

SECTION I—INTRODUCTION

—ABOUT THIS RETELLING OF JESUS' STORY—

The Revolution Begins

Jesus of Nazareth came to establish a new Empire—a new way of knowing God, a better way of being human. In his native Galilean Aramaic, he called this the *Malkuta d'Elaha*—the Imperial Reign of God.

Born into shameful and violent circumstances, Jesus demonstrated himself to be the Son of the Most High God. He proved he was the divine Messianic Savior, conquered the powers of Chaos, Sin, and Death, and inaugurated God's reign—both in heaven and on earth.

This is Jesus' story. And this book retells that story in a way you've likely never encountered before.

It's the story of the defenseless newborn who struck fear in the hearts of the most powerful men of his time. It's the story of the carpenter's son who rose to a level of influence that drew tens of thousands of followers—rebels ready to rise up with him. It's the story of the gentle, empathetic Jesus who favored the outcast, the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized over the honorable, the wealthy, the powerful, and the popular. It's the story of the terrifying monster slayer who silenced Chaos with the sound of his voice.

It's the story of Jesus—the Son of God—whom staunch religious leaders hated, whom powerful rulers could not control, whom demons feared, and whom children adored. He freed women from abusive men. He incited violence from those in power. And though Evil crucified and buried him, he conquered Death.

Why This Retelling Matters

This isn't like any presentation of Jesus you've heard before. That doesn't mean I'm embellishing or sensationalizing just to be edgy. On the contrary—I'm doing something many have neglected: taking the biblical portrait of Jesus more seriously.

The Bible is emphatic that Jesus was both fully divine and fully human. But many Christians are hesitant—if not afraid—to talk honestly about Jesus' humanity. That fear distorts our theology. And worse, it robs us of the ability to relate to the Jesus who lived, breathed, worried, cried, laughed, celebrated, suffered, and walked through the same human experiences we face today.

My goal in this book is to bring Jesus into focus in a way that many scholars have done. Some tend to sanitize him—afraid to admit how radically human, emotional, and unpredictable he could be. Others have questioned the Gospels' reliability so relentlessly that they've drained the story of cohesion and power.

Both extremes fall short. So I'm cutting a new path through the middle—one grounded in the ancient world, in historical coherence, and in reverent conviction that this story still matters.

The Real Jesus Was a Revolutionary

Jesus didn't wear glowing robes with a blue sash. He didn't speak English. He didn't read the King James Bible. He didn't preach in air-conditioned churches. He was a first-century Galilean Jew, raised under Roman occupation. He was brown-skinned, Aramaic-speaking, politically subversive, and deeply shaped by Jewish, Mediterranean, and Near Eastern culture and Scripture.

He gave up his divine power to walk among us—not as a priest or pastor, but as a revolutionary. He stared down Chaos, Sin, and Death, and fought to establish the Empire of God: a new civilization rooted in justice, mercy, and self-sacrifice. He had zero tolerance for powerful religious men who used God's name to get rich while ignoring the suffering around them. He saw through their system and came to blow its doors off.

Jesus was passionate—hot-tempered in the face of injustice, fiercely loving, and utterly devoted to dismantling the spiritual and systemic forces that enslaved humanity. He believed in one thing above all as the key to restoring the world: self-sacrifice. That putting others before yourself is the divine strategy for making earth look like heaven.

And he didn't just believe it—he lived it. This wasn't a fantasy or idealism. It was a campaign—a coordinated offensive launched in the spring of 27 AD, exactly 1,998 years ago at the time of this book's publication.

How This Story is Told

This retelling follows the same structural framework as *Jesus—Volume 1*, which presents Jesus' life as a strategic campaign mapped chronologically through the Gospels. But unlike that first volume, this isn't analysis—it's narrative. This is the full story of Jesus' life and mission, from before his birth to his final ascension.

His life unfolds in six phases, each capturing a distinct shift in his campaign. Within each phase are scenes—pivotal moments, confrontations, teachings, retreats, miracles. But these aren't just narrative beats—they are strategic strikes in a war against the forces of darkness.

Volume 1 lays out Jesus' mission like a field manual. This book invites you to walk it in real time. You'll hear the footsteps. Feel the tension. Watch him pause before entering hostile territory. Hear his

voice sharpen when confronting social, political, economic, and religious corruption. Watch him laugh with children, welcome the overlooked, criticize the powerful, and go quiet before the storm.

What to Expect

This reconstruction draws from all four Gospels and selected ancient sources to present the most coherent and historically grounded narrative of Jesus' life possible.

You'll notice I use terms like "campaign" instead of *ministry*, and "Empire" instead of *Kingdom*. That's intentional. Over two decades of study have shown me that this language better captures the urgency, stakes, and structure of Jesus' movement than traditional Christian phrasing.

He wasn't a wandering preacher begging people to go to synagogue. He was orchestrating a full-scale revolt—against human oppression, spiritual corruption, and cosmic forces.

You'll also encounter insights here that you won't find elsewhere—not because I'm chasing novelty, but because I bring together disciplines that are often kept apart. My background in ancient languages, Second Temple Jewish literature, Roman history, Ancient Near Eastern culture, and biblical theology enables me to paint Jesus with clarity, color, and conviction in a way few can do. Not to impress you. But to bring him to life.

How to Read This Retelling

You don't need to be a scholar. And you don't need to agree with everything I say. You just need to be open.

Read this like a story. Let it challenge you. Let it stretch you. Because if Jesus really is the infinite God wrapped in human flesh, then following him will never be simple. Understanding him will never be easy. And getting close to him will almost always lead to a kind of holy disorientation.

So if, by the end of this book, you feel more confused or unsettled than when you began—that's not failure. That's growth. You might enter this book thinking you're at a 7 out of 10 in your understanding of Jesus. But you might leave it feeling more like a 3. That's not regression. That's awakening. Because the more clearly we see Jesus, the more we realize how much deeper the mystery goes. And it's in that tension that real faith is born.

This book won't answer every question. But it will stir better ones. And those questions will pull you deeper into the life, mission, and heart of the Son of God.

In terms of questions, I've included a section at the end of this book with a series of different questions. These are designed for either personal use or group settings. My hope is that you'll think through these questions seriously, allowing them to help you reflect on Jesus' life—as retold here and as you've experienced him in your own life. Ultimately, from cover to cover, and from the story to the questions, my goal is to help you to draw nearer to Jesus, to know him better, and to follow him more closely in your own life.

What Comes Next

If you want to go deeper, *Jesus—Volume 3* will provide a full commentary on every phase and scene in this book. It will unpack the archaeological, cultural, and political context behind Jesus' every move. And if you haven't yet read *Jesus—Volume 1*, I recommend starting there as well. It provides essential background—on geography, politics, climate, and more—that helps this story come to life.

But for now, just enter the story. Let Jesus speak. Let him move. Let him surprise you. Because this isn't just the story of the past. It's a campaign that's still unfolding. And you're being invited to join it.