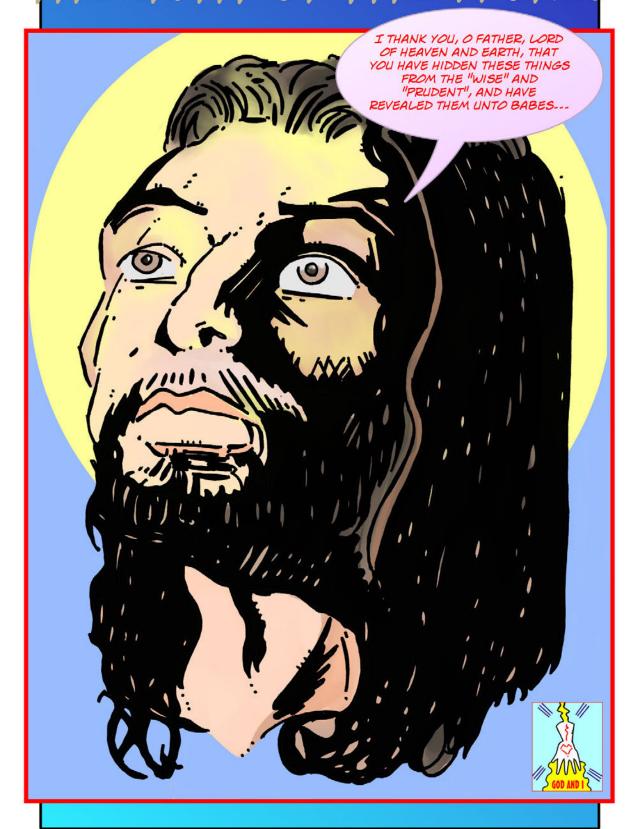
THE HIGHT OF THE WORLD



...And the Light shines in darkness...

... and the darkness did not comprehend it.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE WONDERFUL ARTISTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF THIS BOOK, ESPECIALLY THOMAS AHEARN WHO INKED THE ENTIRE STORY! WITHOUT THEM, THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

(FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION BY CAPL TAYLOR. INKED BY JR. COLORED BY KEN COTRONA.)

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (COLOR VERSION)

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Prelube

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD.

AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD...AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

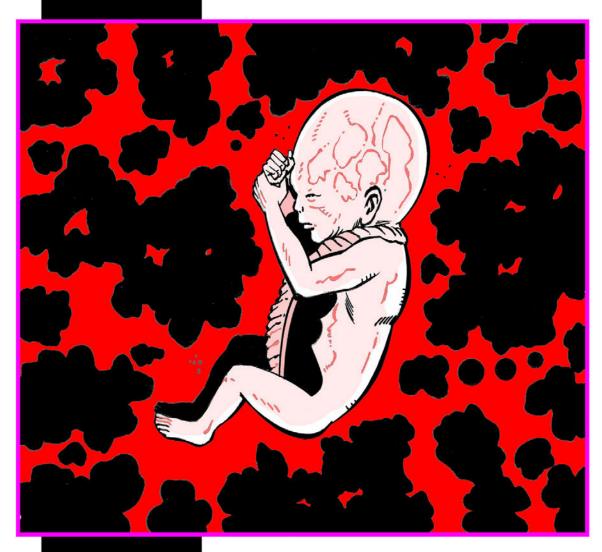
THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM;

AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE.

IN HIM WAS LIFE...AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.



--- AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US---



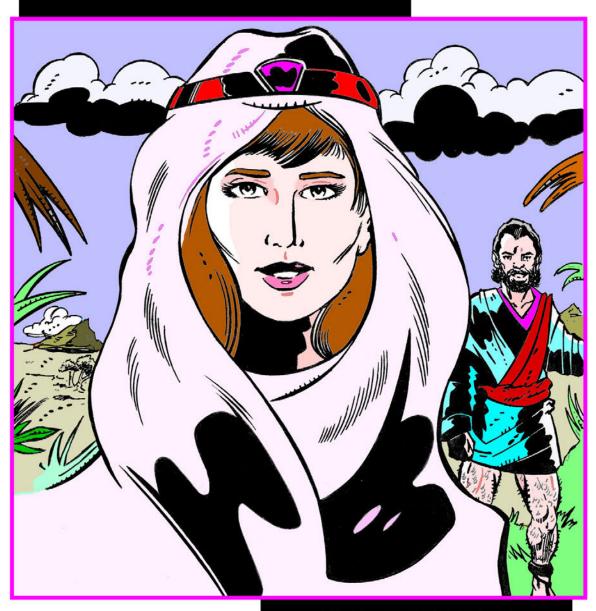
HE CAME TO HIS OWN...BUT HIS OWN DID NOT RECEIVE HIM-HE WAS IN THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD WAS MADE BY HIM, BUT THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW HIM...

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Illustrated by James Rubino 🌣 Inked and embellished by Thomas Ahearn

"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son... and shall call his name "Immanuel"...GOD WITH US!" -YeshaYah the Prophet

NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST TOOK PLACE IN THIS MANNER: WHILE HIS MOTHER MARY WAS ENGAGED TO JOSEPH, BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER, SHE WAS FOUND TO BE WITH CHILD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT---



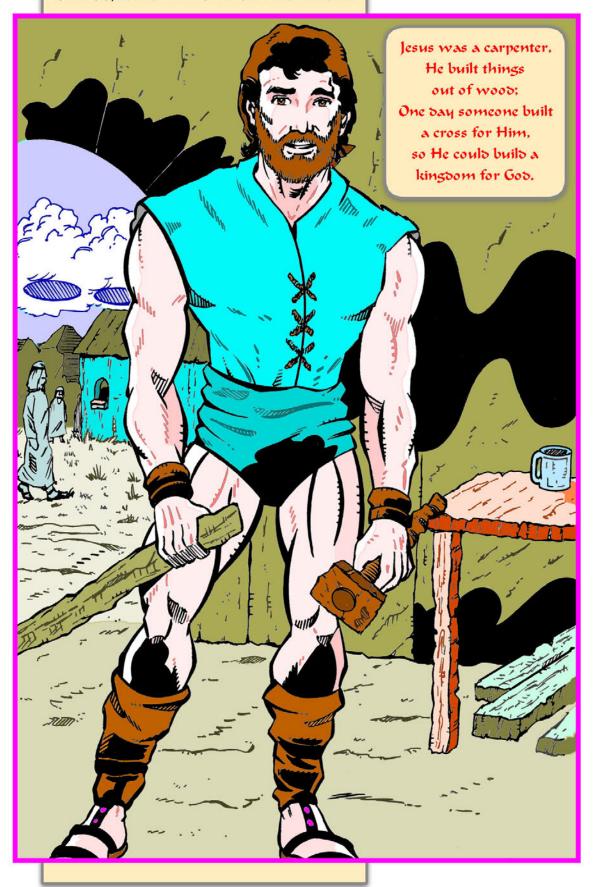
FIRSTBORN SON, AND THEY NAMED HIM
"JESUS"- AND THE CHILD GREW, AND BECAME
STRONG IN SPIRIT, FILLED WITH WISDOM, AND
THE GRACE OF GOD WAS UPON HIM---

NOW WHEN HE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, HE AND HIS PARENTS WENT UP TO JERUSALEM FOR THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER. AND AFTER THIS, AS THEY WERE RETURNING HOME, THE CHILD JESUS REMAINED BEHIND IN JERUSALEM; BUT JOSEPH AND HIS MOTHER DID NOT KNOW IT, SUPPOSING HIM TO HAVE BEEN WITH OTHERS IN THEIR GROUP. BUT WHEN THEY COULD NOT FIND HIM AMONG THEIR RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES THEY RETURNED TO THE CITY SEEKING HIM AND AFTER THREE DAYS DISCOVERED HIM IN THE TEMPLE, SITTING IN THE MIDST OF THE RELIGIOUS TEACHERS, BOTH HEARING THEM AND ASKING THEM QUESTIONS. AND ALL THAT HEARD HIM WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWERS. AND WHEN HIS PARENTS SAW HIM, THEY WERE AMAZED....



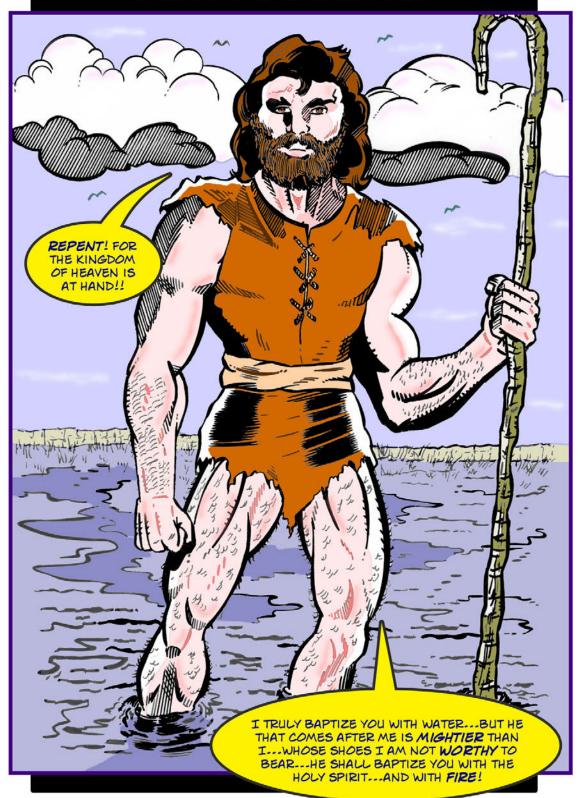
---BUT THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE HAD SAID TO THEM. THEN HE WENT DOWN WITH THEM TO NAZARETH AND WAS SUBJECT TO THEM. AND HIS MOTHER KEPT ALL THESE SAYINGS IN HER HEART.--

--- AND JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM AND STATURE, AND IN FAVOUR WITH GOD AND MAN---

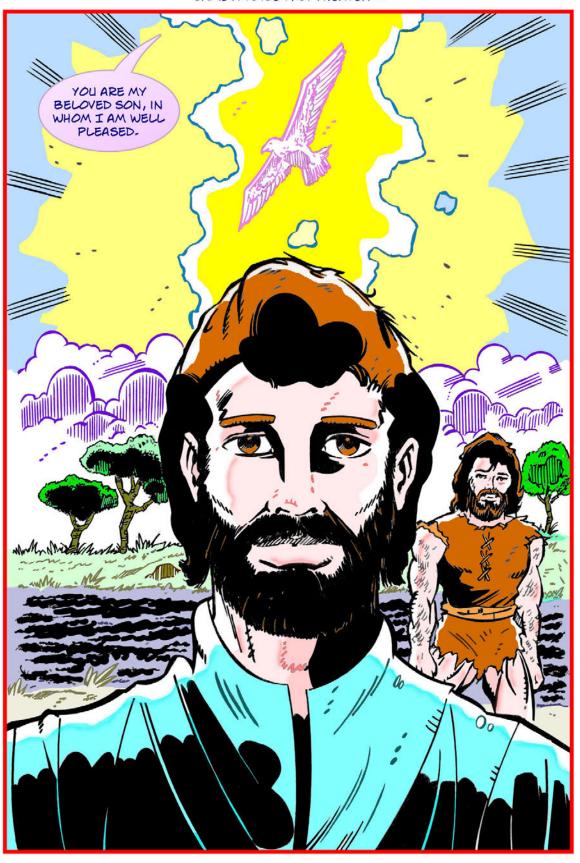


THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.
THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD, WHOSE NAME WAS JOHN. HE CAME TO
BEAR WITNESS OF THE LIGHT, THAT ALL PEOPLE MIGHT BELIEVE THROUGH
HIM. AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE PROPHETS, "BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER
BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO SHALL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU. THE VOICE
OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!! ".

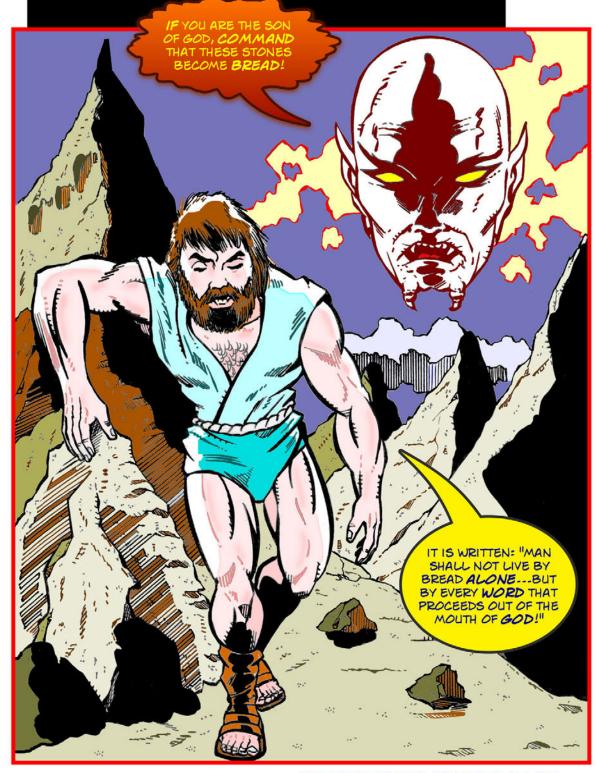
JOHN BAPTIZED IN THE WILDERNESS AND PREACHED THE BAPTISM OF
REPENTANCE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS...

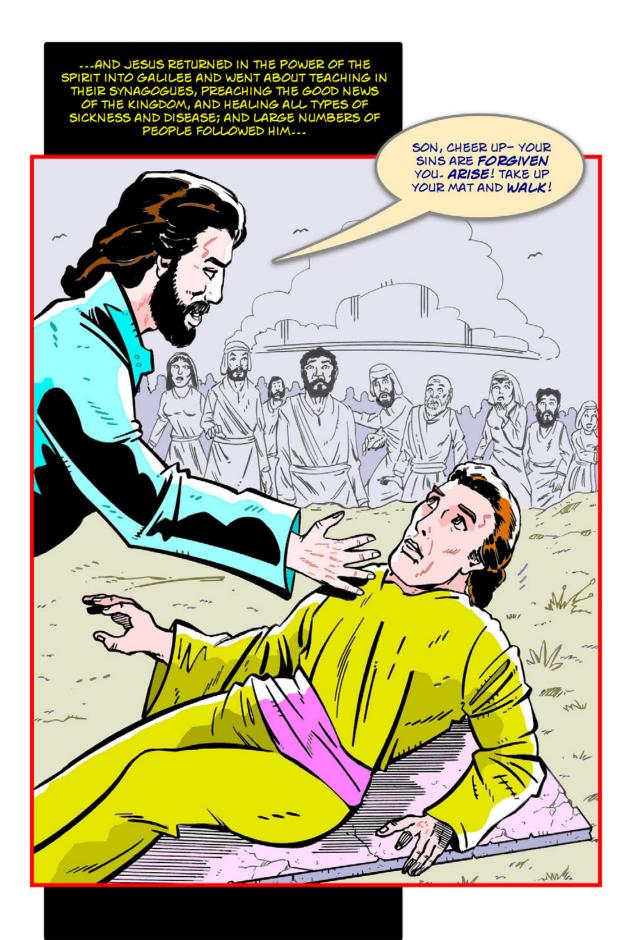


---AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS THAT JESUS CAME FROM NAZARETH OF GALILEE AND WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN JORDAN. AND AS HE CAME OUT OF THE WATER, THE SKIES OPENED AND THE SPIRIT IN A BODILY SHAPE LIKE A DOVE DESCENDED UPON HIM AND THERE CAME A VOICE FROM HEAVEN...

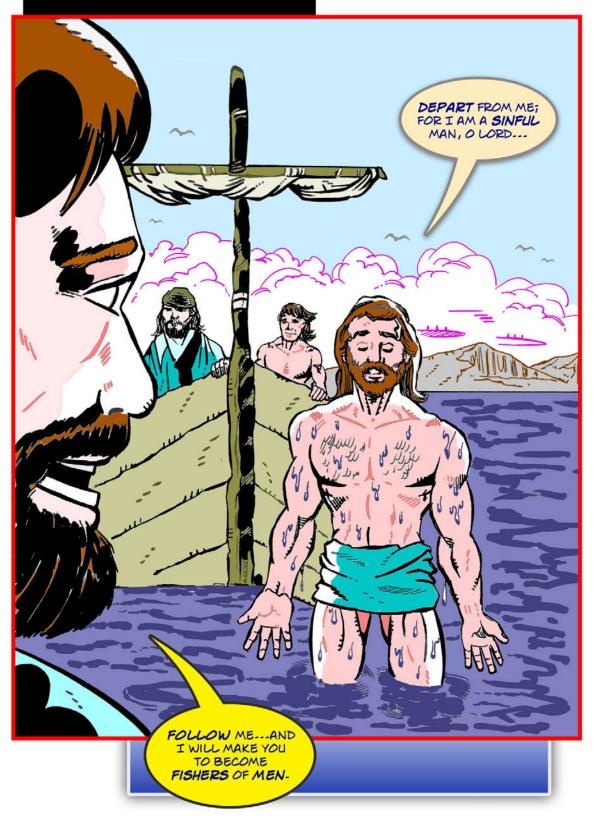


---THEN JESUS WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT UP INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL. AND WHEN HE HAD FASTED FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS HE WAS AFTERWARDS HUNGRY---

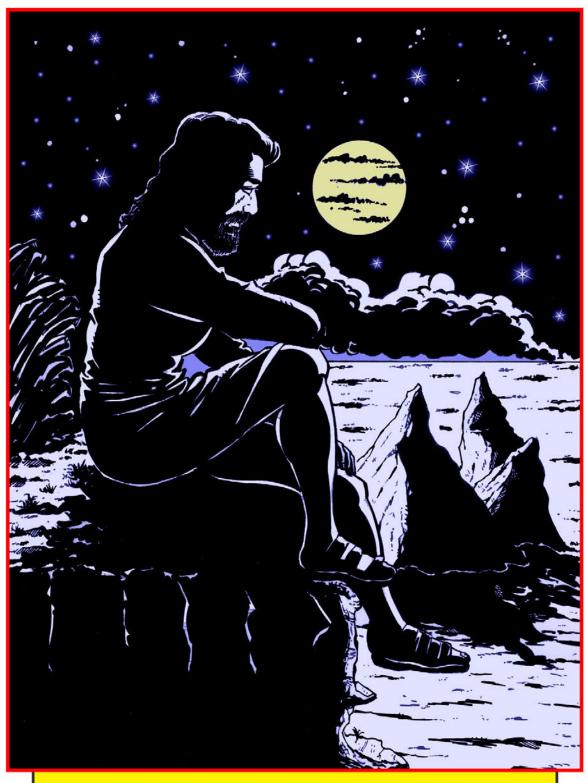




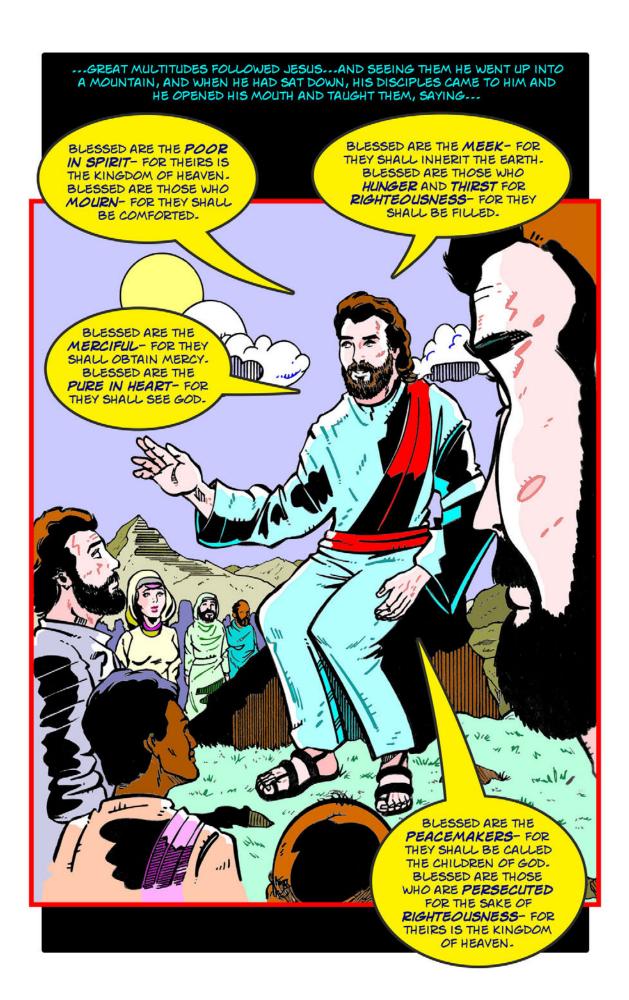
---AS JESUS WALKED BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW SIMON AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA, FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN---



--- AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS, THAT HE WENT OUT INTO A MOUNTAIN TO PRAY, AND CONTINUED ALL NIGHT IN PRAYER TO GOD.



...AND WHEN IT WAS DAY, HE CALLED TO HIM HIS DISCIPLES: AND OF THEM HE CHOSE TWELVE, WHOM HE ALSO NAMED "APOSTLES"; SIMON (WHOM HE ALSO NAMED "PETER"), AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, JAMES AND JOHN, PHILIP AND BARTHOLOMEW, MATTHEW AND THOMAS, JAMES THE SON OF ALPHAEUS, AND SIMON CALLED "ZELOTES", AND JUDAS THE BROTHER OF JAMES, AND JUDAS ISCARIOT, WHO ALSO BETRAYED HIM-





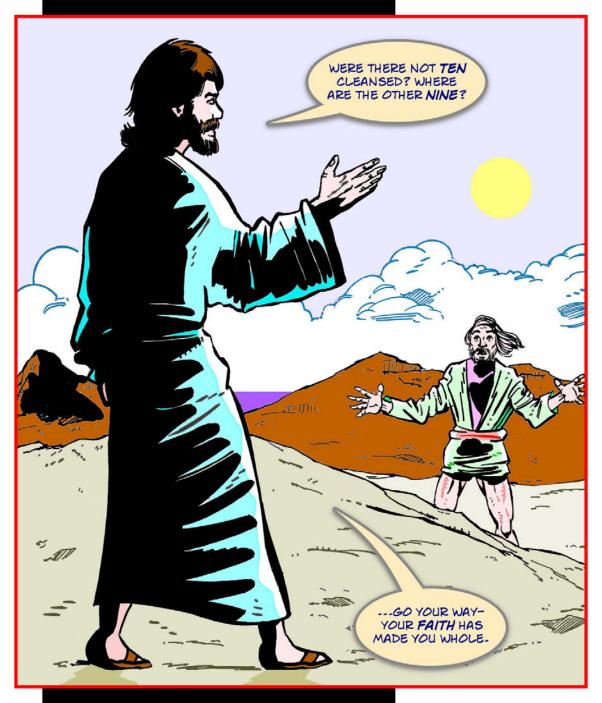
---AND THEY BROUGHT YOUNG CHILDREN TO HIM, THAT HE SHOULD TOUCH THEM; AND HIS DISCIPLES SCOLDED THOSE THAT BROUGHT THEM. BUT WHEN JESUS SAW IT, HE WAS MUCH DISPLEASED...

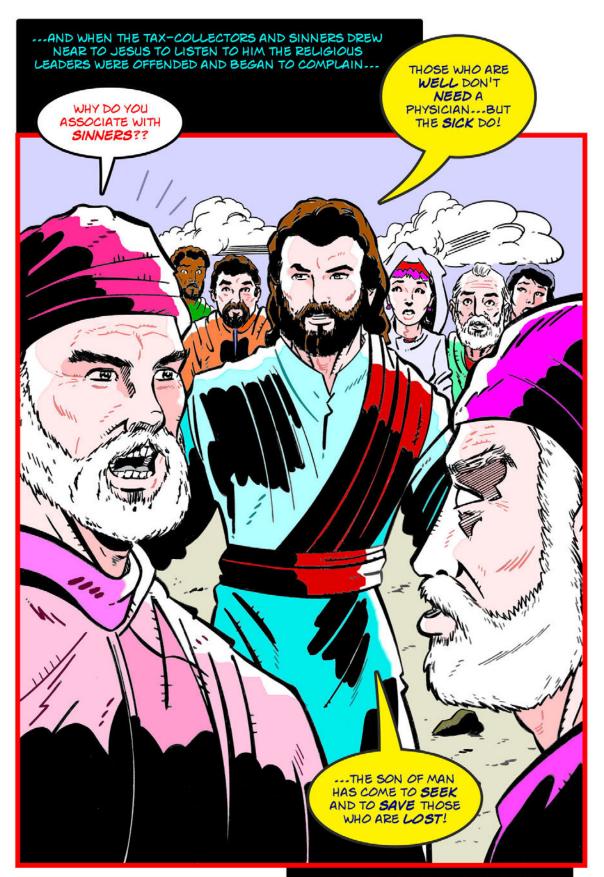
PERMIT THE LITTLE
CHILDREN TO COME TO ME,
AND DO NOT FORBID THEM.
FOR OF SUCH IS THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN...



WHOEVER SHALL NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A LITTLE CHILD, HE SHALL NOT ENTER THEREIN.

---AND AS JESUS ENTERED INTO A CERTAIN
VILLAGE, TEN MEN WHO WERE LEPERS MET HIM AND
CRIED OUT, "JESUS, MASTER- HAVE MERCY ON US!"WHEN HE SAW THEM HE SAID, "GO, SHOW
YOURSELVES TO THE PRIESTS" AND AS THEY WENT
TO DO SO, THEY WERE CLEANSED OF THEIR DISEASEBUT ONLY ONE OF THEM, WHEN HE SAW THAT HE
WAS HEALED, TURNED BACK AND WITH A LOUD VOICE
GLORIFIED GOD AND FELL DOWN ON HIS FACE AT
JESUS' FEET, GIVING HIM THANKS---





AND THEY WERE FILLED WITH MADNESS
AND ENVY AND CONFERRED WITH EACH
OTHER WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO JESUS...



---NOW THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER WAS DRAWING NEAR AND THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT KILL JESUS. THEN SATAN ENTERED INTO JUDAS ISCARIOT, ONE OF THE TWELVE, AND HE WENT TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS, TO BETRAY HIM TO THEM. AND WHEN THEY HEARD IT, THEY WERE GLAD, AND PROMISED TO GIVE HIM MONEY. AND HE SOUGHT HOW HE MIGHT CONVENIENTLY BETRAY HIM...



---WHEN JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR WAS COME THAT HE SHOULD DEPART OUT OF THIS WORLD TO THE FATHER, HAVING LOVED HIS OWN WHO WERE IN THE WORLD, HE LOVED THEM TO THE END-

AND WHEN THE EVENING WAS COME, HE SAT DOWN WITH THE TWELVE APOSTLES-THEN HE TOOK BREAD AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND SAID---

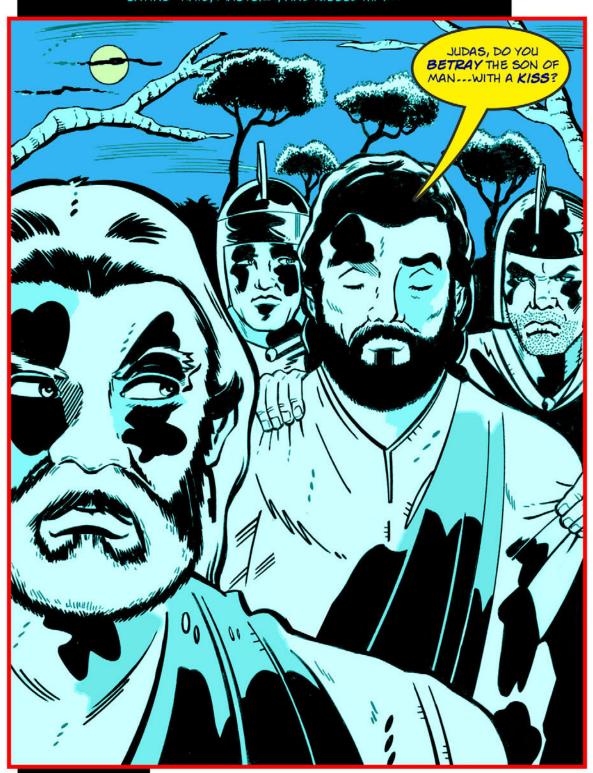
TAKE...EAT- THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU... ---AND THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY---FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS-



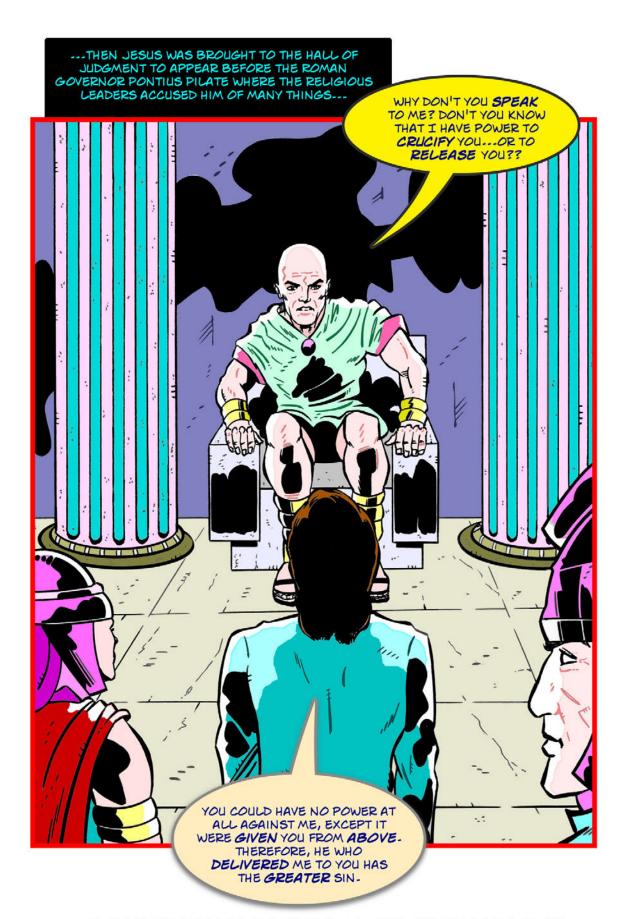
I GIVE TO YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT- THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. BY THIS SHALL ALL PEOPLE KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES- IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. WHEN JESUS HAD SPOKEN THESE WORDS, HE WENT OUT WITH HIS DISCIPLES OVER THE BROOK CEDRON WHERE THERE WAS A GARDEN CALLED GETHSEMANE AND HE SAID TO THEM, "MY SOUL IS EXCEEDING SORROWFUL...EVEN UNTO DEATH. YOU WAIT HERE...WHILE I GO AND PRAY YONDER". AND BEING IN AN AGONY HE PRAYED EARNESTLY...



---THEN JUDAS CAME WITH A GREAT BAND OF MEN ARMED WITH SWORDS AND SPEARS TO ARREST JESUS. AND JUDAS HAD GIVEN THEM A SIGN, SAYING—"WHOEVER I SHALL KISS, THE SAME IS HE; TAKE HIM AND LEAD HIM AWAY".
AND SO, AS SOON AS HE HAD ARRIVED, HE WENT IMMEDIATELY TO JESUS,
SAYING "HAIL, MASTER!"; AND KISSED HIM...

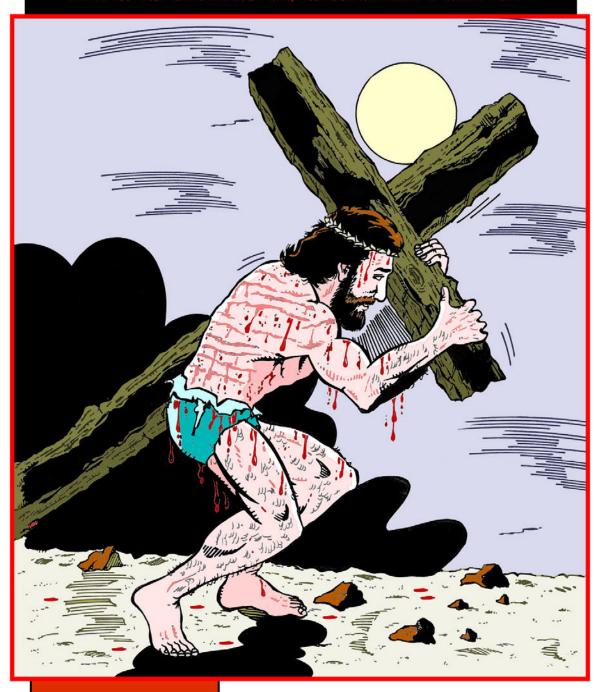


...AND THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON HIM...AND TOOK HIM...AND ALL HIS DISCIPLES FORSOOK HIM AND FLED...



---ALTHOUGH PILATE COULD FIND NO FAULT IN JESUS, THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS PERSUADED THE CROWD TO DEMAND HIS DEATH. AND SO, PILATE, WILLING TO PLEASE THE PEOPLE, DELIVERED JESUS TO THEM TO BE WHIPPED---AND CRUCIFIED---

AND GATHERED AROUND HIM THEIR ENTIRE BAND. THEY STRIPPED HIM AND PUT UPON HIM A PURPLE ROBE. AND WHEN THEY HAD FASHIONED A CROWN OF THORNS THEY PLACED IT ON HIS HEAD AND PUT A WOODEN STAFF IN HIS RIGHT HAND AS THEY BOWED THEIR KNEES BEFORE HIM, MOCKING HIM AND SAYING, "HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!". THEY SPAT ON HIM AND TOOK THE STAFF AND STRUCK HIM ON THE HEAD. AND AFTER THEY HAD RIDICULED HIM, THEY LED HIM AWAY TO CRUCIPY HIM.



---AND HE BEARING HIS CROSS WENT FORTH TO A PLACE CALLED "GOLGOTHA"---"THE PLACE OF A SKULL"---

---AND THERE THEY CRUCIFIED HIM, AND TWO OTHERS WITH HIM, ONE ON EITHER SIDE, AND JESUS IN THE MIDDLE. AND PILATE WROTE A TITLE AND HAD IT PLACED ON THE CROSS. AND ON IT WAS WRITTEN"JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS"---



"HE IS DESPISED AND REJECTED BY MEN --- A MAN OF SORROWS AND ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF: AND WE HID AS IT WERE OUR FACES FROM HIM --- ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE SINS OF US ALL --- "

---FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH---BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE---

---FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED---



FOR THIS PURPOSE DID THE SON OF GOD APPEAR: THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL; AND DELIVER THOSE WHO THROUGH FEAR OF DEATH WERE ALL THEIR LIFETIME SUBJECT TO SLAVERY.

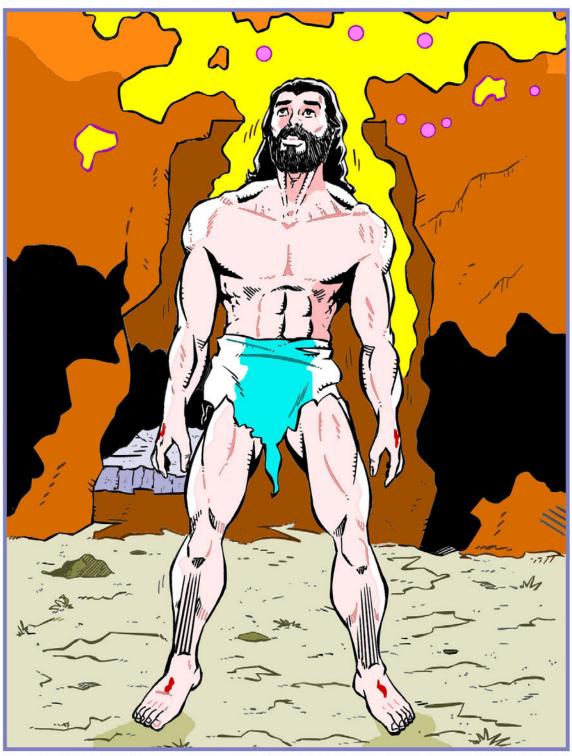


---AND JESUS, WHEN HE HAD CRIED AGAIN WITH A LOUD VOICE YIELDED UP THE SPIRIT---



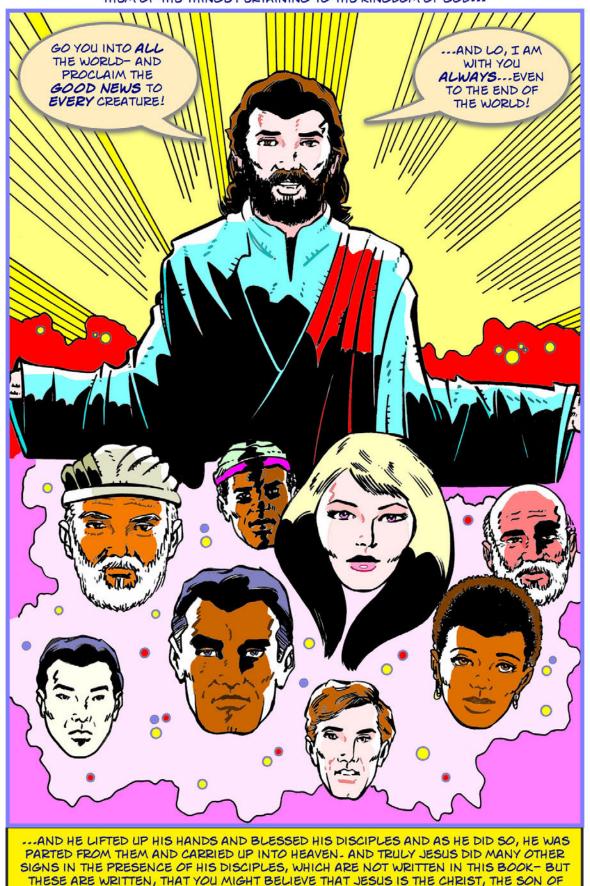
---THERE WAS A GOOD AND JUST MAN NAMED JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA WHO WENT TO PILATE AND BEGGED THE BODY OF JESUS. HE THEN TOOK IT DOWN, WRAPPED IT IN LINEN, AND LAID IT IN A TOMB WHICH HAD BEEN CUT IN ROCK AND ROLLED A STONE AGAINST THE ENTRANCE OF THE TOMB.--

---IN THE END OF THE SABBATH, AS IT BEGAN TO DAWN TOWARD THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, MARY MAGDALENE AND THE OTHER MARY CAME TO SEE THE SEPULCHRE- AND BEHOLD, THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE: FOR THE ANGEL OF THE LORD DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN, AND CAME AND ROLLED BACK THE STONE FROM THE DOOR AND SAT UPON IT- HIS FACE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING AND HIS CLOTHING WHITE AS SNOW---



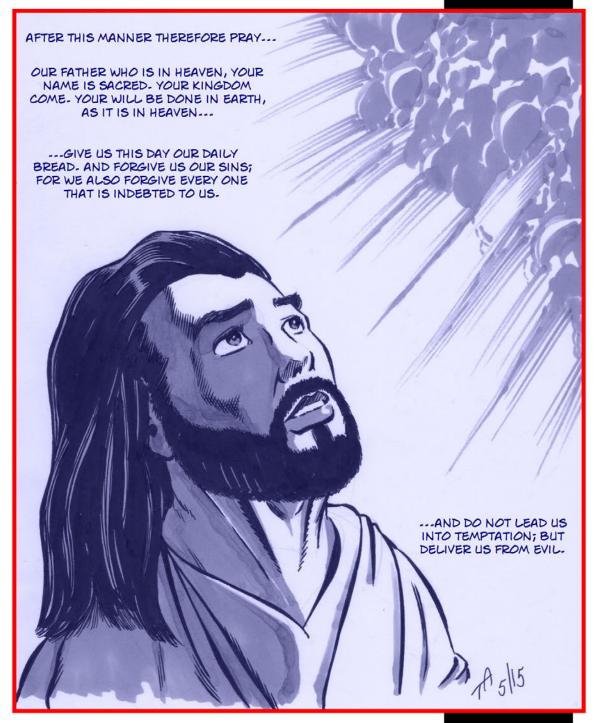
---AND THE ANGEL SAID TO THE WOMEN, "DON'T BE AFRAID: FOR I KNOW THAT YOU SEEK JESUS, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE: FOR HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID. COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD LAY. AND GO QUICKLY, AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD; AND BEHOLD, HE GOES BEFORE YOU INTO GALILEE; THERE YOU SHALL SEE HIM". AND THEY DEPARTED QUICKLY FROM THE SEPULCHRE WITH FEAR AND GREAT JOY; AND RAN TO BRING HIS DISCIPLES WORD.

---AND JESUS SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE ALIVE AFTER HIS SUFFERING BY MANY INFALLIBLE PROOFS, BEING SEEN OF HIS APOSTLES FOR FORTY DAYS, AND HE SPOKE TO THEM OF THE THINGS PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD---



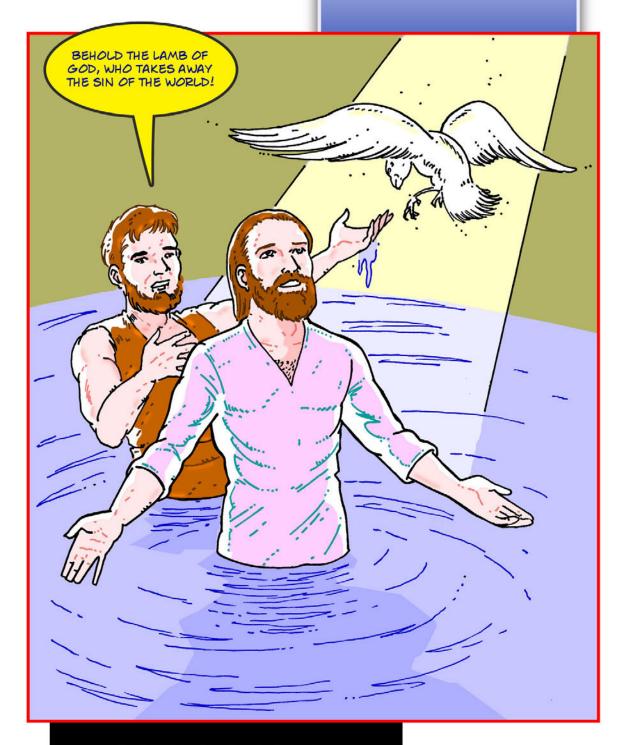
GOD; AND THAT BELIEVING YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME.

Cight of the world Portrait Gallery

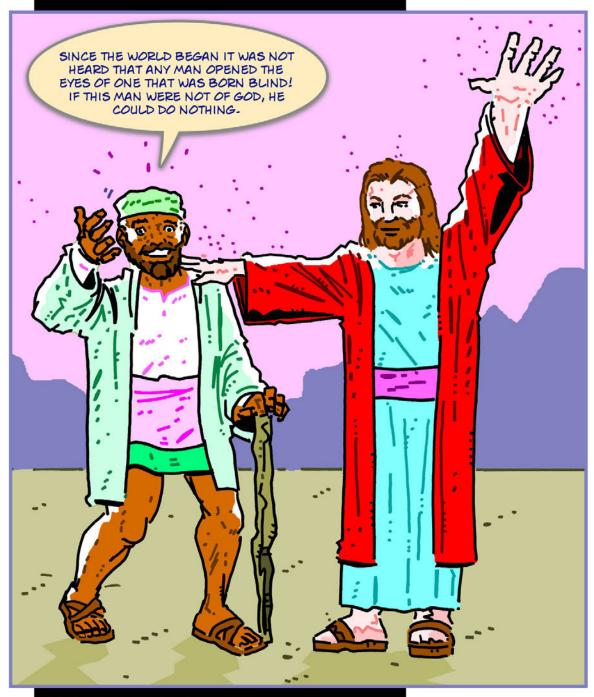


---FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER- AMEN-

ART BY TOM AHEARN ---THEN JESUS COMES FROM
GALILEE TO JORDAN UNTO JOHN,
TO BE BAPTIZED BY HIMAND JESUS HIMSELF BEGAN TO BE
ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OF AGE---

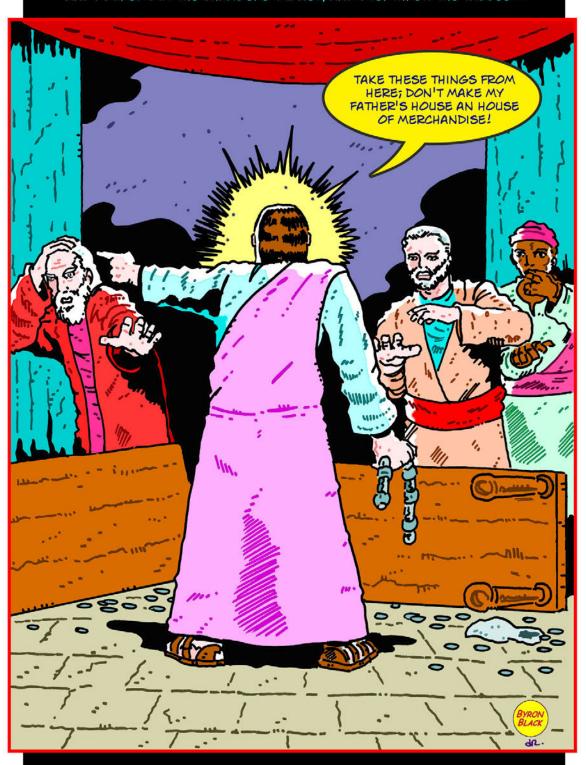


THE BLIND RECEIVE THEIR SIGHT, AND THE LAME WALK, THE LEPERS ARE CLEANSED, AND THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED UP, AND THE POOR HAVE THE GOOD NEWS PROCLAIMED TO THEM.



ART BY CARL TAYLOR. INKED BY JR.

...AND THE JEWS' PASSOVER WAS AT HAND, AND JESUS WENT UP TO JERUSALEM, AND FOUND IN THE TEMPLE THOSE THAT SOLD OXEN AND SHEEP AND DOVES, AND THE CHANGERS OF MONEY SITTING: AND WHEN HE HAD MADE A SCOURGE OF SMALL CORDS, HE DROVE THEM ALL OUT OF THE TEMPLE, AND THE SHEEP, AND THE OXEN, AND POURED OUT THE CHANGERS' MONEY, AND OVERTHREW THE TABLES...



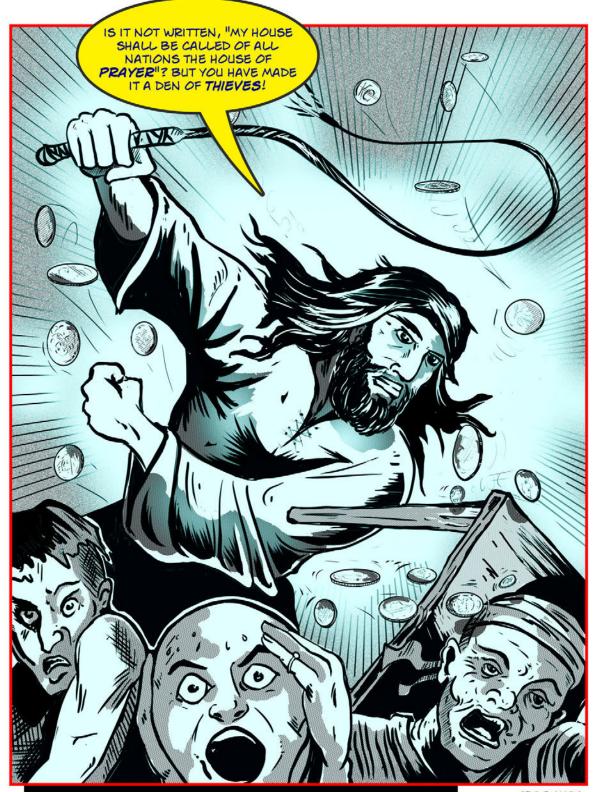
JESUS COMPELLED HIS DISCIPLES TO GET INTO A SHIP, AND TO GO BEFORE HIM TO THE OTHER SIDE, WHILE HE SENT THE MULTITUDES AWAY. AND WHEN HE HAD SENT THE MULTITUDES AWAY, HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN APART TO PRAY: AND WHEN THE EVENING WAS COME, HE WAS THERE ALONE. BUT THE SHIP WAS NOW IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA, TOSSED WITH WAVES: FOR THE WIND WAS AGAINST THEM. AND JESUS WENT TO THEM, WALKING ON THE SEA. AND WHEN THE DISCIPLES SAW HIM WALKING ON THE SEA, THEY WERE TROUBLED, SAYING, "IT IS A SPIRIT!"; AND THEY CRIED OUT FOR FEAR. BUT IMMEDIATELY JESUS SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING...





ART BY LARRY BLAKE

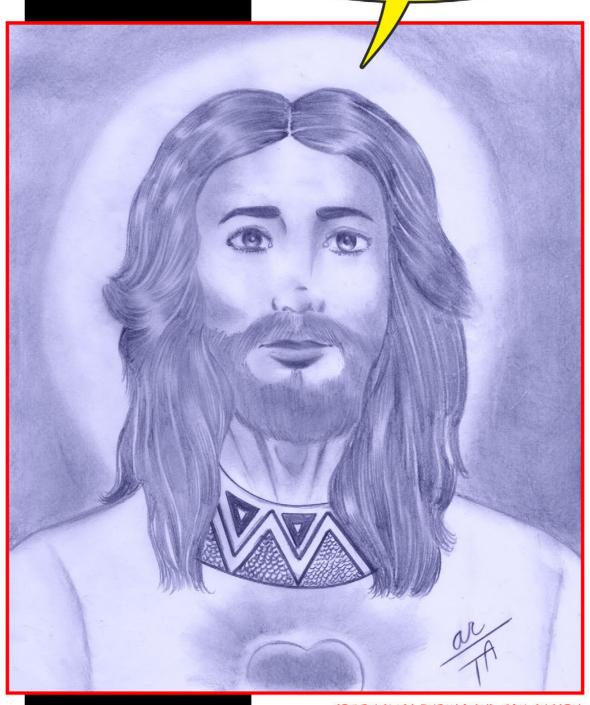
---AND JESUS WENT INTO THE TEMPLE OF GOD, AND CAST OUT ALL THOSE THAT SOLD AND BOUGHT IN THE TEMPLE, AND OVERTHREW THE TABLES OF THE MONEYCHANGERS, AND THE SEATS OF THOSE THAT SOLD DOVES, AND SAID TO THEM---



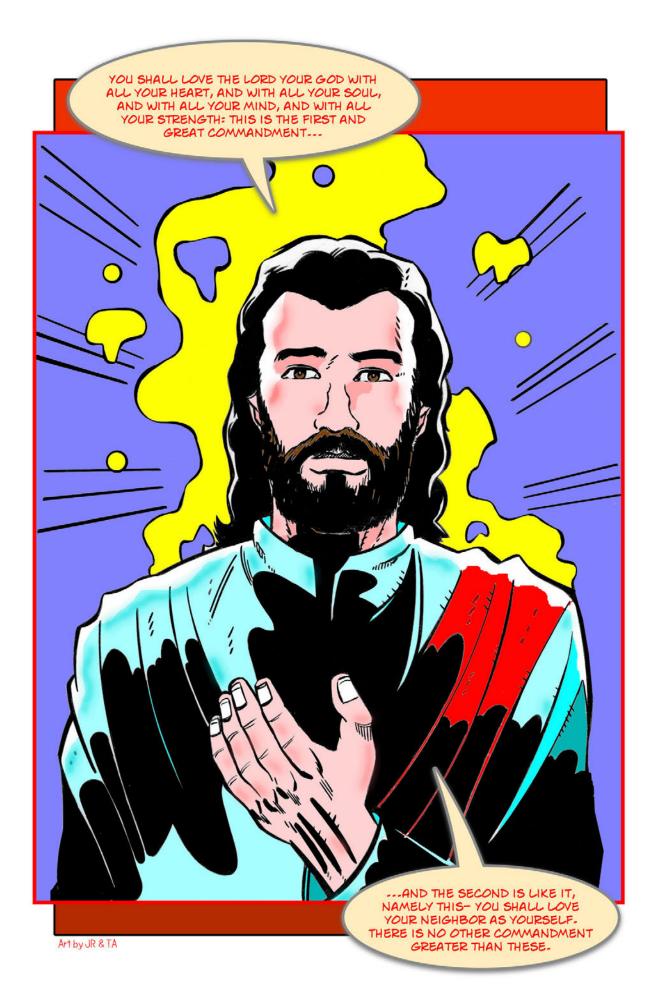
---AND THE SCRIBES AND CHIEF PRIESTS HEARD IT, AND SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT DESTROY HIM: FOR THEY FEARED HIM, BECAUSE ALL THE PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHINGS---

ART BY KEN COTRONA

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: HE THAT FOLLOWS ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.



ART BY ALISA RUBINO AND TOM AHEARN



Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them shall fall to the ground apart from your Father.

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows.



Art by Luisa Felix