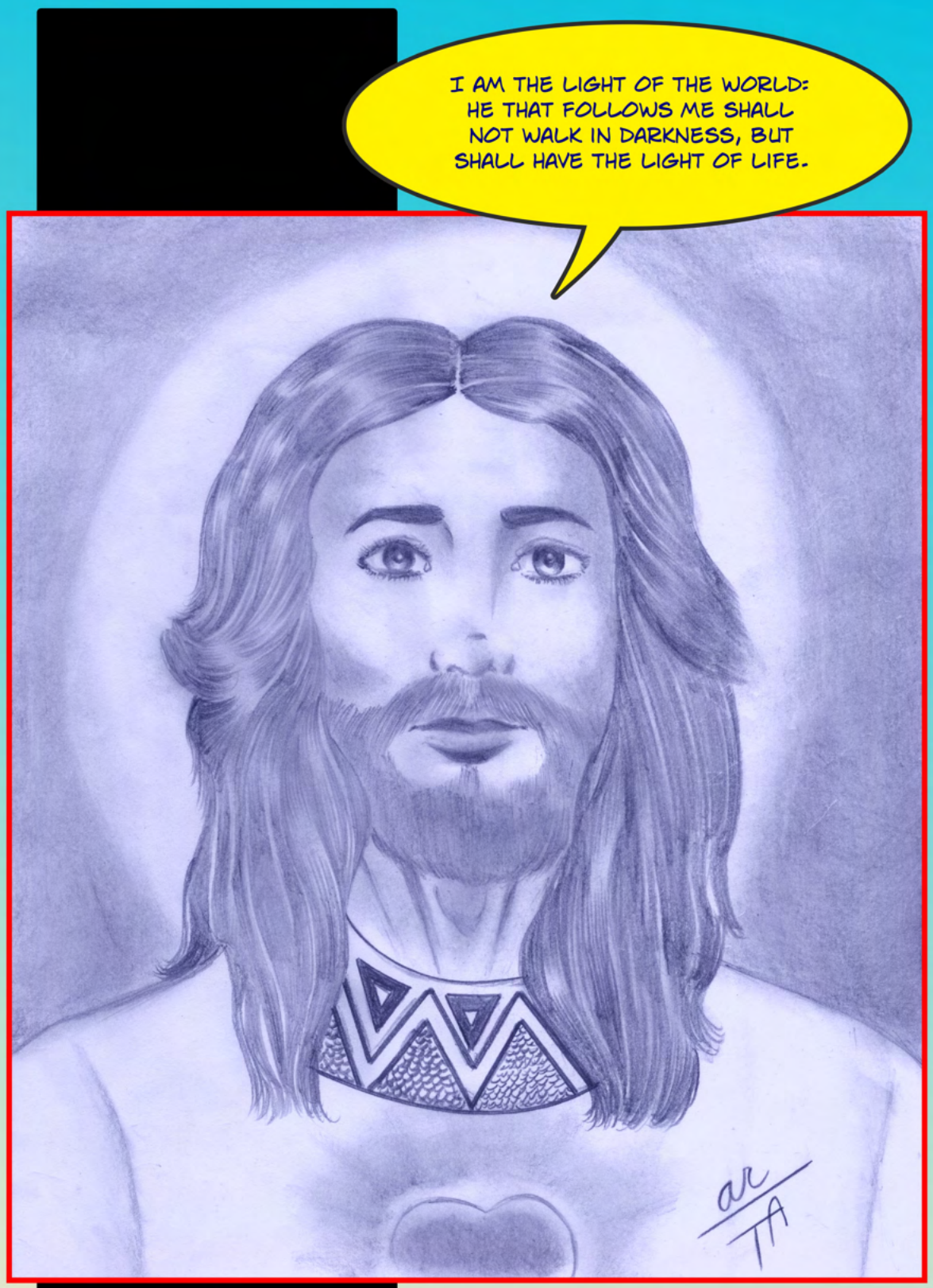
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



ART BY ALISA RUBINO
AND TOM AHEARN

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
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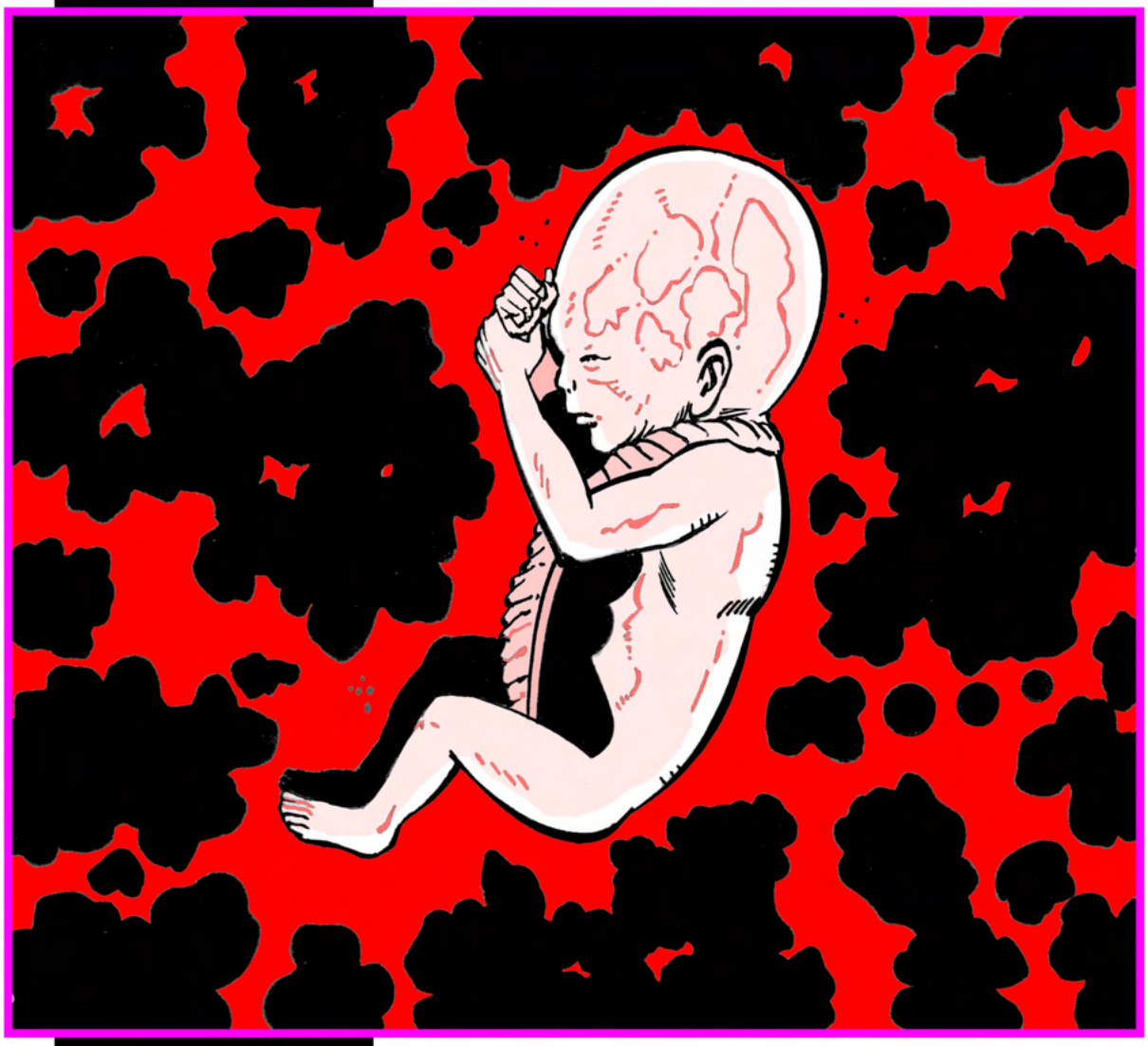
Prelude

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...

...AND SO, MARY GAVE BIRTH TO HER 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...

(THE NAME OF JESUS IN HEBREW IS "YAHSHUA" WHICH MEANS "YAH IS SALVATION". YAH OR YAHWEH IS THE PERSONAL NAME OF GOD)

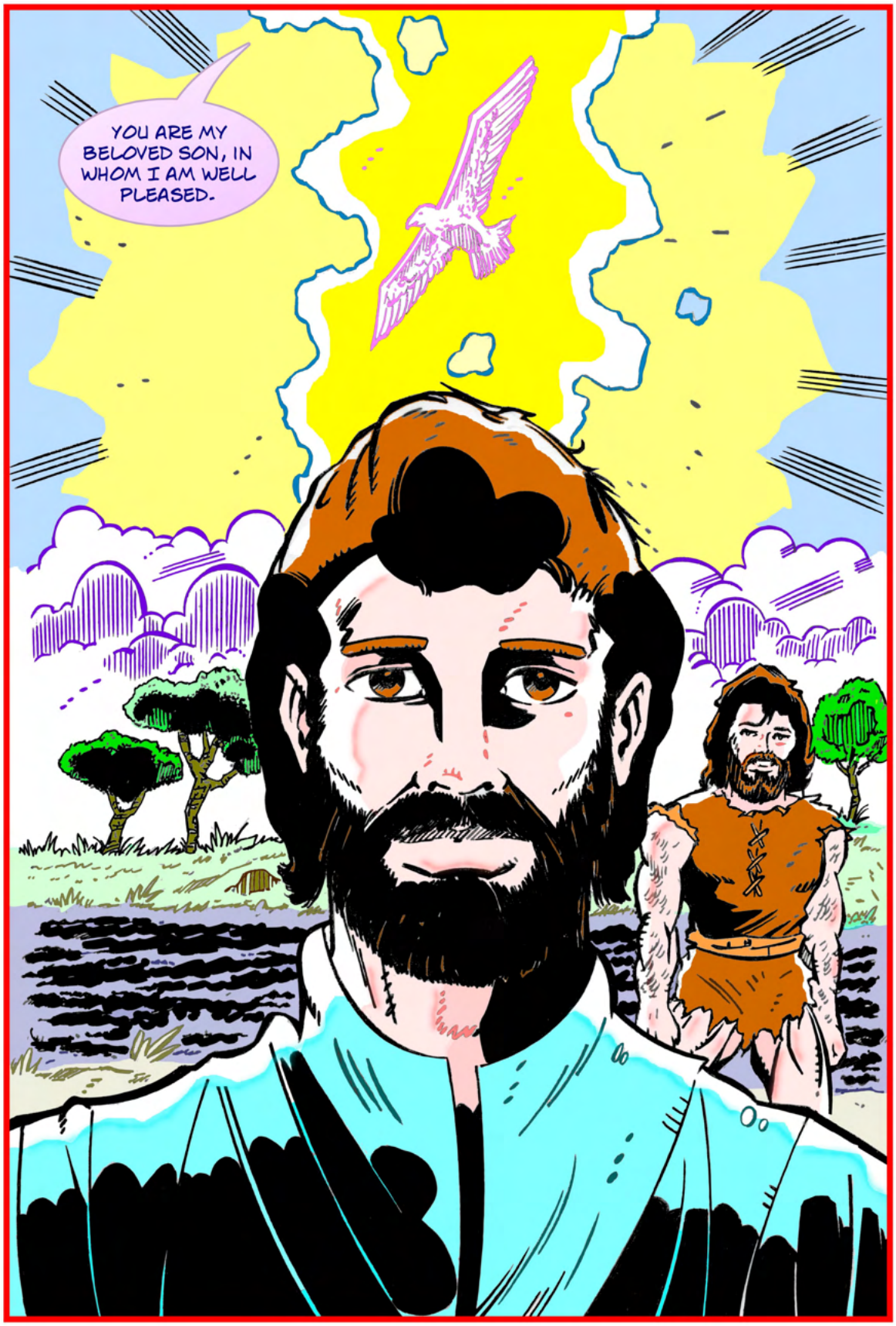
NOW WHEN HE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, HE AND HIS PARENTS WENT UP TO JERUSALEM FOR THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER. AND AFTER THIS, AS THEY WERE RETURNING HOME, THE CHILD JESUS REMAINED BEHIND IN JERUSALEM; BUT JOSEPH AND HIS MOTHER DID NOT KNOW IT, SUPPOSING HIM TO HAVE BEEN WITH OTHERS IN THEIR GROUP. BUT WHEN 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...

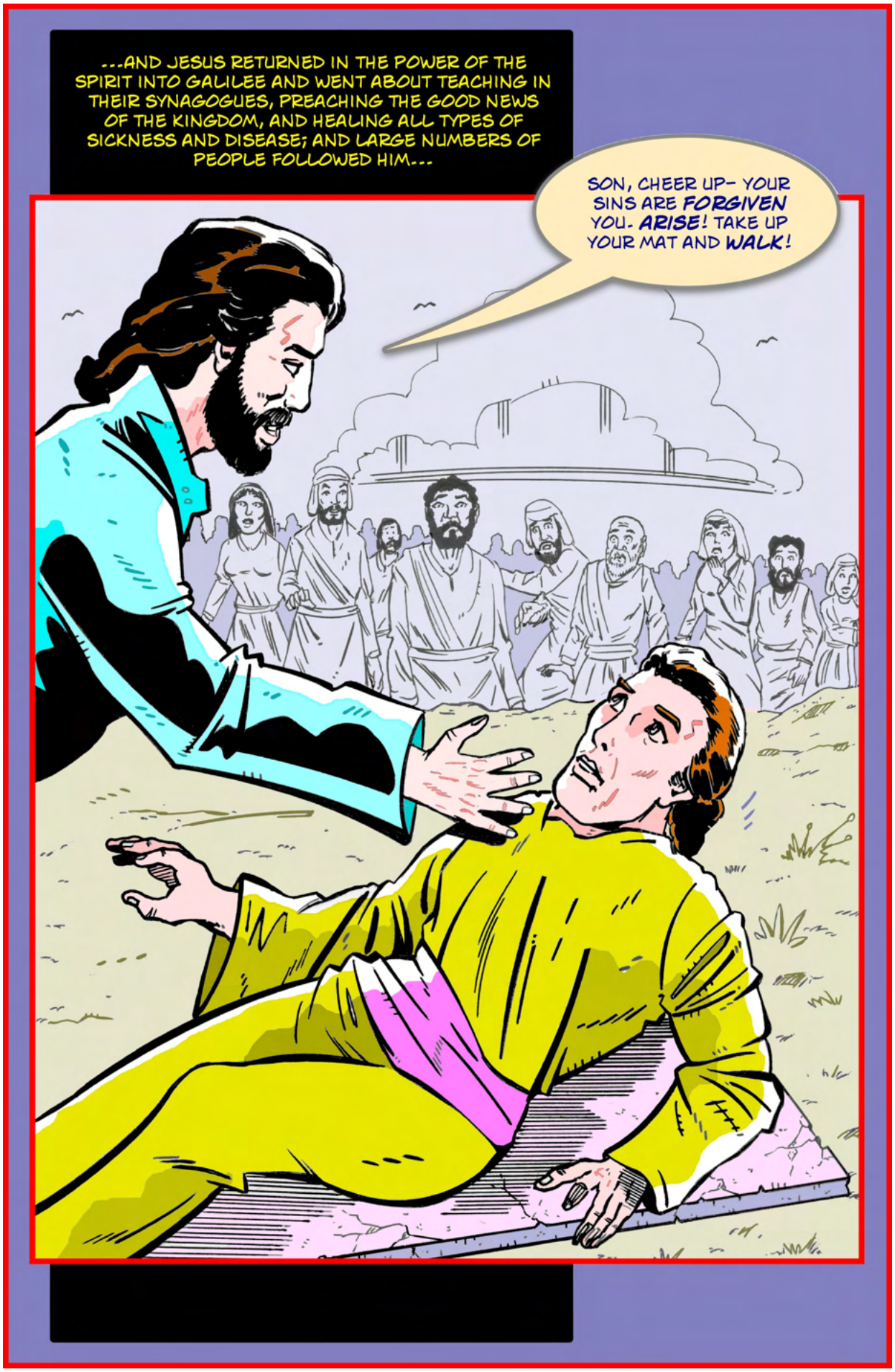
...AND JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM AND STATURE, AND IN FAVOUR WITH GOD AND MAN...
Jesus was a carpenter, He built things out of wood; One day someone built a cross for Him, so He could build a kingdom for God.

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...



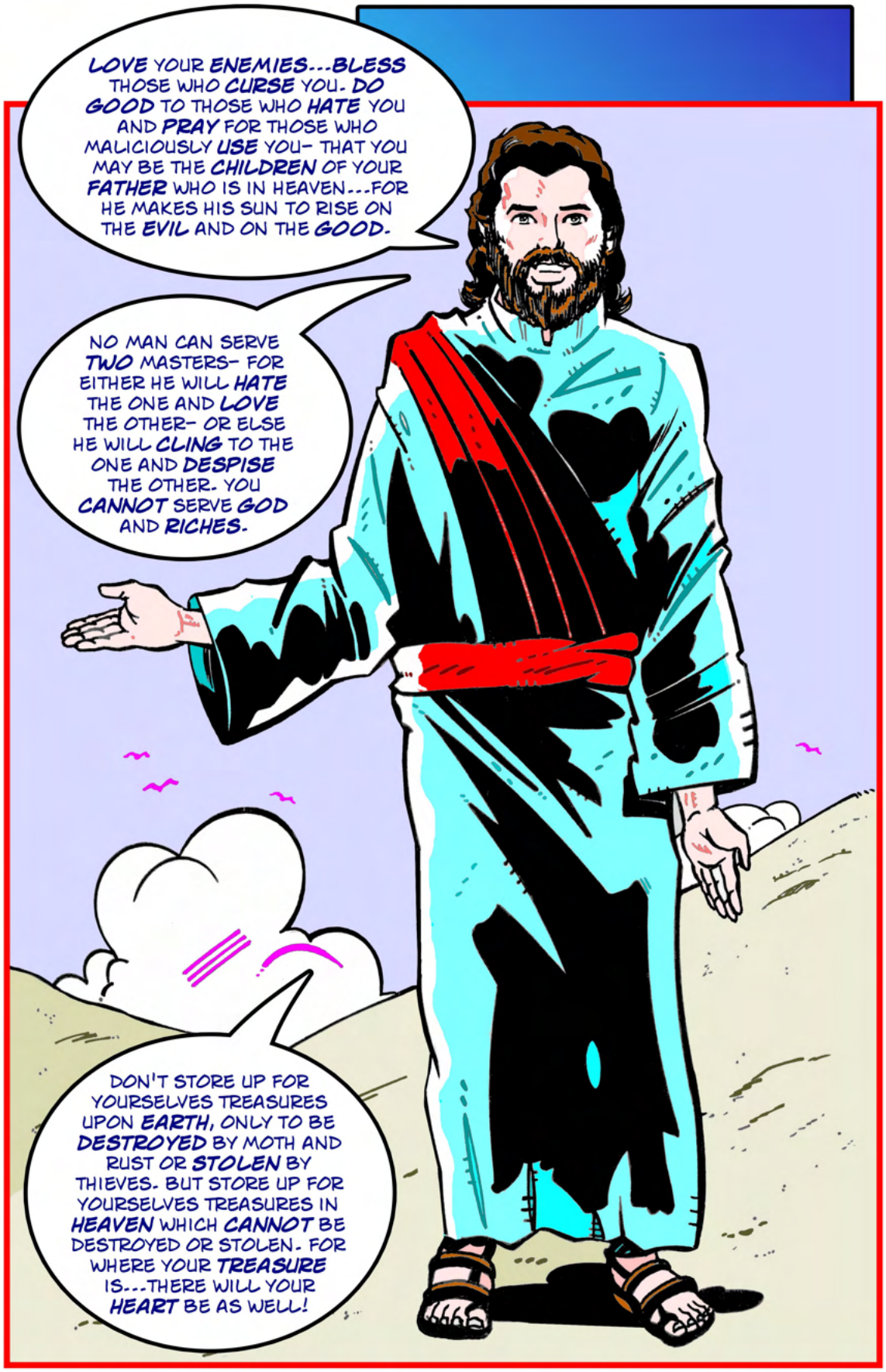
...THEN JESUS WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT UP INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL. AND WHEN HE HAD FASTED FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS HE WAS AFTERWARDS HUNGRY...
IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BECOME BREAD!
IT IS WRITTEN: "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE...BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD!"
...AND WHEN THE DEVIL HAD ENDED ALL THE TEMPTATION, HE DEPARTED FROM HIM FOR AWHILE...


...AND JESUS RETURNED IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT INTO GALILEE AND WENT ABOUT TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM, AND HEALING ALL TYPES OF SICKNESS AND DISEASE; AND LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE FOLLOWED HIM...
SON, CHEER UP- YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN YOU. ARISE! TAKE UP YOUR MAT AND WALK!

...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.

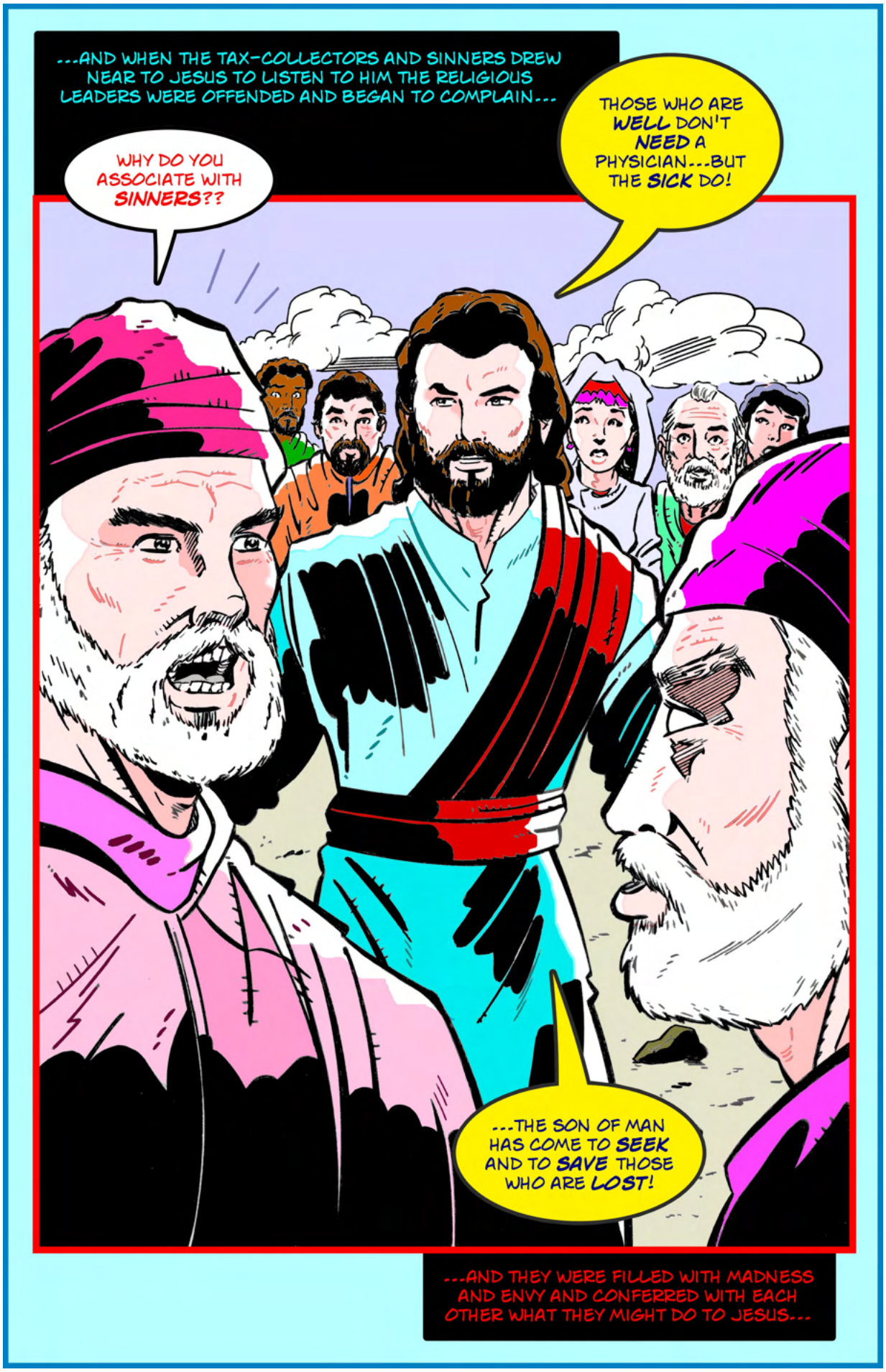
...AND WHEN IT WAS DAY, HE CALLED TO HIM HIS DISCIPLES: AND OF THEM HE CHOSE TWELVE, WHOM HE ALSO NAMED "APOSTLES"; SIMON (WHOM HE ALSO NAMED "PETER"), AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, JAMES AND JOHN, PHILIP AND BARTHOLOMEW, MATTHEW AND THOMAS, JAMES THE SON OF ALPHAEUS, AND SIMON CALLED "ZELOTES", AND JUDAS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

...GREAT MULTITUDES FOLLOWED JESUS...AND SEEING THEM HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN, AND WHEN HE HAD SAT DOWN, HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND HE OPENED HIS MOUTH AND TAUGHT THEM, SAYING...
BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT- FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN- FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.
BLESSED ARE THE MEEK- FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS- FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.
BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL- FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART- FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.
BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS- FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS- FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.



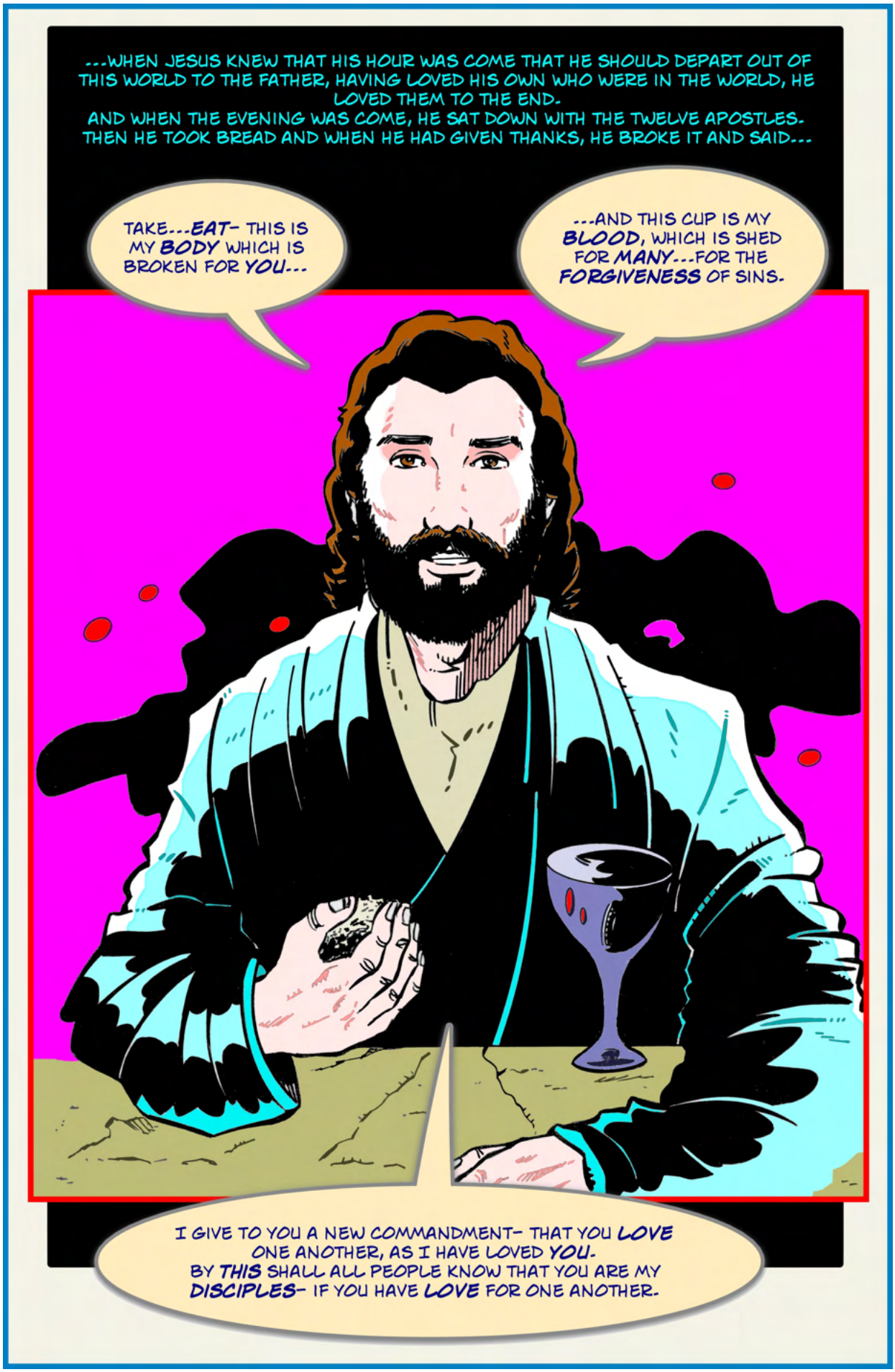
...AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT WHEN JESUS HAD FINISHED THESE SAYINGS, THE PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHING- FOR HE TAUGHT THEM AS ONE HAVING AUTHORITY...

...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...
...TRULY I SAY TO YOU- WHOEVER SHALL NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A LITTLE CHILD, HE SHALL NOT ENTER THEREIN.


---AND WHEN THE TAX-COLLECTORS AND SINNERS DREW NEAR TO JESUS TO LISTEN TO HIM THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WERE OFFENDED AND BEGAN TO COMPLAIN---
WHY DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH SINNERS??
THOSE WHO ARE WELL DON'T NEED A PHYSICIAN---BUT THE SICK DO!
---THE SON OF MAN HAS COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THOSE WHO ARE LOST!
---AND THEY WERE FILLED WITH MADNESS AND ENVY AND CONFERRED WITH EACH OTHER WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO JESUS---

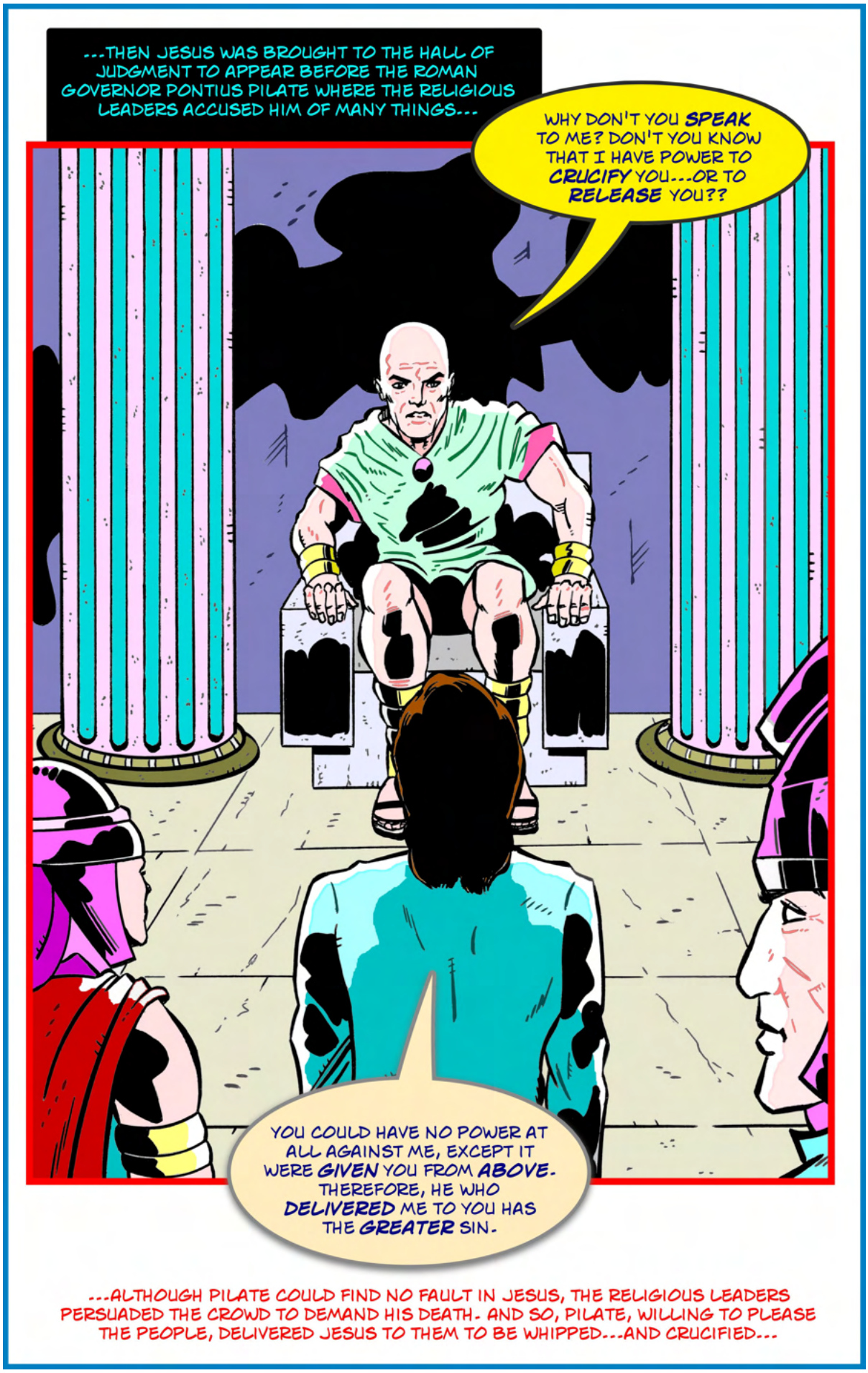
IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.
FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?
ENTER IN AT THE SMALL GATE: FOR WIDE IS THE GATE, AND BROAD IS THE WAY THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND THERE ARE MANY WHO GO IN THERE: BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW IS THE WAY WHICH LEADS TO LIFE...AND FEW THERE ARE WHO FIND IT.

...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---
JUDAS, DO YOU BETRAY THE SON OF MAN---WITH A KISS?
---AND THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON HIM---AND TOOK HIM---AND ALL HIS DISCIPLES FORSOOK HIM AND FLED---


...THEN JESUS WAS BROUGHT TO THE HALL OF JUDGMENT TO APPEAR BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR PONTIUS PILATE WHERE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ACCUSED HIM OF MANY THINGS...
WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK TO ME? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE POWER TO CRUCIFY YOU...OR TO RELEASE YOU??
YOU COULD HAVE NO POWER AT ALL AGAINST ME, EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN YOU FROM ABOVE. THEREFORE, HE WHO DELIVERED ME TO YOU HAS THE GREATER SIN.
...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...

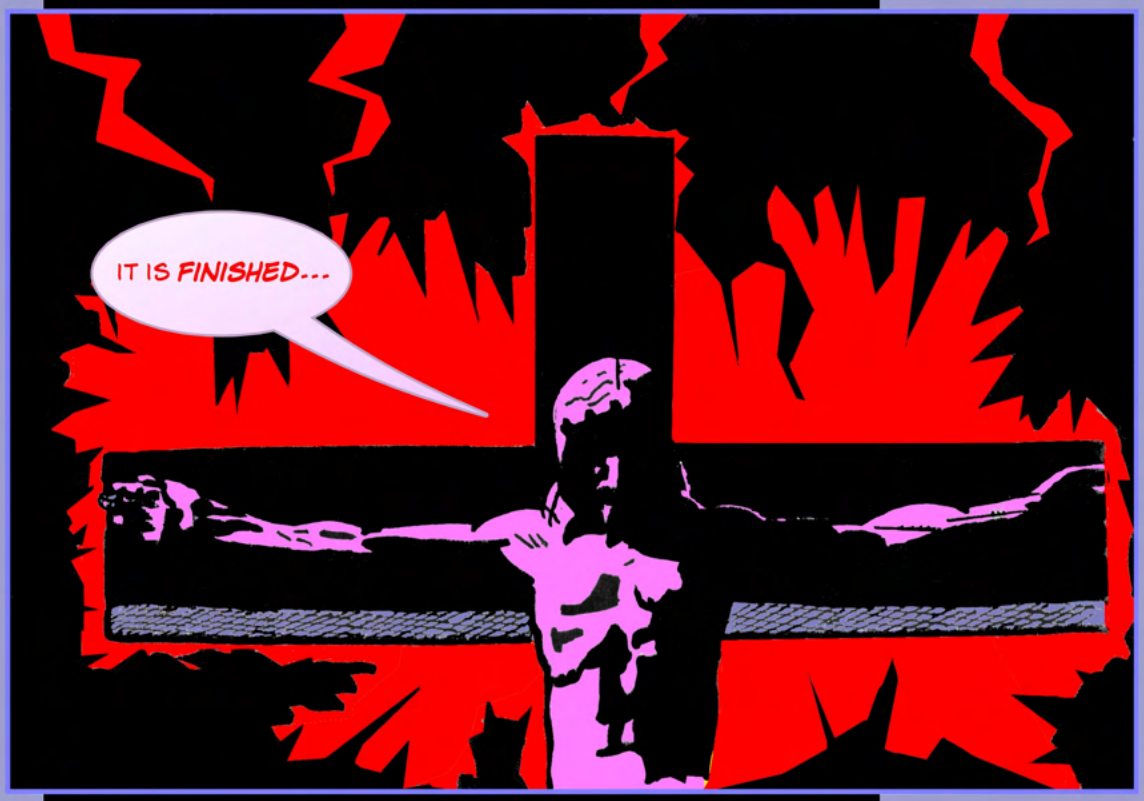
...THEN THE SOLDIERS OF THE GOVERNOR TOOK JESUS INTO THE COMMON HALL AND GATHERED AROUND HIM THEIR ENTIRE BAND. THEY STRIPPED HIM AND PUT UPON HIM A PURPLE ROBE. AND WHEN THEY HAD FASHIONED A CROWN OF THORNS THEY PLACED IT ON HIS HEAD AND PUT A WOODEN STAFF IN HIS RIGHT HAND AS THEY BOWED THEIR KNEES 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 CRUCIFY HIM...

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

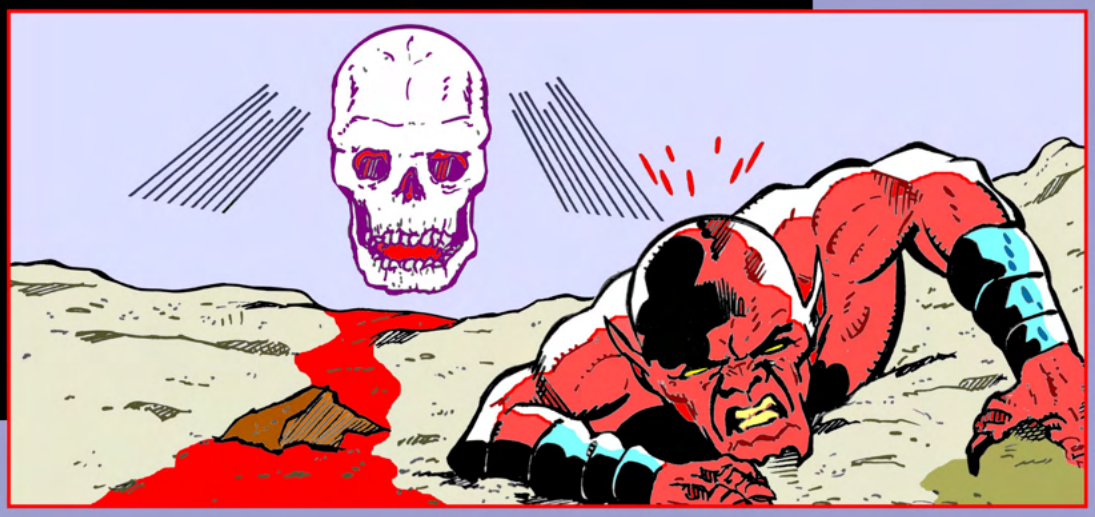
...AND THERE THEY CRUCIFIED HIM, AND TWO OTHERS WITH HIM, ONE ON EITHER SIDE, AND JESUS IN THE MIDDLE. AND PILATE WROTE A TITLE AND HAD IT PLACED ON THE CROSS. AND ON IT WAS WRITTEN- "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS"...
FATHER, FORGIVE THEM...FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO...
...AS THE PROPHET YESHAYAH HAD FORETOLD:
"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..."

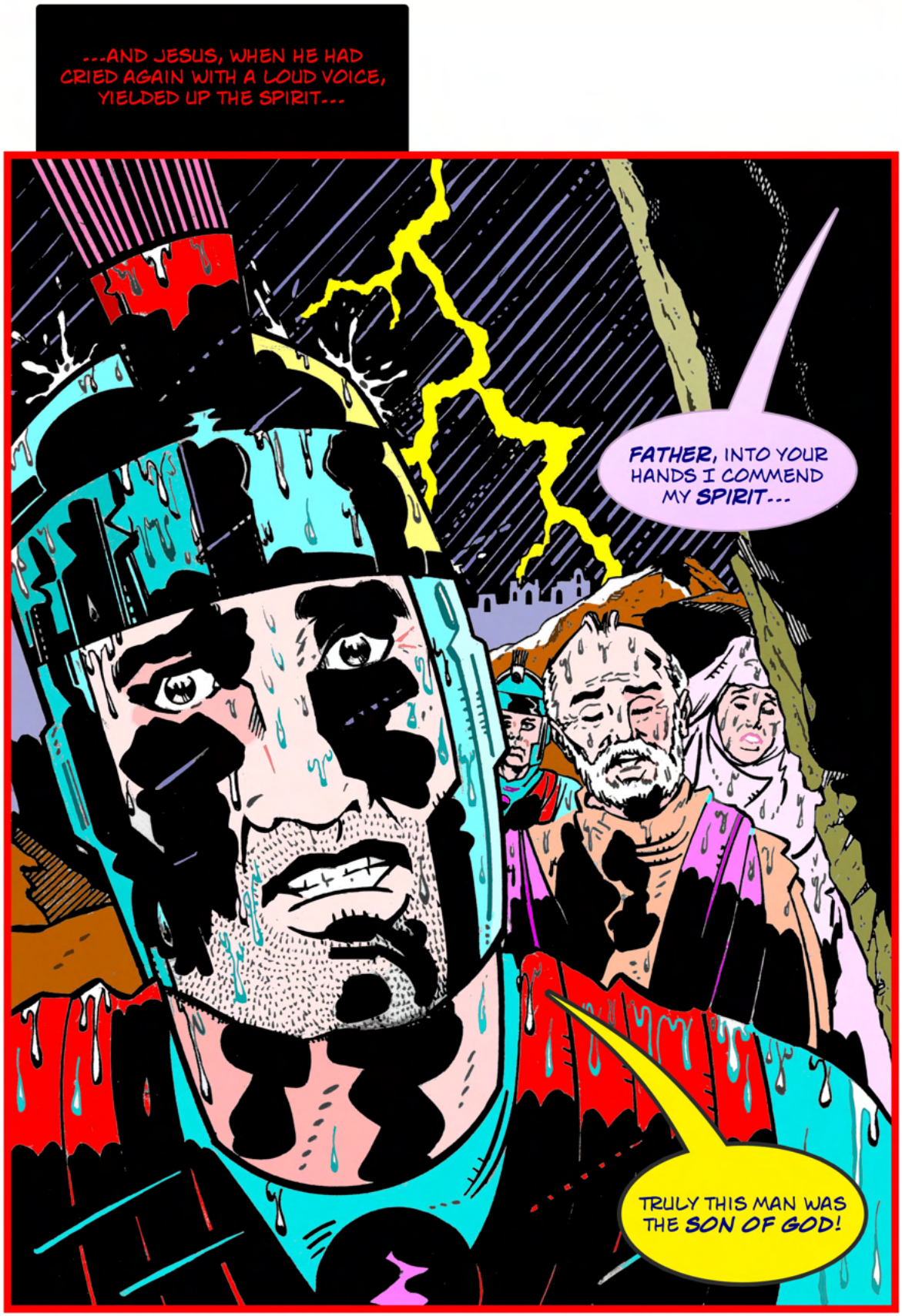
...FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH...BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE...

...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.





...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...

...AND HE LIFTED UP HIS HANDS AND BLESSED HIS DISCIPLES AND AS HE DID SO, HE WAS PARTED FROM THEM AND CARRIED UP INTO HEAVEN. AND TRULY JESUS DID MANY OTHER SIGNS IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHICH ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK- BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN, THAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD; AND THAT BELIEVING YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME.