

The Chosen, Season Two

Wednesdays at 6:30

Episode 1 – Thunder

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Note: Some parts are Biblical and beneficial, but other parts contradict the Bible and are misleading. This sheet contains a summary of each part of **episode 1** (104:40) from wikipedia as well as my own comments. *Blessings on reading, watching, and understanding!*

1. During [shiva](#) [the week-long [mourning](#) period in [Judaism](#) for first-degree relatives.] for the martyred Big James in AD 44, John interviews fellow disciples as he writes their eyewitness accounts for [his book](#).
 - a. *This part is not in the Bible, not beneficial, and very misleading – because it gives the impression that the New Testament contains whatever the apostles and others could remember about Jesus and His ministry.*
 - b. These passages make it clear that the Holy Spirit moved men to write down the very words of God:
 - i. [NAS John 14:26](#) “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
 - ii. [NAS 2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - iii. [NAS 2 Peter 1:20-21](#) But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
2. In Sychar, AD 26, Big James (Abe Martell) and John plow a field while Jesus continues to teach the [Samaritans](#). Thomas and Ramah arrive and join the group. Tension builds among the disciples as they wrestle with the increasing fame of Jesus in Samaria.
 - a. Is this part in the Bible? Yes and No. Think about John chapter 4 and Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman, which includes the details of that encounter. Then the Bible says, “[And after the two days He went forth from there \[Sychar\] into Galilee](#)” ([John 4:43 NAS](#)). Based on that statement, we know Jesus spent two days in Sychar, but we have no details. Parts 2-5 of this sheet (the rest of episode 1) try to give us an idea of what may have happened during those days.
 - b. This part is interesting, but only a guess on what might have happened.
3. Jesus and his students have dinner with Melech, a former [robber](#) now crippled. In the morning, Melech is healed.
 - a. This part is not in the Bible, but Jesus is trying to help His disciples understand the importance of showing love for all others, even Samaritans (who were generally hated by Jews).

- b. Melech tells how he became crippled, which is very similar to the parable of the Good Samaritan ([Luke 10:25-37](#)). It's a clever way to bring the parable into the scene but let us continue to make a clear distinction between what the Bible identifies as parables versus things that happened.
4. Big James and John assume leadership roles but the other disciples oppose their presumptions. When James and John try to present their plans to Jesus, a group of Samaritans shows extreme hostility towards them. James and John ask Jesus to rain fire to destroy the Samaritans, and Jesus rebukes James and John for their prejudice. After the near-violent encounter, Jesus gives them a new nickname: "[the sons of thunder](#)".
 - a. This is what the Bible says about Big James and John becoming the Sons of Thunder: ^{NAS} [Luke 9:51-56](#) And it came about, when the days were approaching for His ascension, that He resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him. And they went, and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make arrangements for Him. And they did not receive Him, because He was journeying with His face toward Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But He turned and rebuked them, *and said*, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; ⁵⁶ for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went on to another village.
 - b. The Biblical account is not the same as depicted in this episode but tries to give some idea of how they received that nickname.
5. Invited to a synagogue to read a scroll of Moses, Jesus reads the [first scroll](#) of [Genesis](#), and in AD 44, John writes the [introduction](#) for his book as he reminisces.
 - a. This part is not in the Bible. Most Bible scholars believe John wrote between AD 85 and AD 95. Again, think about the comments on this sheet in part 1.
 - b. An interesting connection is made between Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 – since they both begin with these words, "In the beginning..."

Going Forward: Regarding "The Chosen, Season Two," we are generally planning to meet each Wednesday at 6:30 to watch an episode, consider my handout, and engage in pertinent discussion. *Everyone is welcome to attend!*

Pastor Green

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