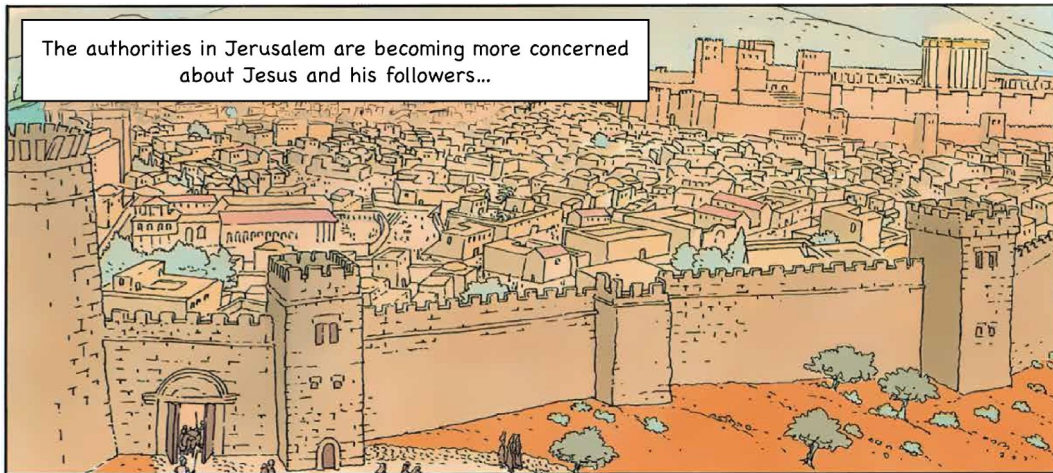


"HE MUST DIE!"

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 11:45-54

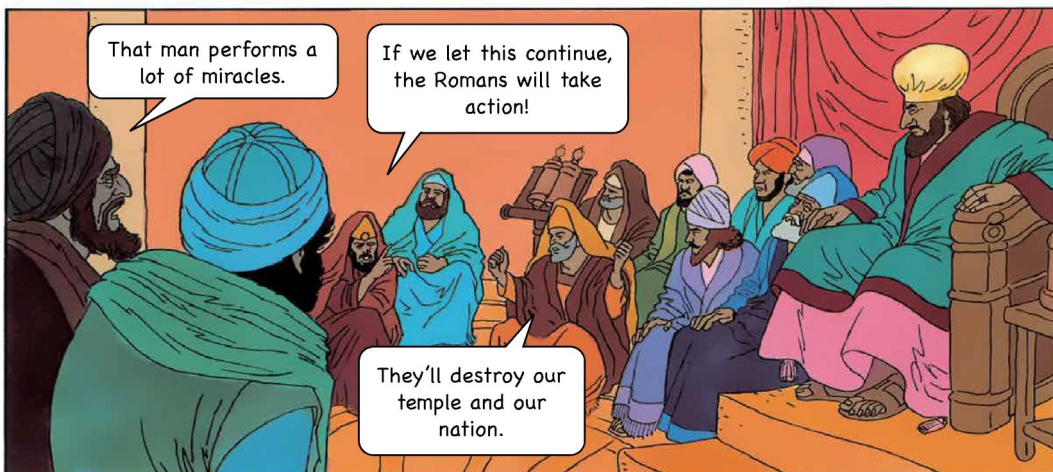
The authorities in Jerusalem are becoming more concerned about Jesus and his followers...



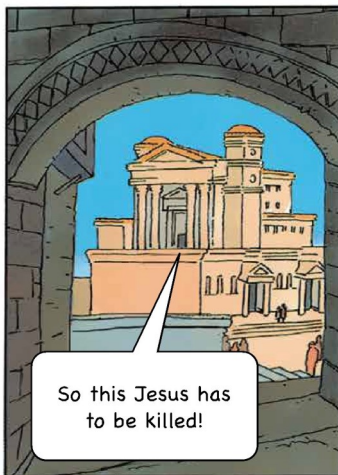
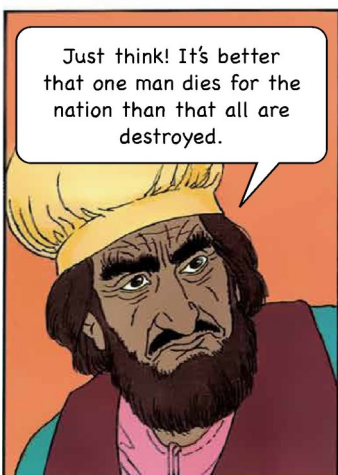
That man performs a lot of miracles.

If we let this continue, the Romans will take action!

They'll destroy our temple and our nation.



Just think! It's better that one man dies for the nation than that all are destroyed.



So this Jesus has to be killed!

One man has to die for all men! That is why the religious leaders look for an opportunity to catch Jesus. He is on his way to Jerusalem. That is convenient. They want the Romans to sentence him to death...

"HE MUST DIE!"

The Lord Jesus has called Lazarus back from the dead to be alive. The people react in two ways to this miracle. A large group believes in Him. Just like Martha, Lazarus' sister, they now know for certain that He is the son of God. But other people turn even more strongly against Jesus than ever. Why?

These people are afraid that Jesus will cause big changes to happen in Israel.

Imagine if Jesus would be called out by the people to become king. The Roman occupiers would never stand for that. A bloodbath might be the result. And if that should actually happen, they would lose their important position. The Romans would put the blame on them for the uprising and then oppress the land severely.*

The leaders of the Jews prefer to keep the Romans as friends. They don't have any desire to see an uprising. They prefer to condemn an innocent person. Therefore the high priest says that it is better if one single person dies rather than the people as a whole. In saying so He is speaking on behalf of God, who desires that one person be exchanged for all people. Jesus will die and in that way be able to give his life to all people.

(*A good 40 years later, what the Jewish leaders were so afraid of does happen. In 70 AD Jerusalem is destroyed by the Romans.)

MEMORY VERSE

*"Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made Him share our sin in order that in union with Him we might share the righteousness of God."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Atonement offering

*"God has given Christ Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement."
(Romans 3:25 NIV)*

Every year the high priest has to select an atonement offering to be offered on the Day of Atonement. With this offering (a young goat) God again takes away the sins of the people. Caiaphas, who is high priest at the time of the Roman occupation, selects Jesus as atonement offering. He says that Jesus has to die for the people. But not in the way he thinks, to keep the Romans as friends, but to establish God's friendship with the people forever. Jesus takes away sin.

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

Jesus does not condemn us. He forgives our sins. That is why we can always be in a good relationship with God. God also desires that we do not condemn one another. But that we forgive one another. He desires that we live in good relationship with one another.

By His Spirit, His love can become our love. With that love we can relate well to one another. We can even forgive our enemies.

Have you received God's love? Do you know how much He loves you? Then you can also share that love towards others!

OLD TREASURES

The Atonement offering

The Great Day of Atonement is the climax of all Jewish feasts. On that day, in the temple in Jerusalem, the high priest brings an offering to God. A young goat gets slaughtered and this offering reconciles the people with God. This reconciliation means that the existing enmity between God and people has come to an end. A sinner has to die. However God is gracious, because the animal dies in the place of the sinner.

The offering is not a trick of bribery to put God in a gracious frame of mind, but a sign that God wants to forgive sin. But the Law with its rituals was only temporary. God promised another sacrifice that would forever carry away the guilt of the world. He is the Messiah, who gives His life. God forgives through Jesus once and for all time. Thanks to Him people can now become 'heirs': sons of God.

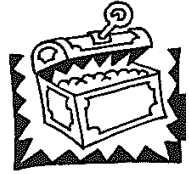
The Lord says: "It was My will that He should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so He will see His descendants; He will live a long life, and through Him My purpose will succeed. (Isaiah 53:10).

EXTRA INFORMATION

The Jewish leaders

The Romans are keeping Israel occupied. However, they do leave some of the governing in the hands of the Jews. That way they give them the feeling that they too have a say in their own lives. But when it comes to important decisions, the Roman authority has to give his consent: for example, regarding the question of someone being guilty of the death sentence.

The High Council is the highest court of the Jews. Here the most important decisions are made. The High Council is also known as the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin meets in a room in the temple area in Jerusalem. The council has a membership of 70 men: high priests, heads of families and scribes.





DO YOU KNOW...?

- 1. Why is there a group of people in Israel against Jesus:
 - a) Because He refuses to do miracles for them.
 - b) Because He puts their important position in danger.
 - c) Because He is against Israel.

2. What is the High Council called that is the governing body of Israel?

3. How many men are in the High Council?

4. What is the name of the high priest who suggests the plan of executing Jesus?

5. What is the meaning of 'reconcile' (look it up in a dictionary)?

- 6. Which of the following is true (read 'Old Treasures' again carefully):
 - a) An offering is made, in the hope that God will be merciful
 - b) An offering is made, because God is not merciful
 - c) An offering is made, because God is merciful

7. For whom has God exchanged Jesus?

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 11:45-54
Mon	Romans 3:23-31
Tue	Leviticus 16:15-17,32
Wed	Hebrews 9:1-15
Thu	Hebrews 9:16-28
Fri	1 John 1:5-2:2
Sat	Luke 7:27-38

ACTION POINT!



Sometimes you might be angry with other people. You might say they are bad. Reject and condemn them.

But at such times remember that Jesus does not reject or condemn them. He is the very best, but He still desires to forgive the very worst. He has forgiven you too. With His love, you are able to forgive and love others. His Spirit is in you!