

# Origin Stories

## Scripture

John 1:1-42, Luke 4:16-19, Isaiah 61:1-2, Isaiah 53:1-5

## Script

**The Cast of Characters:** John, Jesus, Narrator Peter, John the Baptist, Isaiah, Priest, Levite, Andrew, Peter (not narrator), James

**The Scene:** Everywhere, Bethany beyond the Jordan River, Peter's encampment nearby  
*(Lights come up on our Readers/Characters, all in a row (perhaps a slight curve will help with eye contact). The characters should be placed in such a way that the reading is most powerful, and grouped such that the characters can have the most eye contact possible. "Narrator Peter" is apart from the group, and he will remain the main narrator throughout this series. The other "Peter" will perform the character's dialogue.)*

**John:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Jesus:** I was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Me, and without Me was not any thing made that was made. In Me was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Narrator Peter:** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

**John the Baptist:** I, John the Baptist, came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through me. I was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**John:** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

**Narrator Peter:** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

**Jesus:** I came to My own, and My own people did not receive Me. But to all who did receive Me, who believed in My name, I gave the right to become children of God...

**John:** ...who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Jesus:** And I, the Word, became flesh and dwelt among you...

**John:** ...and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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**John the Baptist:** This was He of whom I, John The Baptist, said "He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me."

**John:** For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

**Jesus:** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Me.

**John:** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side,

**Jesus:** I have made God known.

**Narrator Peter:** I am Peter, known in those days as Simon, son of John. And these are the events leading up to the day I met Jesus, the Messiah, The Christ, the one Isaiah spoke of when he said:

**Isaiah:** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor...

**Narrator Peter:** To say we expected a Messiah, or "The Christ", as a conquering King, is an understatement. We hoped for it. We longed for it. The times were oppressive indeed, not only from the Roman occupation of our homeland, but by our own leaders as well. And, as John the Baptist was receiving so much attention, and multitudes were coming to him for baptism, the religious and political leaders, the Pharisees, sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him...

**Priest:** Who are you?

**John the Baptist:** I am not the Christ.

**Levite:** What then? Are you Elijah?

**John the Baptist:** I am not.

**Priest:** Are you the prophet?

**John The Baptist:** No.

**Levite:** Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?

**John the Baptist:** I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said.

**Priest:** Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?

**John the Baptist:** I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.

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**Narrator Peter:** This took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said—

**John the Baptist:** Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me." I myself did not know Him; but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.

**Narrator Peter:** And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him."

**John the Baptist:** ...I myself did not know Him; but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.

**Narrator Peter:** The next day again John the Baptist was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said—

**John the Baptist:** Behold, the Lamb of God!

**Narrator Peter:** The two disciples heard Him say this, and they followed Jesus. One of them was Andrew, my brother. Jesus turned, and saw them following.

**Jesus:** What are you seeking?

**Andrew:** Teacher, where are you staying?

**Jesus:** Come and you will see.

**Narrator Peter:** So they came and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the 10th hour, which is 4pm. The next morning, Andrew came and found me. We were encamped not far away, curious also about this man named John, who baptized with water and lived a simple life in the wilderness. James and John, my partners in fishing, sat with me around the campfire, having some fish and bread.

*(**Sound Effect:** A campfire crackles, a canine howls in the distance. We join Peter, James, and John mid conversation.)*

**Peter:** ...So, on one hand you have Rome taking over 12 percent of our haul, plus the head tax. So that's an extra 2 days wages since I'm married, and by the time your little ones start being more of a help than a hindrance, you have to pay the head tax on them too!

**John:** And then you have the road tolls, port fees, and the forced labor of moving all their dung around, that we don't want here in the first place! A mile at a time.

**Peter:** Don't forget our fishing rights.

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**James:** Then you have our own people.

**Peter:** I don't claim them. So-called Godly men. Ha!

**John:** Tithes. That's ten percent!

**James:** First fruit offering.

**Peter:** Wave offering.

**John:** Sin offering.

**James:** The dreaded Temple tax! What are we forgetting?

**Peter:** They'll remind us. Don't worry about that. I'm thinking the Essenes got it right. If you don't make any money, there's nothing to take.

**John:** Yeah, when The Christ comes, He'll fix all this.

**James:** If he could just get rid of the Romans, I could deal with the rest!

**Peter:** Yeah, but it's almost worse, the Pharisees and especially those Sadducees getting fat off of our labor, selling us out!

**John:** Messiah will sort that.

**Peter:** Yeah, I'm beginning to think it's like Roman and Greek folklore. I shouldn't say that. I hope it is true.

**James:** Hey, is that Andrew?

**Peter:** (*Calling out*) Hey, Brother.

**John:** Looks like John's got him stirred up.

**Peter:** Yeah, I thought I heard you howling at the moon. What are you doing out so early?

**Andrew:** (*Out of breath*) We have found the Messiah.

**Peter:** (*Unbelieving*) Oh yeah? We were just talking about Him. I thought you were going to hear John the Baptist?

**Andrew:** Yeah, I was with John yesterday, when this man walked by and John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

**Peter:** John said that? And what do you think?

**Andrew:** I followed Him and stayed with Him, this man named Jesus. He's not what I expected, but there is something about Him. Something more than I can say.

**James:** This John who baptizes, unlike my brother John here, has no ulterior motives. He takes in no money or goods, or even food. They say he eats locusts and wild honey.

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**Andrew:** John says when he baptized Jesus some time back, that the heavens opened and God's spirit came down like a dove, and rested on Him.

**James:** What if he really were The Christ, and we were just talking about Him?

**John:** Yeah, well we talk about Him like every other day, so not much of a coincidence there.

**James:** Yeah, my latest Messiah has wings! I mean, they're mostly there for decoration because he rides a gigantic horse and shoots a bow and arrow. But He can fly if He needs to.

**John:** Sounds like a eunuch to me. Mine is kind of like a cross between David and Goliath! He's definitely a sword guy. One in each hand! Long black hair like Samson in his prime! Maybe a slingshot in His back pocket just in case.

**Andrew:** *(Visibly upset, loudly)* Look, I think you should at least meet Him. Decide for yourself.

**(Sound Effect:** *The canine howls, the fire crackles.*)

**Peter:** *(Slowly, thinking, hoping...)* Okay, Brother. Take me to this Jesus.

**Narrator Peter:** And so, Andrew brought me to Jesus. As we approached, I thought, "Could this humble looking man really someday defeat the Romans in battle?" **(Action:** *Jesus makes His way downstage center, then Peter comes from the other direction.*) Could He lead us to destroy them, and restore our temple and our faith in God from such vile corruption among our leaders, and become king and ruler of all Israel?" **(Action:** *Peter arrives in front of Jesus, and Jesus does a subtle, but significant bow. Peter returns the bow.*) Jesus looked at me and said,

**Jesus:** **(Action:** *Placing His hand on Peter's shoulder*)...You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Peter.

*(Lights fade out, then fade back on)*

**Isaiah:** For He grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

**Jesus:** ...I had no form or majesty that you should look at Me, and no beauty that you should desire Me.

**Isaiah:** He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

**Jesus:** ...and as one from whom men hide their faces I was despised, and you esteemed Me not.

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**Isaiah:** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

**Jesus:** ...and with My wounds you are healed.

*(Light/Curtains/End of Episode #1)*