

THE TWELVE

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. – 1 John 1

Series by Michael Droberg

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LOGLINE: After being exiled to a secluded island prison by the Roman Emperor, the last disciple of Christ must carve out his own existence, battle against the elements, solitude, and an evil incarnate that seeks to destroy him.



John on Patmos

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INTRODUCTION

Hundreds perhaps hundreds of movies, shows, and documentaries have been made about our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. *The Twelve* too will focus on Christ's teachings at the core of each episode, but the main story of the show will be on the men and women who saw and believed.

The series will delve into the exploits of the men and women of faith, who obeyed God's Great Commission: *Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* – Matthew 28:19-20

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FORMAT: 10x1 hour

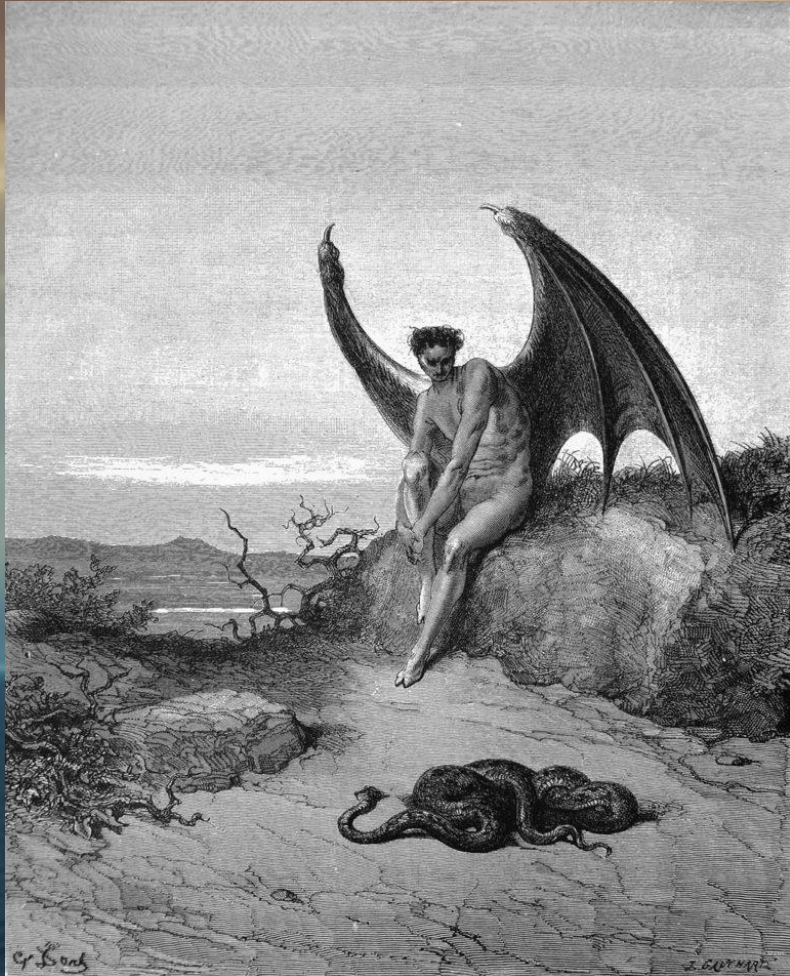
GENRE: Faith-based historical drama

The Twelve will be an epic, spiritually uplifting series, focusing on the historical, social, and religious aspects of early Christianity.

Set in the year 80 A.D. and inspired by Mel Gibson's brutally violent yet spiritually poignant film *The Passion of the Christ*. We follow John, the last remaining disciple and the only one not martyred for his faith in Christ as he's exiled to the prison island of Patmos.

The teachings of Christ will be drawn from the Gospels. The stories of the Apostles and other key characters will be drawn from the Holy Bible and Biblical Apocrypha.

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WORLD & TONE

From the very beginning of His ministry, Christ was challenged at every level to include the temptation in the wilderness by Satan himself.

We continue to see Satan's influence nearly everywhere we turn today. John and the Apostles will also face The Adversary.

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. – John 15:18-19

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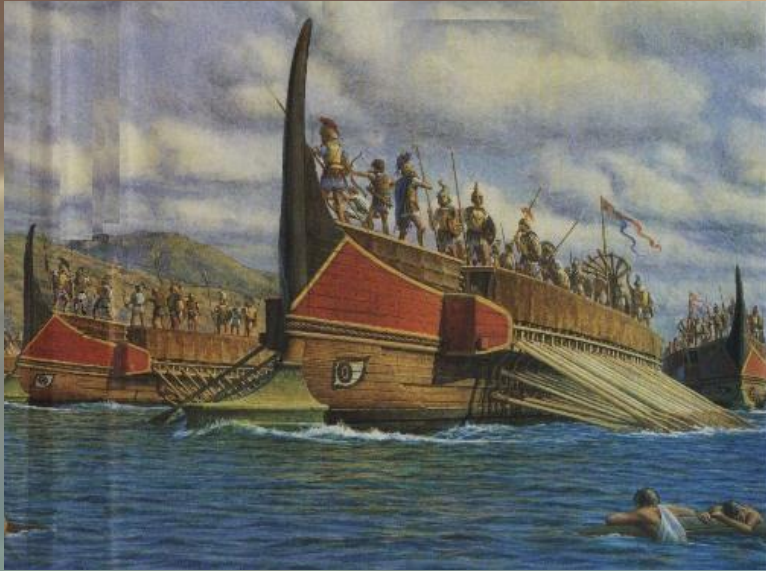
WORLD & TONE

The ancient world was a violent place filled with ruthless dictators by the likes of the Emperor Nero, Herod the Great, and Pontius Pilate just to name a few and in this series, we will meet them all.

As we navigate through these savage times during the infancy of Christianity as told through the eyes of Jesus' most beloved disciple John, we learn how Jesus' most intimate followers lived, triumphed, and are eventually martyred for their belief in the Messiah.

The Twelve will have disturbing imagery. Blood will spill, men will be tortured, nails will be driven through hands and feet as men are crucified. Most will suffer other brutal punishments at the hands of tyrants.

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SYNOPSIS

JOHN (70s) is dumped offshore onto a prison island by a Roman ship and barely survives the swim to dry land. He is the last remaining of the twelve disciples who worshipped Jesus. Beginning the with first crucial steps in carving out his own survival, John finds shelter in a cave, discovers a fresh water source, and manages to start a fire.

Sometime later, he recounts his first meeting with Christ and then the confrontation that led to his exile. His new peaceful yet solitary life is interrupted when he is attacked by a supernatural-looking serpent (Lucifer) who seeks to kill him. John manages to ward the serpent off and quickly prepares himself should the adversary return.



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Meanwhile, Prochorus (20s) a scribe onboard a ship finds himself in grave danger when the ship is caught in a perilous storm. He narrowly escapes death while trying to rescue his captain and crewman as the ship sinks after battering rocks. Clinging onto ship debris, and half dead, Prochorus is pulled to safety by John.

After learning that Prochorus is a scribe, John recognizes this divine appointment as part of God's plan. He must now convince Prochorus to write the stories of Jesus Christ in order for the word to live on.

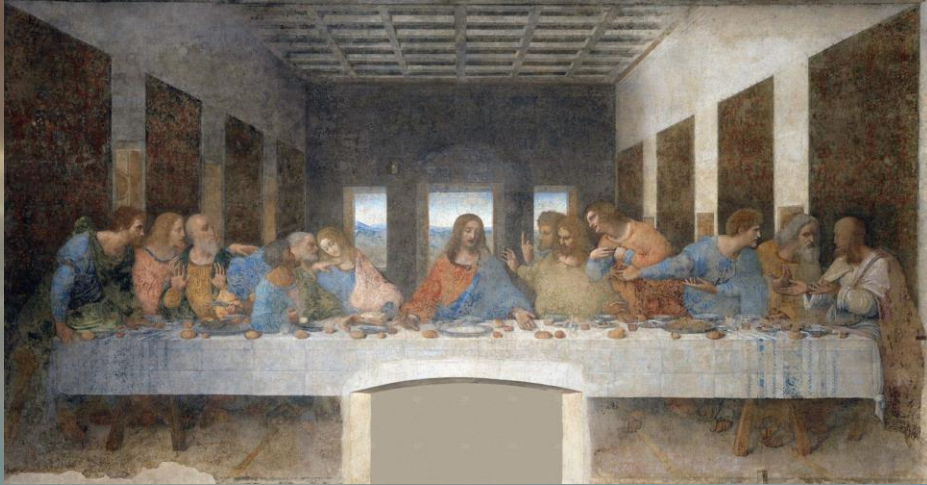
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STRUCTURE

Episode 1 “Prisoner” - John is a prisoner aboard a Roman ship in the Aegean Sea. His support of Jesus Christ put him at odds with Emperor Domitian and that earned him a death sentence. But when John was lowered into a cauldron of boiling oil, his faith left him unharmed, and the flabbergasted Romans opted to exile him to Patmos Island. John barely survives the swim to dry land and quickly sets about starting a fire, making a home in a cave, and foraging/fishing for food, unaware that he is being watched by The Adversary, the Devil in the form of a serpent. Sometime later, Prochorus also becomes shipwrecked on the island, when the vessel he was traveling on is dashed against the rocks. John is thrilled to finally have a companion, especially once he discovers Prochorus is a scribe because he aims to write down all of Jesus’ stories.

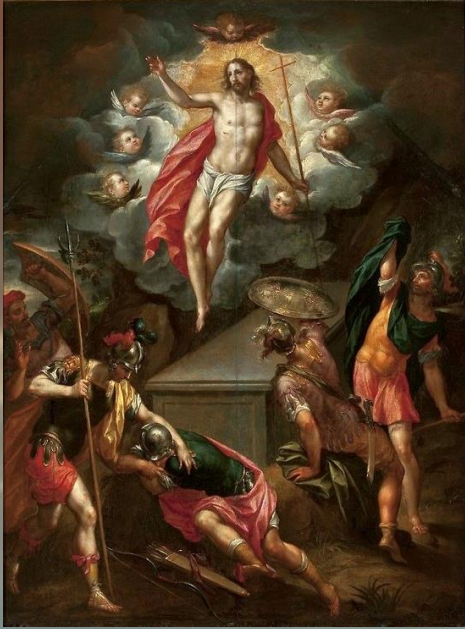
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Episode 2 “Betrayer” - We see the betrayal of Jesus through the eyes of Judas as he leaves the Last Supper, sells Jesus out to the Temple Priests and helps in His arrest. Meanwhile on Patmos, John and Prochorus continue their survival on Patmos. John begins to share his beliefs with a doubtful Prochorus who questions all that John says.



Episode 3 “Crucified” - Jesus is crucified, and all the apostles save John have fled. The disciples reunite in the “Upper Room.” Dissention, doubt, and fear arise. Only Peter is able hold them together. Meanwhile on Patmos, Prochorus begins to believe John. John warns Prochorus of an ancient enemy who stalks them on the island. John explains his first encounter with Lucifer in the land of Geresenes where Jesus confronted and exorcised a demon possessed man.



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Episode 4 “Risen” - The disciples see the risen Christ and are overjoyed. Meanwhile on Patmos, Prochorus accepts Jesus Christ as his savior and agrees to write the words of John. The two begin to meticulously write the words and actions of Christ forming the book which will eventually become The Gospel of John.



Episode 5 “Pentecost” - Holy Spirit and are sent to spread the good news to all the corners of the earth. John recounts stories of his dear brother James. James confronts King Herod and becomes the first martyr of Christ.

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Episode 6 “The Feeding” - John recounts the time where Jesus feeds 5000. Phillip confronts an Ebionite Cult, in North Africa. John and Prochorus begin writing the Gospel of John.



Episode 7 “Temple Disgraced” - James Alphaeus is confronted by the Temple Priests in Jerusalem. He is deceived by them and throw down the temple stairs and ultimately martyred. John and Prochorus have an encounter with the serpent. Prochorus is mortally wounded.

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Episode 8 “Corruption” - Andrew brings the good news to Greece and is confronted by the local Governor. Through John’s prayers, Prochorus is miraculously healed and continues their work on the Gospels.



Episode 9 “Exorcist” - Bartholomew travels to Armenia to visit a broken king whose daughter is possessed. He exorcises the princess and converts all to Christianity, only to be captured by the King’s evil brother. John and Prochorus continue to work on the Gospel. They begin construction on a boat to escape.

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Episode 10 “Great Miracle”

Matthew travels to Ethiopia at the request of the king’s Eunach.

Matthew raises the king’s son from the dead after failed attempts by the King’s magicians. John and Prochorus attempt to leave the island but are unsuccessful.

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Season One: Revolves around John and his newfound scribe Prochorus, as they attempt to survive against everything the island throws at them including an unwelcome guest, Satan who takes the form of a serpent. Through a series of flashbacks, we learn how John met and became to believe in Christ. Christ's teaching is observed as well as his betrayal, death, burial, and resurrection. We follow Judas, James Zebedee, Philip, James Alphaeus, Andrew, Bartholomew, and Matthew.

Season Two: We continue to see John and Prochorus' plight of survival on the island. Satan is defeated. The remaining original disciples continue the Great Commission as we follow Thomas, Simon, Peter, and Thaddeus. John and Prochorus work on the Gospel of John.

Season Three: John has visions of the future. He and Prochorus begin work on the Book of Revelation. Meanwhile other important characters of the early faith are introduced such as Stephen, Paul, Mary Magdalene, Lazarus, and Cornelius to name a few. Emperor Domitian is dead and John's exile order is extinguished. John and Prochorus are rescued from the island.

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FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY

John – the beloved disciple of Christ and the only one not to be martyred for his belief in Christ.

Prochorus – a marooned scribe who meets John on Patmos after his ship sinks.

Peter – the leader of the disciples.

James Zebedee – John's brother and the first to be martyred.

Andrew – the first to meet Jesus and one of the original twelve.

Matthew – a hated tax collector who becomes a follower of Christ.

Phillip – a great fisher of men.

Thaddeus – always questioning, seeking more knowledge from Christ to accomplish his task.

Simon – a zealot who hated the Romans but changed his ways after joining Christ.

Bartholomew – one of which there is not deceit. A true follower of the Way.

James Alphaeus – head of the early church in Jerusalem.

Thomas – “doubting Thomas,” becomes one of Christ's closest followers.

John the Baptist – announces Christ's arrival and prepares the masses. Christ is baptized by him.

Mary – the earthy mother of Jesus Christ.

Paul – know as, “Saul of Tarsus” and vehement persecutor of the early church. Everything changes for him on the road to Damascus.

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PERSECUTORS OF THE CHRIST

The Adversary – Satan, the Devil, Lucifer, the Serpent.

Judas Iscariot – One of Christ's original disciples and his betrayer.

Nero Caesar – Ruthless persecutor of the early Christians.

Domitian Caesar – one tyrant replaced another. Domitian continues Nero's reign of terror.

Caiaphas – the temple high priest who arrested and brought Jesus to Pilot.

Pontius Pilot – Roman Governor of Judea who oversaw the crucifixion of Christ.

King Herod – a corrupt king and a figurehead to the Romans in Judea.

This is just a small sample of the followers and persecutors of the early church.

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FRANCHISE POTENTIAL: There are 2.4 billion Christians in the world today. There have been over 5 billion copies of the Bible sold. There have been hundreds of movies, documentaries, and other forms of media produced on Jesus Christ, not much has been covered on Christ's twelve original followers who were given the great commission:

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Twelve, will tell the stories of their great faith. They went, obeyed, and were martyred for Christ in order to spread the good news, God's grace of eternal life.

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Michael enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and headed to Parris Island South Carolina 1994. In 2016, after serving for over twenty-two years, Michael retired from the Marine Corps.



During the course of his career, he's served in many capacities including billets as a Marine Corps Recruiter, a Casualty Officer, Curriculum Developer, and Training Chief. He spent two years overseas in places such as Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, and Iraq. Michael served in combat, during Operation Iraqi Freedom from January to December 2009.

Michael studied film at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the American Military University. Since immersing himself in the craft of screenwriting upon retirement, his scripts have won several awards in writing contests hosted by the Austin Film Festival, Scriptapalooza, ScreenCraft, Shore Scripts, and Talentville.