yes, sir!

REUBEN

If you can't do it, the enemy will devour you in one bite.

Reuben looks down just as the snake lunges at a desert rat.

CMDR JUDAS (O.C.)

Report to me at the end of maneuvers. It's urgent.

REUBEN

Yes, sir, Commander, sir.

One of the recruits faints in the hot sun.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

Get rid of him. I don't care how. We will not have quitters that Rome can step on.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Reuben ducks to go through the stone entrance to the war room and personal quarters of his commanding officer and hero.

Persian carpets cover the floor. A gilded table holds a bust of Caesar with a stake hammered through the top.

COMMANDER JUDAS(40) sits proud in his "throne". His muscular arms strain the seams in his tattered Roman tribune's uniform

CMDR JUDAS

Sit. Sit. Do you think this new uniform makes me look like....
Where did I put my piece of myrrh?
You stink like a Roman.

REUBEN

I believe you put it under that...

CMDR JUDAS

I know where I put it!

Judas lifts an upside down basket and a tarantula crawls out/

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

Got cha. No eight-legged hairy bug is going to get my piece of myrrh!Whew. That's better.

Judas swivels off his throne and picks up his sword hanging on the wall of the cave.

The past fifteen years since old mad Herod died have been bad. It's about to get worse.

REUBEN

You're right, sir.

CMDR JUDAS

Now Rome has sent another outsider to govern us and procure tax money from us.

A shadow moves into the cave as the sun outside descends to a new low.

Rome casts a large and heavy shadow over us. This can be tolerated no longer! This last prelate they sent to rule us is going to be exactly that: The last prelate.

REUBEN

I heard they call him Pontus Pilate. Dumb name.

The veins in Judas' neck throb. His eyes squint. His face turns red.

CMDR JUDAS

We're going to break him.

REUBEN

What are our spies reporting?

CMDR JUDAS

That barbarian is moving his legion inland to Jerusalem, our holy city.

Angered fire ants prepare to amass their greatest army yet. They must stop the eagle.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

I will build a bigger army and we will stop them. Doesn't Rome know holy cities are off limits?

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

It is night throughout our kingdom. When the giant eagle sleeps, the night owl will swoop in for the kill.

Reuben rises and steps toward the cave entrance.

REUBEN

Yes, sir. I'll hand pick our newest recruits. Loyal fighters. Tough. Unbeatable.

Judas preens his uniform again.

CMDR JUDAS

God has clothed me with power. I know this. I have always known this.

REUBEN

Yes, sir. And what if any of our men are caught recruiting for the new army?

CMDR JUDAS

Pray they die fast.

EXT. DEEP CANYON - DAY

SUPER - GALILEE PROVINCE, PALESTINE

The revolutionary militia, now quadrupled, stands at attention. Their clothing is as diverse as their desires for vengeance against Rome.

Judas sets his jaw, his eyes darken, his voice thunders, rumbles, and echoes.

CMDR JUDAS

Prelate Pilate has moved his Roman legion headquarters to our holy city, Jerusalem.

Birds fly up in sudden fear as the militia responds with shouts and grunts and hoops of anger.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

They have brought with them the damnable image of Caesar god on their banners. They contaminate our kingdom. We, the ants they dare trample, will force them to leave.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Jerusalem or die!

REVOLUTIONARIES

Jerusalem or die! Jerusalem or die! Jerusalem or die!

CMDR JUDAS

Now, men, we're going to give the biggest bullies in the world a fair chance first, the kind of chance they never gave us.

REUBEN

Prelate Pilate is still at the palace in Caesarea. That's where we're headed. Annund, if he refuses our demands to take the images out of Jerusalem, OUR city....

CMDR JUDAS

...we burn down Caesarea, HIS city.

Judas kneels.

We will shine for God in this dark world. God has clothed us with power! I know this. I have always known this! Yahweh or die!

EXT. CAMPGROUND OF TENTS - DAY

Two militia recruits tear down their shared tent.

REVOLUTIONARY EHUD (15) is tall and skinny with black hair and long sparse beard. He wears two 2" ring earrings. He shakes his head.

REVOLUTIONARY EHUD

Man, how do you do it? Whenever we scale that cliff, you're the first one up and back down. You're shorter'n me, but you don't even break a sweat.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON (20) is short and muscular with wild black hair and a two-inch beard that is just as unruly.

He stops pulling on the tent and sits on a rock on one side of their burned-out camp fire.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Ha! It's taken years, my boy. Years of practice and...Huh! I was your same age when I joined up with Commander Judas....

Revolutionary Ehud joins Simon on his own rock seat.

Revolutionary Simon stares into the distance.

BACKFLASH

INT. HIRAM'S AND ELISSAR'S COURTYARD - DAY

SUPER: TYRE, CANAANITE PHOENICIA - AD 22

REVOUTIONARY SIMON (15), short and muscular with wild black hair and the shadow of a beard, bounds down the steps.

He wears a short tunic, better for reaching for the dagger attached to his calf.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Father, the time has come for me to join the cause.

Simon throws a large leather backpack at the front gate.

HIRAM (60) wears a cone-shaped cap, his gray hair exposed on all sides. His short brown kilt criss-crosses in the front.

HIRAM

Over my dead body.

ELISSAR (50) is small and bony with pale skin. She wears a short tunic and 12-inch ruffles down her skirt.

Her gray hair falls into her eyes as she bows in front of a statue in a wall niche. She turns slightly.

ELISSAR

No, Son. It's not for you.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Mother, why are you still bowing down to that statue?

ELISSAR

Astarte protects our city. And you.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

She doesn't even exist!

Hiram stops repairing his harpoon.

HIRAM

You do not talk to your mother like that. And you are joining nothing.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

I've made up my mind. You can't stop me. I'm joining.

HIRAM

You're making a bad mistake.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

You're just too old to understand. Force is all the foreign enemy understands.

ELESSAR

It isn't our fight. We don't live in Palestine.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Our Roman citizenship could be taken from us if we don't stop them over there first.

HIRAM

And who's going to protect you? That invisible God of theirs.

ELESSAR

Besides, your dog will miss you.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMN

Motherrrr!

Simon takes a deep breath and stares long into his father's eyes.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

I converted.

HIRAM

You did what?

Elessar, puts her hands over her heart and cringes.

HIRAM (CONT'D)

Now look what you did to your mother You know she can't handle excitement. Help me get her over to this bench.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

You can't stop me.

HIRAM

You're talking a crusade.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

A revolution, Father, against the Roman bullies. It must be done.

Simon puts his leather pack on his back and opens the gate without looking back.

ELISSAR

No! Not yet!

The gate closes with an echoing thud. All that is left is a shiny copper gate reflecting clouds moving in to hide the sun.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON (O.C.)

It's the only way! You'll be proud of me some day.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. HIGHWAY - EVENING

SUPER: HIGHWAY TO CAESAREA, JUDEA PROVINCE, PALESTINE

Hooded revolutionaries mingle with traveling civilians as they march down Rome's highway one by one. Many toy with their hidden weapons.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

At last. Action at last.

EXT. OPEN-AIR JUDICIAL FORUM PLATFORM - SUNRISE

On the platform sitting behind a gilded table is ROMAN PRELATE PONTUS PILATE (40) wearing a white toga with purple edging and a gold laurel wreath on his black curly hair.

Behind Prelate Pilot are his BODY GUARDS, all centurions and a TRIBUNE. They line up along the wall of the white marble building the platform is attached to.

On either side of him are MAGISTRATES wearing yellow togas.

SHORT MAGISTRATE Sir, our next case is...

CMDR JUDAS (O.C.)

Prelate Pilate!
Prelate Pilate!

EXT. SQUARE IN FRONT OF FORUM PLATFORM - SUNRISE

Pilate stands and sees the large form of Judas standing on a pedestal with a statue of Caesar.

Revolutionary Simon stands nearby holding Judas' BIG BLACK STEED.

CMDR JUDAS

Prelate Pilate! I have a message for you from my people!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

PLATFORM

PRELATE PILATE (Muttering) It has begun.

Pilate stiffens as a man ready for an attack by a subordinate. He stands and sets his jaw. His eyes turn dark.

The magistrates back away from Pilate.

The body guards draw their swords.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

Who are you?

SQUARE

The revolutionaries slink out from behind statues and carts and nearby buildings at the back and on both sides of the square. They line up in front of Judas and Caesar.

CMDR JUDAS

This isn't all of us. If you will look behind you, you'll get another surprise. Go ahead. Look!

More Revolutionaries come out from streets to the back of the platform.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

Now. Are you ready to listen, Prelate Pilate?

PLATFORM

TRIBUNE SENECA (50) wears the short red military tunic with white leather strap apron, brass breast plate and red cape. His helmet boasts full red-dyed plumes.

Seneca steps forward and whispers in Pilate's ear.

PRELATE PILATE

What do you want, Judas? Your reputation as a rebel seems to not be exaggerated. It's you, isn't it?

SQUARE

CMDR JUDAS
Your legionnaires aren't as
ignorant as I thought.
(MORE)

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

Yes, it's me. Your nemesis. I will bring you down.

PLATFORM

PRELATE PILATE

What do you want?

SQUARE

CMDR JUDAS

It is not I. It is the people of Jerusalem, and Almighty God! We demand the images of your so-called god, Caesar, be taken out of our holy city.

PLATFORM

PRELATE PILATE

Where Rome's legions go, Caesar goes.

EXT. STEEP HILL - DAY

SUPER: OUTSIDE NAZARETH, GALILEE PROVINCE, PALESTINE

TEEN JESUS (16) wears a short dirty tunic and has a sparse beard. He is now almost to the tree line.

The same flatbed wagon and ox on the steep hill.

He sings the same song as he did when younger, holding out strong arms as though romancing the trees he approaches.

TEENAGE JESUS (Sings the same song with the same gusto.

EXT. SQUARE IN FRONT OF FORUM PLATFORM

SUPER: ROME HQ, CAESAREA, JUDEA PROVINCE, PALESTINE - AD 24

CMDR JUDAS

I'm warning you, Prelate. Things could get messy and very embarrassing for you.

PLATFORM

PRELATE PILATE

Never!

Pilate turns to Tribune Seneca and whispers to him. Seneca leaves through a door into the building the platform is attached to.

Pilate turns to the magistrates on the platform.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

Leave! Everyone Leave.

Pilate motions to his body guards to leave also.

Now, alone to face the ants he will soon step on, he shouts.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

You'll live and die regretting this, Judas!

Pilate turns and follows the others inside. The platform is empty.

SQUARE

The revolutionaries look at each other and smirk.

They hear footsteps of marching. The revolutionaries take a step back.

Roman Legionnaires emerge, march in front of the platform, and line up facing the revolutionaries eye to eye.

BALCONY

Pilate walks out onto a balcony. He stares, says nothing, and returns inside.

SQUARE

CMDR JUDAS

All right, men! This is where we stay until that bully, Pilate, decides to come to terms with us. Freedom or death!
Freedom or death!

Judas mounts his big black steed and marches it back and forth in front of his recruits.

Revolutionary Simon takes up the chant

REVOLUTIONARIES

Freedom or death! Freedom or death! Freedom or death!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN. EARLY MORNING

REVOLUTIONARIES

Freedom or death! Freedom or death. Freedom or...

Revolutionary Simon looks up.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Hey, look! Look, everyone!

CMDR JUDAS

Well? Have you come to your senses?

BALCONY

PRELATE PILATE

What are your terms to leave peacefully?

SQUARE

CMDR JUDAS

We get confirmation from our men in Jerusalem you have removed Caesar's images and we won't burn down your city.

BALCONY

PRELATE PILATE

Burn down Caesarea? That's insane!

SQUARE

CMDR JUDAS

Watch us!

Revolutionary Simon calls up to Judas on his black steed. His eyes shine with ambition, his broad grin declares his readiness. He pushes his chest out in an effort to make himself look like the hero he desires to be.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

I've got a torch, sir. Give me the honor of starting the fire that will destroy Rome's glory.

BALCONY

It is empty. Pilate is all blow and no show.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Freedom or death! Freedom or death!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

SQUARE - MID-MORNING

Still chanting, but with a grin, Judas leans his back onto Caesar's legs.

Revolutionary Simon sits on the ground nearby chanting and holding the reins to the black steed.

The revolutionaries lean, pace, sit, their weapons dropping, but still chanting.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Freedom or death! Freedom or death!

Some of the chanting revolutionaries go up to the Roman legionnaires and tease or bully to get them to break formation. It does not work.

Judas remounts his black steed and walks it back and forth in front of his recruits.

CMDR JUDAS

Steady there, men. We're winning.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

We are?

BALCONY

TRIBUNE SENECA

We're coming out!

ROOF

Roman legionnaires appear on the roofs of every building, holding bows stretched and ready to dispatch poison arrows.

SQUARE

CMDR JUDAS

What's this? Prelate Pilate! Time to talk.

You may come out, but no one else or we set fire to the city. We'll have the flames half way to the sky before your men get their first arrows to us.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Freedom or Death! Freedom or Death.

PLATFORM

Pilate walks out alone, the Roman eagle prepared to toy with a pesky colony of ants.

PRELATE PILATE

Well, as you can see, I am here. Come up here and talk to me face to face like a man. My legionnaires will not attack you while you are close to me.

Judas ascends to the platform.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

Let's go inside and talk.

Pilate extends his hand so Judas will go through the door first.

Just before Pilate disappears through the doorway, he lifts the gold laurel wreath on his head.

INT. PRELATE PILATE'S TRIBUNAL ASSEMBLY HALL - LATE MORNING

The room has marble floors and tapestries of war victories on the walls. Pilate's elevated chair and all other furniture is gilded.

CMDR JUDAS

So, this is how you spend our kingdom's tax money. Well, are you ready to...

O.S. Sounds of troops marching.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

A trap!

PLATFORM - HIGH NOON

Judas rushes back out, followed by Pilate.

SQUARE

Arrows whiz over the heads of the revolutionaries. They drop their weapons.

BALCONY

Legate Seneca stands proud.

PLATFORM

PRELATE PILATE

You will not set fire to my city.

Judas drops to the floor and moves his hair aside to expose his neck to Roman fury.

SQUARE

Judas' men drop to the ground and they, too, expose their necks to the enemy's blade.

Pilate stares at the revolutionaries, squinting, brows heavy over his eyes, shaking his head.

The legionnaires stare at their legate for the signal.

BALCONY

Seneca stares down at Pilate.

LEGATE SENECA

Sir? Sir? Do we cut them down? Sir?

PLATFORM

The platform is empty except for Judas lying prostrate, his neck exposed.

TRIBUNAL ASSEMBLY HALL - LATE AFTERNOON

Magistrates pace.

SHORT MAGISTRATE How long have they been at it?

BALD MAGISTRATE

This sand glass lasts an hour. That means it's been three hours.

LIMPING MAGISTRATE

How do they keep it up?

Pilate sits in his elevated gilded chair eating grapes.

TRIBUNE SENECA

Sir, do we slaughter them now?

Pilate pops another grape in his mouth.

PRELATE PILATE

No.

TRIBUNE SENECA

Pardon me, sir. What did you say? No?

PRELATE PILATE

Let's just see if they'll try to make a run for it. That'll look better in my report to Caesar. Can't kill them while they're down. We Romans have our honor.

BALCONY - SUNSET

PRELATE PILATE

Do you have any idea how many ships have left our port and headed to Rome? As soon as they land, Caesar will know about this.

TRIBUNE SENECA

Sir, let's get it over with and slaughter them.

PRELATE PILATE

What kind of Prelate would that make me? I was just assigned to this blasted kingdom.

SQUARE - NIGHT

Revolutionary Simon struggles to stay still, his eyes darting everywhere for any sign of new action. Things weren't supposed to be like this.

VISION:

He stares at one of the Roman legionnaires and sees blood all over him.

Simon smiles.

EXT. STEEP HILL - DAY

SUPER: OUTSIDE NAZARETH, GALILEE PROVINCE, PALESTINE

YOUNG ADULT JESUS (20) wears dirty short tunic and high-top leather sandals.

He chops at a large tree. It is close to falling.

He pauses and frowns. He drops his ax to the ground and turns.

He stares slightly down as though looking through and beyond the trees.

SOUND OF CLANGING SWORDS

YOUNG ADULT JESUS

No!!!!

Voice echoes.

YOUNG ADULT JESUS (CONT'D)

That's not the way!

A SUNBEAM shines down on him. The sunbeam filters up through the trees and soars above the forest itself.

The sound of a tree falling and shaking the ground as it hits ends in a thud.

END OF ACT 2

ACT THREE

INT. TRIBUNAL ASSEMBLY HALL - NIGHT

SUPER: ROMAN HQ, CAESAREA, JUDEA PROVINCE, PALESTINE - AD 25

TRIBUNE SENECA

Sir, it's been another two hours. Permission to bring in reinforcements for my legionnaires. Looks like it's going to be a long night.

PRELATE PILATE
Granted. While you're at it, dream
up a quick solution to this
nightmare.

SQUARE

Simon jerks awake, flexes his muscles, puts his other hand up to hold his hair away from his neck. He resumes his prayers.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Yahweh God. I came to fight for
you. Help me do it. May I shed
Roman blood for you. Please...

TRIBUNAL ASSEMBLY HALL- MORNING

SUPER: DAY TWO

Pilate's body guards stand straight and ready at all doors and windows. Rome never sleeps.

Pilate walks in wearing fresh clothes and looks down from the window to the fools in the square below.

SQUARE

Simon does not move. He is a trained commando. Flies buzz around him. A rat nibbles on his sandal. He wiggles his foot. Sacrifice. That's what it will take. God will like that.

SUPER: DAY THREE

SQUARE

Servants are laying baskets of food at the feet of the legionnaires.

VISION

Simon sits at home with his father before a low table stuffing his mouth and spilling his nectar in his hurry. His mother brings him more food. His father offers him his food.

HALL

PRELATE PILATE

Well, I think I'll go riding while they torture themselves. The sea breeze is invigorating in the morning.

SUPER: DAY FOUR

HALL

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

Tribune Seneca, I assume you restrained yourself once again during the night and they are still out there.

TRIBUNE SENECA

How can anyone in their right mind stay in that position four days? They're insane. The whole kingdom's insane.

PRELATE PILATE

Ha! Maybe they'll save us the trouble and starve to death. Have you been out there this morning?

TRIBUNE SENECA

Don't plan to, sir. Can you imagine the smell?

Pilate looks long and hard at Seneca.

PRELATE PILATE

You know who's winning, don't you? They are.

SUPER: DAY FIVE

Seneca looks out the window down at the square.

SQUARE

VISION

The revolutionaries merge into their clothes and throbs up and down with the pebble stone beneath them.

HALL

TRIBUNE SENECA

My legionnaires await your order. We cut them down and throw their bodies in the sea, then deny any of this ever happened.

Pilate joins Seneca at the window.

PRELATE PILATE

Pride. Everyone has it. They have it. Rome has it. The vultures have it.

Vultures fly over.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

I have made my decision.

Pilate marches toward the door to the platform.

Seneca signals to the guards at each door and window.

SQUARE

Revolutionaries remain where they had dropped. Most waken but are not sure what they see. The platform pulsates.

PLATFORM

Two guards bring out the gilded judgment seat.

Pilate stands in front of it, looks down at Judas still prostrate, pulls out a handkerchief to cover his nose, then looks out over the square.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

Gentlemen! Gentlemen! You are brave. Insane, but brave. And cunning. I do not think I have ever come upon a more shrewd enemy.

CMDR JUDAS

Ha! Had enough, Prelate?

Seneca and the other magistrate join Pilate with handkerchiefs covering their noses.

PILATE

Commander Judas, I am withdrawing my men from your Jerusalem. After they have left, you may leave peacefully and go back to whatever infested hole you crawled out of.

CMDR JUDAS

Can't get rid of us that easily. Have you taken Caesar's images out of our holy city?

PILATE

Yes. Well, they'll all be out by this time tomorrow. You have my word as an honorable Roman and representative of the great god, Caesar.

EXT. REVOLUTIONARY HIDEOUT - NIGHT

SUPER: OUTSIDE JERUSALEM, JUDEA PROVINCE, PALESTINE - AD 26

Simon's beard is a lot thicker. He sits in front of a tent and campfire with his friend JOSEPH.

JOSEPH (18) is portly. He wears a short brown tunic.

Simon sharpens his dagger.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Joseph, I've been thinking. It's
been two years since we forced
Pilate to take Caesar's image out
of our holy Jerusalem.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH Yeah. Wish I'd been there for it.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON Well, we've been just sitting or running through our maneuvers since then. Nothing to do except skirmishes on the highway whenever we spot Roman legionnaires.

It is night. Rome has settled in as though it will stay in control of the kingdom forever.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH Yeah, it's not what I was expecting.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
I've been here four years total and am beginning to think they have mostly been wasted years.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH You'd better keep your voice down. Commander Judas has spies even among us.

Trust. Who can be trusted? Simon looks at the palm trees nearby and looks up into their shadowy branches. He looks over at the boulders nearby and sees a snake crawl out.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
I've been hearing about a new
movement. Headed by a former
priest now turned hermit. Name's
John.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH
The one who stays around the Jordan
River a lot? I've heard of him too.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
He's been telling everyone to get
ready for the God Kingdom. Says
the God-King will be here soon.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH
If it's so, he will come in our
lifetime! Wow! After all these
thousands of years.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
I wonder how long the God-King has already been here before admitting to the world just who he is.

Simon spots a cricket, stabs it, and throws it in the fire.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON (CONT'D) Maybe he's been amassing his army first.

EXT. REVOLUTIONARY HIDEOUT NEAR JERUSALEM - PRE-DAWN.

Simon shoves clothes into his leather pouch.

Joseph crawls out of the tent

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH

What are you doing, Simon? Go back to sleep. Maneuvers aren't for another couple hours.

Simon loads his pouch onto his back and grabs a roll out of Joseph's hand.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

I'm going to find him. Since the commander moved our camp south near Jerusalem, it shouldn't be hard.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH

Who? Oh, you mean John? What will I tell Reuben at muster?

EXT. ROAD WITH THE JORDAN RIVER ON THE RIGHT - DAY

SUPER: HIGHWAY ALONG JORDAN RIVER

Simon wears a long tunic to hide the dagger strapped to his leg. He stops a traveler.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Uh, sir. Do you have any idea where the hermit priest John might be?

TRAVELER 1

Nope. Not interested either.

Simon continues on up the road and sees more travelers.

SIMON

Sir, do you happen to know where the hermit John is?

TRAVELER 2

I heard he's about two days north of here. But he may have moved on by now.

Simon stops when he sees two men guiding highway traffic down an embankment toward the river.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Sir, uh...

ANDREW (25) is short and thin with hair down in his eyes half the time. He wears a short brown tunic with a miniature oar hanging from a cord around his neck. His eyes dart everywhere, his movements fast, his words clipped. **ANDREW**

I am Andrew, a follower of John and yes, indeed. This is your day of good fortune. This is my friend, Philip.

PHILIP (25) is tall and portly. He wears a brown tunic with a faded Egyptian kilt over it and a matching neme on his head. His red hair peeks out from around the neme.

EGYPTIAN PHILIP

He's right down there by the river. Hurry before he starts another speech.

EXT. SHORE OF JORDAN RIVER - DAY

JOHN (30) is skinny, barefooted and has unruly black hair. He wears a tunic of camel hide with a belt of goat hair.

He stands on a high above-ground root of an ancient olive tree.

JOHN THE HERMIT PRIEST Stop doing those bad things you're doing. You know what they are. God does too. The God Kingdom is coming

MATTHEW (38) is a tall ETHIOPIAN with a deep voice wearing a colorful tapestry tunic and tall cone-shaped turban. He stands alone and when he speaks, the other observers show their disdain.

ETHIOPIAN MATTHEW

Sir, what should I do?

OBSERVER I

Ha! You should die. That's what you should do.

OBSERVER II

Yeah. Just crawl in a hole and die.

JOHN THE HERMIT PRIEST Don't collect more taxes than is required. Matthew.

Simon moves closer to John.

SIMON

Good for you, John. Get right to the point. Don't flop around on meaningless words. Those tax collectors are traitors.

BEARDED ROMAN LEGIONNAIRE

What about us, sir?

Simon checks to see if he still has his dagger. He shouts.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Go ahead and say it, John! I'll protect you. No Romans will ever be admitted into the God Kingdom. Tell him and his kind to leave our kingdom. Hey, John! You listening to me?

JOHN THE HERMIT PRIEST Don't embezzle people for protection money. Be content with

your pay.

THE TWO LEGIONNAIRES stand in place eyeing John who eyes them back.

Simon moves over to stand next to a couple of nondescript countrymen.

SIMON

Man, this John's will must be made of iron, ordering our enemies around like that. I like this guy.

EXT. HIDEOUT - DAY

SUPER: REVOLUTIONARY HIDEOUT NEAR JERUSALEM

REUBEN

Fall in! Fall in, men! Snap to it. Our commander has important news. He's going to shake up Rome again.

SIMON

Finally!

Reuben glares at Simon. Simon mouths "Sorry, Sir", then grins.

CMDR JUDAS

Prelate Pilate is a it again!

Judas marches back and forth in front of his recruits, the number of which has dwindled.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)
My spies report that he has been trying to make the citizens of Jerusalem love him -- something that will never happen.

Reuben raises his fists.

REUBEN

Down with Rome. Freedom or die. Down with Rome. Freedom or die.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Down with Rome. Freedom or die. Down with Rome. Freedom or die.

CMDR JUDAS

He added to Jerusalem's water system. With stolen money. Our Temple treasury! Damned be that water!

Simon grins. The revolutionaries glance at each other and wink. Simon mimics cutting his own throat.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)
Pagan Pilate bought off the high
priest with a donation of land.
Damned be that bribe.

Two white scars on Judas' head turn red. The veins on his forehead throb.

REUBEN

Down with Rome. Kill Pilate. Down with Rome. Kill Pilate.

REVOLUTIONARIES

Down with Rome. Kill Pilate. Down with Rome. Kill Pilate.

CMDR JUDAS

First, we are going to infiltrate Jerusalem for more recruits and sympathizers. Taverns. Synagogues. Athletic games. Anywhere people are assembled.

Ah, finally. Simon sees blood. He thrusts an invisible sword into the invisible body of pagan Pilate.

REUBEN

The target date is one month. Each of you will bring your recruits to the amphitheater.

Simon folds his hands in prayer and mouths the words, "Thank you God."

CMDR JUDAS

You will slip in by night any way you can, but not through the gate. From there the next morning, we march to the palace. Barbarian Pilate is as good as dead.

Simon stands next to his friend, Revolutionary Joseph.

SIMON

Back in action. Forget that John what's-his-name.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. TAVERN IN JERUSALEM - DAY BUT DARK.

SUPER: JERUSALEM

The tavern is dark like the hearts of all Romans who dare travel around the world taking over kingdoms under the guise of being their friend.

Whispering. Everyone muttering and whispering like the Romans who make plans of attack when victim kingdoms least expect it.

Simon looks around and spots a table with two ruffians sitting across from each other.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON Mind if a new man in town joins you?

BEARDED TAVERN MAN
Sure. Pull up a stool. Don't mind
my ill-mannered buddy here.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Heard what Pilate did with our hardearned Temple tithes? Bought a
water supply for himself. That's
what he did.

It is Simon's turn to whisper and mutter. It is Simon's turn to make secret plans.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON (CONT'D) Something has to be done. Those foreign rulers are now taking over our religion.

TAVERN MAN WITH STUBBY BEARD Not possible. Too many of them. They like to crucify people.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Join us. We're going to march on
the palace in one month. The great
Commander Judas will lead us. Can
we count on you? The day before,
I'll come back and give you the
details. You with us?

BEARDED TAVERN MAN Sure. This should be fun.

EXT. MARKET PLACE - DAY

Simon slips over to a booth selling dates. The date merchant has no customers.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Did you hear what Pilate did with
our hard-earned Temple tithes?

DATE MERCHANT

No, and I don't care. They're going to do what they're going to do. Now get away from me before a spy hears you, arrests us both, and crucifies us for treason.

Simon moves on to another booth with no customers.

The PERFUMER (20ish) is well dressed with a silk turban on his head, rings on his fingers, the works.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
Did you hear what Pilate did with
our hard-earned Temple tithes?

PERFUME MERCHANT Yes, and I don't like it.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON I don't either. We need to do something about it.

PERFUME MERCHANT What can we possibly do about it?

SIMON

We can band together.

PERFUME MERCHANT What do you mean? What's going on?

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
One month from now we are all going to march on the palace. It will be led by the fearless and famous
Commander Judas.

(MORE)

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON (CONT'D)

If we stick together, we can convince Pilate to give the money back to the Temple.

PERFUME MERCHANT

Yeah. Strength in numbers. And Judas will know how to pull it off. I heard he's shrewd.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON You don't know half of it. You with us?

PERFUME MERCHANT

Why not? What can we lose? Rome has bullied us so much, we're almost slaves now.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON That's the spirit. I'll be back

the day before the march and fill you in on the details. It will be the day you become a hero.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Simon enters just before the service begins. He sits in the back on the men's side and watches each man.

He looks around at the cedar walls, the cubicles up front with sacred scrolls in them, and the crowded benches. He senses holiness here.

CHANTACLIER

Let us sing the one hundred and forty-fifth Psalm of King David:

Judas fights for God. Simon fights for God.

"I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever...."

Simon spots the men who sing with the most exuberance.

RABBI

Let us pray.

The congregation kneels and puts its collective heads on the floor while the Rabbi remains standing.

RABBI (CONT'D)

Let us declare the greatness of our God and give honor to the Torah.

Simon does not bow, though he huddles so the rabbi will not reprimand him. God will understand.

RABBI (CONT'D)

We shall now have the reading of the Torah.

Simon spots a MAN IN FRONT who rises, stands on the podium, and commences to read. As he does, the Chantaclier repeats him and the congregation repeats the Chantaclier.

CHANTACLIER

You will bless The Lord who is to be blessed.

After the Torah reading, Man in Front returns to his seat. When the Rabbi speaks, Man in Front nods his head often.

The service is finally over. Simon stands by the exit until he sees the Man in Front go through the door alone.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Good. No wife. No ties.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Simon follows Man in Front out and notices he wears phylacteries and hold fringe lines the bottom of his robe. He is slow to lower his prayer shawl from his head. He walks with hands folded prayerfully in front.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON Did you hear what Pilate did with our hard-earned Temple tithes?

MAN IN FRONT

Were you talking to me? Yes I am aware of it.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

What are we going to do about it?

MAN IN FRONT

How do I know you are not a spy?

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Do you recognize my tattoo? I am as dedicated to our kingdom ruling itself as you are.

MAN IN FRONT Sir, there is nothing we can do about it. Rome is too strong.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON We can band together.

Man in Front stops in the road and looks firmly into Simon's eyes.

MAN IN FRONT What do you mean? How?

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
One month from now we are all going to march on the palace. It will be led by the fearless and famous
Commander Judas. If we stick together, we can convince Pilate to give the money back to the Temple.

MAN IN FRONT Are you sure this is safe?

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON With Cmdr Judas leading us, it definitely is safe.

PERFUME MERCHANT

Well...

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON
We need you, brother. Our kingdom
needs you. Survival of our kingdom
depends on dedicated men like you.
I'll be back the day before the
march and fill you in on the
details. It will be the day you
become a hero.

EXT. INSIDE THE WALLS OF AMPHITHEATER - DAWN

SUPER: JERUSALEM AMPHITHEATER

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON Now this is going to be a peaceful march. You understand that. Right?

Revolutionaries and their recruits mingle. Cmdr Judas is at the top of the risers.

Simon gathers his own recruits around him.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON (CONT'D)

Remember, this is going to be a peaceful march. You understand that. Right?

EXT. OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF AMPHITHEATER - DAWN

A trumpet blast. Roman legionnaires try to break through the gate into the amphitheater with a battering ram.

EXT. INSIDE THE WALLS OF AMPHITHEATER - DAWN

JUDAS

Oh Almighty God! We march for you. It is your tithe money these Roman atheists are stealing from you. We march for Moses. We march for King David. We march for the great prophets. We march for you, Yahweh God!

REVOLUTIONARIES

Cheering.

The Roman legionnaires break through the gate, but are attacked and disabled.

Commander Judas leaps into his chariot pulled by his great black steed with decorative tackle on it, and heads the procession to the palace.

Somme of the MARCHERS carry banners declaring the blasphemy of the Roman rulers.

EXT. ON STREET OUTSIDE THE AMPBHITHEATER - DAWN

REVOLUTIONARIES

Down with Pilate! Down with Rome! Down with Pilate! Down with Rome! Down with Pilate! Down with Rome!

ONLOOKERS line the street on both sides, all wearing cloaks in the cool of the morning.

The march approaches the forum outside the palace. More and more onlookers are attracted.

Simon grins and waves in triumph to the onlookers.

REVOLUTIONARIES (CONT'D)

Down with Pilate! Down with Rome! Down with Pilate! Down with Rome! Down with Pilate! Down with Rome!

Then more and more onlookers. Too many onlookers. What's going on? Confusion on the faces of the marchers.

Pilate stands on the balcony of his Jerusalem palace. He raises his arm high, pauses, looks around, and drops it.

PRELATE PILATE

Now!

The onlookers throw off their robes. They are Roman legionnaires. They pull our their hidden swords.

A massacre. The street turns red.

Simon manages to get to a dark alley where he throws off his head band declaring he is a revolutionary and his robe with the blood of others spattered on it.

He works his way up and down alleys.

He sees one of the gates in and out of Jerusalem. He slows into a walk.

He smiles at an Apple Merchant on his cart.

A Woman With Two Children walks through the gate. Simon kneels and plays a hand trick with them.

A caravan works its way out of the city. Simon blends in with it and disappears like his dreams.

EXT. MOUNT OF OLIVES - DAY

Simon works his way up among the olive trees. He stops to rest.

Looking across a valley he looks down at the streets of Jerusalem near the palace. Even from a distance he can see the bodies.

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON God, what went wrong? Their blood was to be the blood of our sacrifices to you.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The road heads north with the Jordan River on their right.

Like a shadow, Cmdr Judas is on his black steed. Reuben rides beside him.

Slowly Simon and a few remaining revolutionaries walk behind them, not even trying to march.

REVOLUTIONARY JOSEPH

Things were supposed to be different. Maybe John the Hermit Priest....

REVOLUTIONARY SIMON

Shut up.

INT. PALACE - NIGHT

Ornate marble graces the floor and grand tapestries framed by gold declare the greatness of Rome on the walls. A statue of Tiberius Caesar stands in a large niche and the Roman Eagle guards every door.

PRELATE PILATE

Ha! I knew I'd get 'em some day. Just bide my time.

Pilate is dressed in his finest and carries a gold goblet around with them.

PRELATE PILATE (CONT'D)

Cowards. Stupid cowards. They cannot bully Caesar. They cannot stand up to the unconquerable Roman Empire.

TALL MAGISTRATE

Britannia couldn't.

PORTLY MAGISTRATE

Gaul couldn't.

BALD MAGISTRATE

North Africa couldn't.

LAME MAGISTRATE

Anatolia couldn't.

PRELATE PILATE

There are always uprisings, but none too hard for Rome to handle. Ha, ha!

TRIBUNE SENECA

I have been hearing rumors of a carpenter. What's it all about?

PORTLY MAGISTRATE

One of their prophets, a former priest I think named John, has announced this crass carpenter will be their God-King. Ha, ha!

SKINNY MAGISTRATE

Doesn't even have an army. The revolutionaries tried and got crushed. This new upstart doesn't have a chance.

TIBUNE SENECA

Sir, they people listen to their prophets.

PRELATE PILATE

Does anyone know the name of their so-called God-King? Where is he? I will crucify him!

MAGISTRATES

Ha, ha, ha.

INT. JUDAS' GALILEE CAVE - NIGHT.

Torches on the wall taunt the darkness. The fire on the floor dares the cold to come close.

Judas fights for the survival of his army. And his cause. He paces back and forth, just as his thoughts do.

CMDR JUDAS

(Muttering) They need me now more than ever. I have been appointed by God. God is still on my side. My kingdom needs me. Revenge. Revenge.

REUBEN

It was my fault. All my fault.

Judas stops and glares at Reuben.

CMDR JUDAS

What? What did you do? Have you turned traitor on me too?

REUBEN

No, sir. But I didn't check with our spies the day before. We should never have had that defeat.

Judas throws Caesar's skull at the wall.

CMDR JUDAS

Defeat? Defeat? Never say that word in my presence.

Judas picks up his still-bloody sword and caresses it.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

We will start over. The Romans will not bully God. The Romans will not bully God's people. I will not allow it.

REUBEN

Well, we have ten young revolutionaries left. They are our nucleus. We'll have to use them to recruit and train new ones.

CMDR JUDAS

They are too clumsy. I will do it myself.

REUBEN

Sir?

CMDR JUDAS

Raids. We leave in the morning.

The fire in the floor flares high.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

Load all our chains with the supplies. And we'll need a scout to find caves or hidden canyons to confine them.

REUBEN

Who will we use as hostages?

CMDR JUDAS

Take one woman from each town. We'll put 'em to work cooking for us.

Now back in charge. Judas sits in his gilded chair.

CMDR JUDAS (CONT'D)

We'll take 'em from the highways, the fields, the pastures -anywhere men are working alone.

REUBEN

Once they see we are fighting for their freedom, they'll voluntarily stay.

CMDR JUDAS

Of course, we'll have to eliminate that so-called God-King I've been hearing about.

REUBEN

No one know who he is.

CMDR JUDAS

That's where you're wrong. At least one person does. That hermit priest called, called, oh, yes, John.

The fire is now only embers. Is this a trick? Will those harmless embers suddenly flare up?

REUBEN

Tonight, send out our best spy to find that John.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

Yes, sir.

CMDR JUDAS

Bring him to me. Bribe him if you have to.

REUBEN

Sir, I heard he doesn't like money. He's a hermit.

Judas glares at Reuben. He can allow no one to question him. Only traitors question their leader.

(MORE)

REUBEN (CONT'D)

Uh, yes, sir. Everyone likes money.

CMDR JUDAS
Torture John if you must. Find that so-called God-King and kill him.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE 11