

The Chosen – Season 4
Week 2 – April 16 & 17, 2024
Second Half Episode 1 and ½ of Episode 2

Season 4 Episode 1 Review

- The celebration of Purim
- Birth story of John the Baptizer, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth and Mary's visit to them before his birth
- Preparations for Herod's party – intense dance by Salome – ruthless insistence by Queen Herodias
- Joanna - Read Luke 8:1-3, 23:55-24:12

Joanna is mentioned in the Bible only in the Gospel of Luke. The Herod that Joanna's husband was steward for was the tetrarch of Galilee, so Joanna herself must have lived in Tiberias, the capital of Galilee. Scholars believe Joanna may have been a key source of much of the detailed information Luke included in his writings about the life of Jesus.

- Judas and Simon the Zealot washing clothes with discussions of Jesus' mission and funding it
- Zebedee's anointing oil business takes off
- Joanna is visited by Chuza and smells the rat that's coming through the scheming of Herodias
- Herodias - the unlawful wife of the tetrarch Herod Antipas and had formerly been the wife of Herod's brother, Philip AND was the granddaughter of Herod the Great, making her also a niece to both of her husbands, Philip and Antipas.

Read Matthew 14:1-12 & Mark 6:13-29

Season 4 Episode 1 continued

- Thomas and Ramah – “unorthodox” arrangement references

Ruth - Moabite woman who returned to Israel as the widow of an Israelite man. Returned with her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi, who had also lost her husband - lived together in a humble situation. Boaz was a landowner where Ruth came to find grain. JEWISH MARRIAGE LAW - Naomi noted that Boaz was a close relative who, according to Jewish law, had the right to marry Ruth after the death of her husband. Naomi encouraged Ruth to go to Boaz in the evening and present herself willing to accept a marriage proposal from him. When she did, he was pleased, yet noted that there was one relative who was closer in line to marry Ruth. The next day, Boaz met with this relative and presented the situation. The relative turned down the offer as he felt it would cause harm to his own family situation. Boaz then made a commitment in front of the town's leaders that he would take Ruth as his wife. Boaz and Ruth were married and soon had a son named Obed. Naomi's misfortune had turned to joy as she became a grandmother. Obed would later become the grandfather of King David, who would also serve as an ancestor of Jesus Christ. Ruth is one of four women specifically named in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

David – Merab the Philistine (NO) – Michal (100/200 foreskins dowery) – Abigail (while David fled from Saul/widow of man David swore to kill, but didn't / God did) – Ahinoam (similar to Abigail) - Maacah, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah (Scripture does not give much detail about these four wives other than the fact they all bore sons who caused much grief and strife to David while he dwelt in Hebron) – and then there's **Bathsheba**

Mary and Joseph

- Read Matthew 22:1-9 & Revelation 19:6-9 – Marriage Banquet
- The preface to most Jewish prayer: Zechariah speaks / prays ... “blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe” – table prayer – night time – morning – getting dressed – washing your face / hands
- Read Genesis 37:29-35 & Esther 4:1 – Tearing garments, sackcloth & ashes

Season 4 Episode 2

- Chains Loosed
- Shiva

The Talmud (Mishna + Gemara) says that the practice of sitting shiva, or "sitting seven days", first appears in the Torah. Genesis 7:10 is cited as the earliest instance of shiva, when the waters of the flood "came to pass" after seven days of mourning for Methuselah, the oldest man in the world. Genesis 50:10 also mentions a seven-day mourning period for Joseph for his father, Jacob.

The word shiva comes from the Hebrew word sheva, which means seven, and the tradition is meant to provide a time for spiritual and emotional healing. During shiva, mourners stay at home and observe rituals, such as:

- * Sitting on low stools
- * Avoiding work, school, and other outside activities
- * Avoiding shaving and bathing for pleasure
- * Avoiding wearing leather shoes
- * Cleaning their clothes
- * Eating simple, easily digestible food, such as lentil stew, deli meats, salads, and hot or cold beverages
- * Tearing clothing as an expression of grief
- * Washing hands as a means of purification

The primary purpose of shiva is to create an environment of comfort and community for mourners. During shiva, mourners come together in one family's home to offer their condolences and support.

- Read Luke 12:49-53 - Division
- Read 2 Kings 13:20-21 – Elisha’s bones
- Banias - Caesarea Philippi – Pan – Augusteum (see map next page)
In Old Testament times, Caesarea Philippi, then known as Banias, sat at the base of Mount Herman. The early Canaanites worshiped Baal at Banias, and prisoners were thrown into the “Gates of Hell”, to determine guilt for a crime. Ferocious waters gushed from a very large spring of this limestone cave. Baal worship – Herod the Great built temple for Augustus – Herod Philip renamed after himself
- Read Luke 9:18-20 & Mark 8:27-29 & Matthew 16:13-23





- Pan

PAN (Pan), the great god of flocks and shepherds among the Greeks. His unseen presence aroused PANic in those who traversed his realm. He was from his birth perfectly developed, and had the same appearance as afterwards, that is, he had his horns, beard, puck nose, tail, goats' feet, and was covered with hair, so that his mother ran away with fear when she saw him ; but Hermes carried him into Olympus, where all (pantes) the gods were delighted with him, and especially Dionysus. He was brought up by nymphs.

One historian/theologian put it this way:

“Jesus was standing on a road in an area littered with the temples of the Syrian gods, a place where the Greek gods looked down, a place where the most important river in Judaism sprang to life, a place where the white marble splendor of the home of Caesar-worship dominated the landscape. And here, of all places, He stands and asks men who they believe Him to be. Peter boldly answers that He is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16)... it is as if Jesus deliberately set Himself against the background of the world's religions in all their splendor and glory and demanded to be compared with them.”

- Spring from below redirected by an earthquake
- Who do you say that I am?

CAESAREA PHILIPPI, GEOGRAPHY, AND GREEK MYTHOLOGY

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Greek mythology, Palestinian geography, and the biblical narrative come together in a most unusual way at ancient Banias, better known as Caesarea Philippi.

In the first century, Pan was known as the only god to have died “in our own time.” Specifically, the god is recorded as having died during the reign of Tiberias, the Emperor of Rome at the time of Jesus' death. “Pan the great is dead,” shouted a sailor, Tammuz, sailing off the coast of Italy. There were reports of great lamentation. When Tiberias heard of it, he believed it a mistake. It could not be that the great son of Hermes and Penelope was dead, he concluded, but a lesser demon by the same name.

Banias or Banyas---Arabic spellings of Paneas---is the ancient city at the foot of Mt. Hermon dedicated to the god, Pan. (Herod Philip, a son of Herod the Great, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after himself.) The ruins of a temple dedicated to Pan are nearly obliterated now, yet the cave in which the god's great statue stood is still there, and votive niches in the cliff wall also remain.

In the same way that Banias is named for Pan, Mt. Hermon is named for Pan's father, Hermes. The mountain straddles the modern Israeli-Syrian border. It rises to a height of over 9000 feet, and in the rainy months of December to March, is often snow-capped. (There is even a ski resort there now!) Only on a clear day---unusual during the winter---can you see it from the city of Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee (the Kinneret). More often the view of it is obliterated even at close range in cold months by haze or mist or dense fog.

The god Hermes was the son of Zeus and Maia. Being best known probably as “the messenger of the gods,” perhaps it is not surprising that Hermes' name (Mercury in Roman mythology) came to the English language in the word hermeneutic, which has to do of course with linguistic studies and interpretation and translation, most often associated with biblical exegesis. However, Hermes was also the conductor of the souls of the dead to Hades, the place in Greek mythology where dead peoples' souls go to wander around in boredom.

Pan---the Greek word for “all”--- was among other things the guardian of thresholds. His job was to frighten you when you reached a threshold in life. That is where we get the word pan-ic! It was his job to panic anyone approaching a threshold, especially that of a cave.

Putting this together, in the Cave of Pan at Caesarea Philippi stands a statue of Pan, guarding the threshold to the cave. This cave is in Mt. Hermon, named for Hermes, the conductor of souls to Hades. The Cave of Pan logically came to be known as the “gateway to Hades.” So, if you were to die and you did not get panicked by Pan, your soul would cross the threshold of the cave, and Hermes would take you to Hades from there! That was the mythology of this beautiful, natural setting. Interestingly, Pan was also the god of the pastoral and natural, thus our theological terms pantheism and panentheism. We in the English speaking world also have Pan to thank for pandemonium and pandering.

Josephus, the first century historian, wrote of Banias and the Cave of Pan. He recorded that the depth of the waters in the cave were beyond measure. The waters he wrote of are today called the Banias Spring. They are one of three major sources of the Jordan River. The water no longer comes from within the cave. An earthquake may have caused a cave-in. Instead, the water flows from beneath the rocks and runs in front of the cave. It flows into the Jordan, then the Sea of Galilee, then the Jordan again, and finally the Dead Sea.

Jesus' time at Caesarea Philippi was in a way a Gethsemane in the north. He had left Herod Antipas' territory. Four reasons for heading north are mentioned in the Gospels. Jesus had just heard of the death of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:9-13); Herod was looking for him (Luke 9:9); the disciples were tired from their missionary journeys (Mark 6:30-31); and the crowds had tried to take him and make him king by force (John 6:15). Any one of these would be reason enough to bug out, but taken together, it is easy to see why Jesus needed time away.