

# Showdown

Camp Schedule and Devotion Book



Bayview Christian Camp

Junior Week

July 18-23, 2004

Jeff Combs, Dean

*Showdown Devotional*

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Welcome!

We are excited to have you on board for a wonderful week of camp. You may not know this, but, people have been praying for you and for this camp for a long time. You are that important to us!

We have had one simple goal for this camp. We have set out to make this the best camp that you have ever attended. We have worked hard to ensure that you will have the best worship that we can provide. The group lessons have been carefully selected with you in mind. We have assembled the best labs that we can (with no money of course). We have strived to make the games and activities very enjoyable and memorable.

You will be doing things that have never been done at Bayview Christian Camp. You will be doing things that you have never done before?

You may ask yourself; "Why would they go to this much bother over a week of camp?" Well first of all, you are important enough for us to do this the best that we can. Secondly, because what we have to tell you this week can change your life and the lives of those around you.

Showdown is a fun Christian camp for ages 10-12.

We are going to look at Marshall Joshua Davidson called in to clean up the badlands. He arranges a posse to set things right. The townsfolk respond kindly to this mysterious stranger. However, they run into some trouble with the Regulators. They are a group of citizens organized as militia to take the law in their own hands. Soon the law of the Regulators is seen as more important than the law of the land. Marshall Davidson will not follow the law of Regulators. Both sides find themselves heading towards a showdown!

This year we are going to look at the conflict of Jesus with the Pharisees, Sadducees and the teachers of the law. Although we need to be respectful of authority, we also need to know when to stand firm in our faith. The kids will be better equipped to understand and defend their faith and realise that the world is not always on God's side.

# Showdown

Devotion Book



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## The Saga of Jonas Wilde

The Badlands were living up to their names. It was a scary place to live and the people called out for justice. Finally a group of merchants organized a group to keep law and order. At first, the *Regulators* seemed to fit the bill. However, very soon they became the problem. The only law was *their* law. The Regulators would change any law to fit their needs. It bothered most of the citizens that some of the Regulator's laws were contrary to the territory's laws or even the national laws. However, people were too afraid to talk bad about the Regulators. Well, that was until *Jonas Wilde* strode into town.



Jonas was a young deputy sent to the territory. He was told to prepare the people to receive a new Marshal. Word had reached the national office that the Badlands were getting too bad. Law and order was on its way. Many cheered when they heard the news that Jonas had brought. However few thought that anyone could stop the Regulators. They had too much of a foothold to be pulled out at least they would not go with out a fight.

That did not stop Jonas Wilde. He was a law abiding deputy and all. However he was a pistol a firebrand. When the Regulators got on Jonas he just spoke against them all the more.

The Regulators tried to cite Jonas for breaking their laws. He laughed it off and showed all of the laws that the Regulators were breaking. That was when things got very tense. The Regulators started to turn against Jonas and tried to get the people to stay away.

Jonas started calling them a "pit of rattlesnakes!" He saw their venom and he called them just what he thought of them. He said that they were like coyotes trying to dress themselves up like chickens. He said that they had no real authority. He warned that the Regulators should best get themselves in line while they could. The real authority was on his way.

This warning was far from heeded by the Regulators. They were more upset with Jonas every day. When he started speaking directly against the Regulators, they decided to send a lynch mob. In the middle of the night, they took Jonas Wilde and hung him with no trial or warning.

The people were not surprised and no one knew exactly who did it, but they knew that the Regulator's had done the deed. No one could have proved it either. It also made most of the people more afraid of the power of the Regulators.

The townsfolk remembered the warnings of Jonas Wilde. A few even held out hope that the new Marshal was actually coming just as promised. Most suspected that if the Marshal did not fall into line with the Regulators, then he would end up just like Jonas. One thing that the people did agree on, whatever this new Marshal was going to accomplish, it was going to be interesting.

## Going On Ahead

Laura and I were watching a TV show called Clean Sweep the other day. It is a show where they come to your house and help you get organized. It sounds like a great idea, except that you have to reveal your dirty rooms to people. Not to just the helpers, but to a TV audience. All of a sudden it did not sound like such a hot idea. How many of you would give your house a clean sweep of your own before the clean sweepers came? How many of you would like to be surprised? I would like a warning, like a month or so warning.

Before Jesus started his ministry, someone else was preparing the people. His name was John the Baptist. You may have heard of him. John was the warning before the clean sweep. Now, we can never clean our selves up enough to obtain righteousness. We never could on our own. But having said that, we should start where we are to clean things up. To be make it ready. To be prepared.

John came just before Jesus. He was only about 6 months or so older than Jesus, but he did a lot of work in his 30 years on this earth. John came to proclaim to the people that Jesus was coming very soon. He was the warning shot. He is the phone call that the real cleaning team was on its way.

Are we ready for this Jesus? Are we ready for him to see us? Know we do know his son in a personal way? We do not know how much time we have until Jesus comes back for us. But if we acted like we just the call of his return, we would be ready no matter what happens.

## The Arrival of Marshal Josh Davidson

Word about the lawlessness of the Badlands grew and grew. Soon a new Marshal was sent to the area to straighten things out. Marshal Josh Davidson was dispatched as soon as possible. He rode into town on a single horse, with little more than his badge. He travelled light. He said it kept him mobile and ready. He did not like to be held back by material things and Possessions. He had a job to do and that was more important. His only treasure was his trusty stallion named Numo. He was a horse of dignity and intelligence. He was strong and could buck a rider and run away and be wild if he wanted to. However, he knew that he was more powerful when he followed the leading of his master. When his power was harnessed, he was very effective. He liked Marshal Davidson and he seemed to take pride in working an honoured Marshal.



When he rode in, no one recognized him. He expected that would happen. It had been a long time since he was in the Badlands. He also was not a Marshal when he was there last. He was still a kid. They had not seen him in his badge.

Of course Josh knew that it took more than a shiny new badge to make someone a Marshal. He worked hard; he was committed and did not mind that others would not be immediately convinced with his authority. He knew that he did not “look” like a Marshal. Everybody and their brother had an idea in their head on how a Marshal was supposed look. He did not fit their stereotype.

Marshal Davidson was not concerned with what people thought. He knew he had authority. He knew his badge was genuine. He knew he had the training. More importantly, when he rode into the Badlands, he knew that the one who sent him gave him authority. No one else could take it away.

When he rode out to the Gullies, he saw a group of workers who ran out to him. They all started to call him Jonas Wilde and they seemed happy to see him. When they go closer, they saw that he was not Jonas, but a new lawman.

A large man named Big Pete started to speak to him, but he had trouble because he was still catching his breath from the run over to the Marshal and his horse, Numo. He looked up at the Marshal and realised that he was not the deputy on their minds. “Sorry to bother you stranger. We thought you were someone else.”

“Who was it you were looking for, maybe I can help you find him,” offered the Marshal.

“He has gone, somewhere we won’t follow, at least not yet.” answered Big Pete

“You look like him though” added Big Pete’s little brother Crazy Andy.

Josh just smiled to himself. He knew that they were talking about Jonas Wilde. They did not know that he knew Jonas very well. They were both law enforcers about the same age. They had their training together. More than that, they were cousins. Josh’s resemblance to Jonas was much more than a badge and a trusty stallion.

“You seemed happy to see old Jonas. That’s good.” added Josh. “I would like to see the deputy if I could.”

The ranch hands were stunned that Josh knew exactly what they were talking about. Then their faces dropped as they then realised that someone would have to tell this Marshal what happened to his fellow lawman.

Finally, Big Pete spoke up. “If you are talking about Jonas Wilde, they found him hanging on a tree a few weeks back.”

Josh was very sad to hear the news, but he kept his composure in front of the ranchers. Secretly he was not surprised to hear about the fate of his cousin. When they agreed to go into the Badlands, they knew that things like this did happen. He was also very angry and he let that show on his face.

Slowly, Josh asked, "Who did it, and why?"

"Officially no one did it. The local militia, the Regulators said he hung himself. They said he knew that he could not keep the local law and he gave up. That is the official word, but lots of us don't buy that." added Wild Jim, who had been quiet and listening until this time.

"Who are these Regulators?" asked Josh deliberately.

"Why, we keep law and order in this lawless land. Who in Sam Hill, are you?"

Josh and the ranchers looked to the left and saw a lone man dressed in black. The only thing not black was a copper badge placed on his chest for everyone to see. It looked kind of like Josh's badge, but you could tell it was just an imitation and it was not near as official.

Josh added, "Well, you are not keeping it very well if lawmen are getting themselves hung."

"Oh we keep the law much better than some lowly deputy. Now it is a crime to kill yourself. But there ain't much we can do if the perpetrator is successful. Don't you worry about the Regulators, we look after our interests." The lone man in black left in a hurry before anyone could give much of answer.

The ranchers looked around and were bewildered at what just transpired. Finally, Big Pete spoke up. "It is getting late Marshal; do you have a place to stay yet?"

Josh looked around and nodded his head no.

Big Pete offered, "Well, the Gullies are not a good place to make camp. You are welcome to stay at my house tonight if you like."

This was the beginning of a new friendship and the start of change in the Badlands.

## Great Expectations

There are a lot to cover in the story of Jesus. We have four different books in the Bible called the gospels just to talk about all that Jesus did and said. This devotion book is inspired by the life of Jesus. However, there are lots of differences. My desire is to help you remember the actual story of Jesus in the gospel. I also hope you enjoy my western story. Just remember that this book is a cheap imitation compared of the gospel.

When Jesus arrived, he was not what people were looking for. When he was born, he did not come like most other kings. He was not born in a palace, he was born in a manger – a stable really. He was not surrounded by servants but shepherds. He did not grow up in a high place. He grew up in Nazareth, which was a simple and small land. He was not a military man, but trained as a carpenter.

People were expecting something a bit more dramatic when they thought about a saviour. They were thinking of a military leader to lead the country to freedom. They were wanting a sword wielding king like Braveheart or Aragorn. They got a king who was very powerful, but he did not wield a sword. He won there freedom from sin, but that was not the direction they were looking. Many missed Jesus because he was not the kind of saviour they were expecting.

When we look at when Jesus spoke in his home town, the people rejected him. He was not the kind of messiah they were looking for.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' "

"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed--only Naaman the Syrian."

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town

was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. Luke 4:14-30

Some did catch on to who this Jesus was, at least enough to follow him. When we look at scripture, we see that there were a group of men who were willing to drop what they were doing and follow Jesus.

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:1-11

I praise God for people like that. We need more people who can see beyond the expected. When we can put our trust in God, He will take care of us. It may not be the way we planned or what we originally wanted. But it is for our best and it is what is for His best.

Maybe you did not know what to expect when you go to this camp. Maybe you have come to Bayview in the past. Maybe you have been to other camps. For some of you, this will be the longest you have ever been at home.

Even if you have been a camp that I was dean, you still will not know everything that will happen this week. In some ways, I do not know all that will happen this week. Every camp takes on a life of its own.

Expectations can help us to prepare for something. They can help us to brace for the worst and to look forward to the best. But they can be deceiving as well. When we expect to see one thing and see another, it can really bother us. Hopefully, if we are wise the things that we do not expect will be a pleasant surprise. Some of the best events that I have ever been involved with in youth group were unplanned events or activities that did not go as we planned.

When things do not go as you want or plan. Maybe it would be best not to panic.

## The Mending of Fences and Fixing of People

Big Rock Ranch was set by beautiful Capetown, near Gully Lake. It was one of the larger towns near the Lake. It was not too far from the Gullies and from the other communities. This was ranch territory. Big Rock Ranch neighbored Thunderbird Ranch, and usually, they got along quite fine. But this morning was not a usual day.

Josh was up and ready to go in for breakfast when he heard Big Pete talking to his neighbours from Thunder Ranch Jim and Johnny Bones. They were upset, but Josh soon ascertained that their frustration was not directed at each other. They were mad at the situation and at some yet unnamed third party. A fence was broken where their property met and cattle were straying from both sides into their neighbour's land.

Big Pete was not very quiet when he asked, "What are we going to do about it?"

Johnny quickly answered "Well, we go to repair the fence, we know that. The papers are not in yet."

"This is ridiculous; we should not have to wait on some stupid papers. Let's just go out and fix the fence and no one will be the wiser" Big Pete was starting to lose his temper.

Jim reminded "Well, if we get caught, the consequences will be high. I don't know about you, but I do not want to be made an example of. Remember what happened to Jonas Wilde. We rode with him too, so they will be gunning for us for sure."

"If you are waiting on help, I can help you fix the fence. We could have it done by noon" offered Josh.

Johnny hung his head low "I wish it was that easy Marshal."

Josh quickly added "It is just a fence. I will stay as long as I can to help but I do need to report into town soon."

"The problem ain't time and it ain't getting enough workers. The problem is that we have to wait for a permit to fix the stupid thing" belted out Big Pete.

"And our permits have a habit of taking longer than most folks" added Jim.

Josh did not say it out loud, but he knew what they were saying. He knew they were talking about the Regulators. They seemed to have taken control of the whole region. It was also pretty clear that since these men rode with Deputy Jonas Wild that they were treated differently than others. Justice seemed to have left the Badlands completely. Josh reminded himself that was why he was sent here. Justice was missing and he was the man to restore it to where it belonged.

Josh started to head to the door when he announced, "Well, point the way, I will fix the fence, on my own if I need to. These Regulators have no real authority, unless you decide to give it to them."

"Now we are talking" hollered Big Pete as he followed right behind him.

Jim and Johnny looked at each in confusion for a few seconds. They shrugged and followed the Marshal and Big Pete out the door. They were fed up with the Regulators. They resolved to the fact that the Regulators were going to catch them in something eventually, if they did it or not.

There was something about this new Marshal that gave the men hope. All morning they worked hard on putting the fence back together. When they finally got to look at the fence, they realised that there was more work than they thought. However, with the extra help of the Marshal and Big Pete's little Brother Crazy Andy, they moved through the work quickly.

They asked him all sorts of questions. They found out that he was a relative of Jonas Wilde. They had heard of Josh's famous father. Eli Davidson was a feared and respected Cavalry

General who was once stationed in the Badlands. In those days, the Badlands were not bad at all. The Cavalry was there to protect the people. However, they were needed elsewhere and the General would occasionally send deputies to check on the area.

Josh was different. He was not just a deputy. He had risen to the rank of a full fledged Marshal. That meant that his authority was the highest. If he said or did something, it would be the same as if the General himself had said or done it. Jim and Johnny Bones took great comfort in knowing that the General had sent his own son to look out for them.

Initially, Big Pete seemed to be just concerned with the fence. Eventually he was asking Josh all sorts of questions about back east and what it was like in the capital.

“If you ain’t been there, it is hard to describe” admitted Josh. He looked around found simple things around them to describe what it was like. He talked about barns, cattle and trees to describe it. They knew it was not like barns, cattle or trees, but Josh had a knack of picking out simple things to explain difficult things.

A wagon came down the road right when they had finished. They were temporally relieved to see that it was not the Regulators. They did see it was trouble. A man was crying as he was holding on to his son.

His name was Earl Koenig. He was a German immigrant and his son was very sick. They had just come back from the doctor and he had a prescription for medicine to get his son healthy again. He said that the prescription was useless. Apparently he owed back Regulatory Taxes and he could not buy anything in town until he was square with the Regulators. Regulatory Taxes were started by the Regulators in order to pay for their peace keeping work.

Josh was livid. He called for his horse Numo and he comforted Earl by offering to lead him into town and making sure his son was going to get the medicine he needed.

He looked to his new friends and offered “You are welcome to ride with me if you want. You rode with Jonas, you can ride with me. We were able to mend a fence together, I can show you how to mend people.”

When they got to the pharmacy in Capetown, the man behind the counter was very reluctant to help. It was obvious that he wanted to help, but his fear of the Regulators was holding him back. Josh offered a solution. He took out a piece of paper. He wrote out that the General would pay for Earl’s Regulatory taxes. Earl got the medicine to his son quickly after that.

The townsfolk started to cheer and more and more people started to come into to town to see what was going on. This brought the attention to some of the Regulators. The crowds hushed as they got nervous. But no one wanted to leave even though the Regulator ordered them to go back home. They were sure there was going to be a showdown!

“We heard you came and took some medicine. By whose authority do you think you can come and do this?” asked the lead Regulator.

Josh smiled and looked to the crowd. “The same authority that Jonas Wilde had.” He flashed his badge. “I come in the name of the Law. I am Marshal Joshua Davidson and I have the full authority of General Davidson.”

The Regulators were furious. One of the younger ones started to speak up. “You are just stirring up trouble. We got this place back under proper control. We have made sure that everyone is law abiding. You are the one breaking our laws. No one can buy until they pay their taxes. That is the law, and you are breaking it . . . Marshal.”

The crowd could not believe what they were seeing. Josh was standing up to the Regulators and they were not backing down either. Just when they thought it was going to turn violent, they

saw Josh take out another a piece of paper. He wrote something on it and he handed it to the lead regular. He read it and looked very confused.

“That is for everyone’s regulatory taxes. You just take that to the General and he will make sure you will be taken care of. Unless of course you think that the General’s authority is no good here” said Josh.

The younger Regulator spoke up “Where is the General, Marshal?” The older Regulators flashed a disapproving scorn to their younger counter part.

“Right here, sir” Josh held up his badge. “Right here. The General is coming back, until then, you have me.”

You could see the veins beginning to pop on the Regulators’ neck as they rode off to go to Temple City and report what happened. The crowds cheered for Josh and the men who rode with him.

Marshal Davidson’s Posse was born that day. There would be 12 of them who would ride full time together. One of them even used to collect the dreaded Regulatory taxes. Big changes were in store for the Badlands.

## New Rules

The main point of this story is to talk about the tension of Jesus and the religious leaders of the day. There were several types of religious leaders. The Levites were a tribe of priests. From that group there were dedicated or full time priests. There were also scribe and teachers of the law. These were learned men who studied God's word. They were experts on the law, kind of mix between lawyers and bible college professors.

There were also the Sadducees. These were religious leaders who represented a small but politically and economically powerful group. They did not believe in all of the law. They chose the parts they liked and chose to call the parts they did not like un-authentic.

The group that Jesus encountered most of the time was the Pharisees. They were very numerous and were more popular with the General public. They were the most legalistic of the different groups. That means that even though they held to the authority of scripture, they had no grace or compassion. To make matters worse, they created their own laws to stop people from breaking God's laws.

Like the Regulators, I think the Pharisees started off with good intentions. They had their oral tradition, which is a law that was adopted but was not formally adopted. When you get older you will run into "unwritten rules." These are things you do and don't do, but are unofficial rules. Sometimes these are not bad things, but by being unwritten they can be dangerous. It can be bad for people to know all of the unwritten rules, so it can give people power over others by knowing these rules.

They were often called *hedges*. Imagine a hedge of brush that surrounds a house. It makes something like a fence. I think it is always better to have a fence. One you put up the fence, it will stay. A hedge will go where it wants to go. And if you are not careful, it could over take the yard and even destroy the house if the roots are left unchecked.

For example, the people were told to take one day as a day for rest. The Pharisees had stricter rules on what one person could do on the Sabbath. It got to the point where it was very common to spend more energy walking the fine line of the Pharisees Sabbath than resting. There were rules on everything from cleaning hands, to praying and things in everyday life that became more oppressive than helpful. Eventually their law became more important than God.

When Jesus came he had no regard for the laws of the Pharisees. Jesus was true to God's law. He knew that God was concerned with our everyday life. He knew that God gave us instruction to help us. Jesus said that he did not come to do away the law, but to fulfil it.

That was not what the Pharisees were looking for in a messiah. They were expecting a leader to agree with them. They wanted a messiah to be just like them. And when he came and he did not do what they wanted, they rejected him. They did not believe his miracles, even though they could see it right in front of them.

There was a lot of conflict with the Pharisees and Jesus. There are several passages of scripture that point this out.

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave

some to his companions." Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there.

Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus. Luke 6:1-11

We need to be careful to obey God's rules. They are not less important just because we do not like them. We also need to be careful about unwritten rules. It is easy for us as people to let traditions become more important than what God wants. Who should we try to please?

## The Turning of the Tables

Marshal Davidson and his Posse were riding across the gullies when they saw a small band of cattle rustlers. They were trying to steal some cattle from a family of ranchers who were already facing hard times. The Marshal got wind of this situation and he rode out to find the culprits. Find them they did.



Terror came across their face as the Marshal came from up and over the hill. At first they thought it was the General himself. They knew of the General and they feared him. They knew that one day the General would come and bring them to justice. That did not stop them though. They thought to themselves that they should get what they could while they could and pay for it when it was all said and done.

Big Pete and the Bones brothers were amazed at how the rustlers were shaking in their boots when the Marshal came around. That gave them a lot more confidence. They knew that nothing could harm them as long as they were with Marshal Josh Davidson.

“Stop, in the name of the Law” the Marshal commanded.

“General Davidson?” one of the rustlers sheepishly asked.

Someone in the crowd responded “That ain’t him.”

“Looks like him though” added another.

Josh decided to clear matters up by confessing “I’m Marshal Josh Davidson”

“Wait,” said one of the rustlers. “Josh Davidson, I heard of him. That is the General’s son. He is legit, he is a lawman.”

Big Pete spoke up “Not just a lawman, he is a Marshal sent by the General himself. Whatever he says or does it is just as if the General himself is doing it. You best be obeying this man.”

Josh did not add anything. He just smiled. Pete said it all and it made him happy to hear Pete confess who he really was.

“That ain’t fair” said a rustler.

Another one added, “It ain’t our time yet.”

“Please Marshal, don’t take us back to the General yet” begged the lead rustler. “We can learn to be good. You’ll see.”

Johnny Bones added with a laugh, “Yeah maybe they will stop stealing cattle and raise pigs instead.”

At that the rustlers panicked and started to race off to get away from the Davidson Posse. The Bones brothers started to move so they could catch them. Josh had them stop. They waited for reason. Soon they saw why.

They rustlers raced off on a dead end road. They tried to stop but their horses panicked and they found themselves falling off a great cliff. It was known in the area as the dismal end. Most people did not even go near it. But these rustlers were on the run so their opportunities were few. They took one last bad turn and found themselves falling off a cliff to face their doom.

The family was much obliged that the Marshal and his Posse saved the day. Word about the event spread far and wide. People were coming from everywhere to seek justice from the new Marshal. The area was excited and people started to write letters of thanks you to the General himself.

Not everyone was trilled about the Marshal. The Regulators and their supporters were very angry and started to panic. Everything they worked for was starting to come undone. When they

heard about the Marshal's encounter with the cattle rustler's they tried to discredit him. They said that he was able to send away the cattle rustler's because he really was one. No one believed that, but they were desperate to get rid of the Marshal. Josh simply noted that he could work against the rustlers and for them at the same time. One thing was clear, the Regulators were starting to get worried.

Their tension started to build as the Marshal and his Posse came closer to Temple City. That was the capital of the Badlands. It was the largest city. It had the main branch of the bank as well as the most schools and resources. It was also the office of the Regulators.

When Marshal Davidson decided to head towards Temple City, members of his Posse became very anxious. They tried to talk him out of it. They sensed danger. They were afraid that the Marshal would end up like Deputy Jonas Wilde. They reminded him that he was heading right into the stronghold of the Regulators. That did not stop Marshal Davidson. He kept riding to Temple City.

Along the way they helped people when they could. They cast away more cattle rustlers; they helped people get their medicine. They mended what was broken. They made right what was wrong. They gave hope to a people who had given up hope. The day seemed brighter knowing that the Marshal was around.

He even helped old Lazy Russ get back on his feet. He was sure he lost the farm, but Marshal Davidson got him back on his feet. Crowds started to follow him. They knew he was headed to Temple City. They knew that he was headed for a show down.

The crowds swelled around the entrance of Temple City. Folks from all around came to see the spectacle. They lined up on the sides of the streets and held a party for the incoming Marshal. Because it was a hot day, they all grabbed anything they could as fans to fight the heat. They also used them to wave to the new Marshal.

The Regulators were not in attendance to the party. They were busy, or at least they tried to look to busy. They worked very hard making it seem like they did not notice the commotion. But they knew. They were mad and they were scared. They tried to hide their desperation.

They were setting up booths. It looked like they were money exchange booths. They complained about not having enough funds to pay for the Regulator services. They did not say it out loud. But the people could see that they desperately missed the funds that they usually had from the Regulatory taxes.

The Regulators decided to set up their own currency. They convince the local businesses that they would be protected if they accepted only regular money, as opposed to the old money. They had set up their booths to exchange the money. By noon time, the shops were ordered to no longer accept the old money.

The Regulators offered the new money and exchange as a service. Of course the exchange rate on the new money worked in the Regulator's favour. One Regulator Dollar would cost a towns person one and a half Old Dollar. They were determined to make back their money that they claimed to have lost.

When the Marshal saw the townspeople screaming his name and holding up their fans, he was really happy. It was very evident on his face. He had a big smile on his face. He was genuinely excited. The change on his face was also very obvious.

When his smile turned into a frown the people looked to see what he was looking at. Suddenly the joy ended. The people had just a few minutes of bliss. Just a few minutes of no thought of the oppression of the Regulators. They had a few minutes of true freedom.

When they saw the booths it reminded them that the Regulators were still there. The freedom was only an illusion. As long as the Regulators had power over them, they knew that they were not really free. It was ironic because they were set up to protect them in a dangerous land. In the end they were the ones that the people needed to be protected from.

All eyes were on the Marshal as he started to make his way to the exchange tables. The Regulators who were sitting at the table just smiled smugly at him. They were sure that they had bested him this time. They owned the merchants because the merchants started the Regulators.

Josh walked slowly to the table. When Josh got to the table he started to reach for a dollar bill. The man at the table looked around to see on whether or not he should stop him. The other Regulators nodded their head to let him look at it. He held up the bill and looked at it real close. He even held it up against the light of the sun. Then he pulled out a dollar bill out of his own wallet. He looked back and forth at them.

Holding up the dollar bill from his wallet, Josh proclaimed “This is the real thing. It is signed by the treasurer of our great country. It says legal tender on it. It is legal for all debts and bills in any place in our country. This is the real thing.”

“This however,” Josh held up the Regulator bill in the other hand. “This is not the real thing. It is a nice piece of paper. If you feel that you want to exchange the real money for their money that is your business. If the stores want to use these nice pretty pieces of paper, well again, that is their decision.”

The Regulators stopped and smiled at each other. They were sure that they had him stymied. “However” Josh added.

That one word however silenced the crowd and made the hearts of the Regulators sink. They braced themselves for what he was going to do next.

“The real money must be taken at its regular value just like it is used all over our country. If any business decides to refuse the legitimate money, let me know. I know some people in the commerce department that would love to look into the matter.”

The merchants understood just what Josh was telling them. The commerce department would more than likely conduct a tax audit on any business that was suspicious. None of them wanted that to happen.

Quietly, the Marshal walked away. He turned the tables on the Regulators again. He was there to counter every step they took. They were mad at him before he got to Temple City. Now they were livid. That night there was a secret meeting called where the Regulators and their supporters decided to plan how they were going to get rid of the Marshal as quickly as possible.

## Push Comes to Shove

Just like in our story, the tension with Jesus and some of the leaders began to grow. When they saw his miracles, they tried to discredit them. They even went so far as to say in Matthew 12 then when he was able to cast out a demon that he must have been league with the demons.

Jesus told them that a kingdom divided against itself could not stand. Of course Jesus was using God's power and authority. But it does go to show us how far people would go to deny God's power if they have hardened their hearts against Him.

Eventually Jesus made his way down south to Jerusalem. Every year people would come to the temple to offer sacrifice during the feast of Passover. This was in memory of God leading his people out of Egypt in the book of Exodus. They celebrated that the plague of death that took the first born of Egypt *passed over* them when they had the blood of the lamb covering their door.

As we see in the bible, the crowds were very excited to see Jesus come to Jerusalem. They lined up the streets and chanted his name. They cried out *hosanna* which was a word said as a praise that meant that God was going to save his people.

Of course the Pharisees, Sadducees and the teachers of the law were not happy with this. They complained about it and asked Jesus to make them stop. He of course did not stop the people. He told them that if the people did not sing out and praise, that the rocks themselves would cry out in praise and worship.

Tensions were at a peak when Jesus got to the temple and saw the vendors there. What was going on was that the people set up concession stands in front the temple. Initially this was thought of as a service for the many people would travel a long ways to get to the temple to make a sacrifice. They of course would offer them for a profit. Eventually they came up with the idea that you could only get your sacrifices to give to God from the vendors. It is kind of like going to a movie and you can not bring in food or drink so you have to buy it there and spend much more on popcorn and a drink than the actual movie. Of course in this situation, it was forcing this on people in order to worship God. That was wrong, but the people still did it.

When Jesus was the tables there, he knew what was going on. He called them thieves and he turned over the tables on them. The crowd loved it. But it created more enemies for Jesus. It was after the turning of the tables that Jesus' enemies decided to work together to get rid of him.

When I was looking at this section of scripture for an evening sermon series last year, I could not help but to think of the triumphal entry and the conflict in terms of a western. I use images on the computer to help people remember the stories in the bible. When I got to the triumphant entry, I used a picture of Clint Eastwood. I kept thinking of the wandering stranger coming into town and turning everything upside down before the big showdown. That is how this camp was born.

Let's look at the bible's account what happened.

Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, " `From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise' ?"

And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.  
Matthew 21:12-17.

We need to be careful that we do not become barriers between people and God. We may not be setting up tables for sacrifices. But humans can stop people from seeing God. We may try to push what we want over what God wants. We may try to push our way so that God's way is blurred or ignored.

We do need to stand for God's truth and serve as salt and light. However, we have to be careful that we do not find ourselves acting like the regulators.

## The Execution of Justice

Townfolk knew that a showdown was going to break out at any moment. They expected that there would be a gunfight right on the main street at high noon. Every day there was more tension with the Regulators and the Marshal. But at noon, the streets were emptied.

At first the Regulators hoped that the Marshal would wander back to other parts, but he stayed in city area. That really frustrated them. Every day that week there were small conflicts. They had tried to stump the Marshal with legalities, but he had an answer each time.

To make things tenser, it was not a normal week. The merchants planned the trading of money with the “Passing Days Festival.” That was a special celebration of the first settlers to stay in the band lands. They were allowed to pass by the Sioux and they wanted to celebrate this event. It was also hoped to be good for business. They did sell a lot of things that week and they made a profit, but not nearly as much as they had planned with the change of money.

The Regulators acted like it was no big deal. They tried to make it look like were still in control. The people could see that it was just a front. They had to do something very soon or else it would get out of their hands.

Eventually they found a way to “take care of business.” They decided to keep a close watch on the Posse as well as the Marshal. They targeted one deputy to try to get him to betray the Marshal.

There has been a lot of debate over the years on just why Izzy Judson turned on the Marshal. It was known that he was paid handsomely for it. Some speculated that he was threatened into it so he could protect his family. It was even suggested that he turned on him so that the Marshal would be forced to take out the Regulators once for all. What was known was that Izzy did turn on him and he set up the Marshal for one final and very private showdown.

Late at night, the Marshal and his Posse gathered for a campfire just outside of the city. They talked about the gullies and the changes. The Posse was really excited with what was going on. They kept talking about what was going on. They were genuinely looking forward to what could have happened with the Regulators having no power.

The Marshal was not celebrating. He was very serious. He was willing to talk about the Regulators. He was not pleased with them. However, he was not as quick to write them off. He talked that he knew very soon that his father, the General would come with the Cavalry. He talked how the Regulators would face their day of judgement.

He also took some time to talk about being ready for judgement. He reminded them that people would never know when justice would come so they should be obeying all the time. When the power came, they would not want to be caught on the right side of the law.

They asked him when the General would come. They thought to themselves that his coming would be the long term solution.

“No one knows exactly when he will be here.” Josh told them. “I don’t even know and I am his son. It will be soon, I can tell you that much. And I can tell you that when he does come that you will not want to be on the wrong side of the law. The time to get right is now, before he comes back. There is a lot more work to do before he gets back. We need to set things straight, as much as we can.”



Crazy Andy quickly added “With you Marshal, we can do anything. Even get rid of the Regulators.”

“Well my friends. The Regulators will be gone eventually. It would be prudent if you were prepared to do it even if I were not with you.” Josh added.

The Posse looked around real quiet like. No one wanted to speak. Josh wondered off to be alone. It was like he was trying to tell them something that they did not understand. They were aware the Josh could see something coming that they could not. This made for an antsy night.

It was noted that Izzy had sneaked off earlier in the night. They were not sure where he went. They were so engrossed with what the Marshal was saying that they forgot he was gone. He came back riding alone. He whispered something to the Marshal and then he rode off. He was real quiet like. He did not look any of the other members of Marshal Davidson’s Posse in the eye. He kind of kept his head down.

When he rode away a group of Regulators pulled out and watched the Posse. It was not the whole group, but it was more than their band of eleven. Marshal Davidson tipped his hat to them and gave a phoney smile. They Regulators looked at each other in confusion. The Marshal mounted up on Numo and started to ride toward them.

The Posse wanted to ask what was going on. Some wanted to ride off after them, but something over took them. They were afraid. In a move that they would later regret, they rode off, in the other direction.

What happened next seems to be a bit hazy. It could be that it was hard to understand. It looked like the Marshal had given up. It looked like he willingly surrendered to the Regulators. Why would the hope of the people stop fighting? This was really odd since it looked like the Regulators were all but defeated.

Word has it that Izzy told the Marshal to meet him in a secret location. It was supposed to be to protect Izzy. But it was a trap. Even though the Marshal saw it was a trap, he still rode out to meet the Regulators at the location.

Feeling bad about fleeing the scene, some of the Posse regrouped and tried to find out where the Marshal went. Crazy Andy, the Bones brothers and Big Pete took off and started to search around to see where they took him. Pete was separated from the group when a group of Regulators came across him.

“Hey you,” one of them cried out to Pete. “Aren’t you a member of the Marshal’s Posse?”

Pete shook his head no and kept his head down.

Another one added, “Yeah, I think he is from Gall Lake.”

“No, I am a stranger just passing through.” Pete said louder and more panicked.

A Regulator looked at the Pete again and said, “Your voice gives you away. You are one of those men who rides with Marshal Davidson.”

Pete lost all of his composure and shouted out “I said that I was just a stranger. I ain’t never heard of no Davidson and I don’t know no Marshal.” He rode off afraid.

The Regulators did not give chase. They just laughed to themselves. They knew who he was. Big Pete did not hide in crowds very well. They were laughing because they had caused of the closest friends of the Marshal to betray him. They thought if they could scare off the Posse, then they could scare off the townspeople and regain control of the Badlands.

Back at the showdown, the Regulators were getting ready for a gun fight. However, they were amazed to see that Josh Davidson did not give them a fight. He said that they were under arrest. They laughed at him. He was greatly outnumbered.

An older Regulator asked him “How are you going to arrest us all, Marshal? Whose army do you have with you?”

“The Army of the General. He will not be happy to see what has happened here” answered Marshal Josh Davidson.

“He ain’t here to see it now is he Marshal. Now he would be sad to hear of his Marshal’s having committed suicide and all. Not everyone can take the pressure of the job you know” added another Regulator.

Another Regulator taunted “If the General was going to come back, he would have done it by now.”

They started to get the rope ready and tied the Marshal’s hands behind his back while he was still on his horse Numo. The horse started to act up, but the Marshal kept it calm.

“I have a package for you.” Marshal Davidson confessed. “If you go to the saloon, in the back, there is a safe room. It is under my name. You need to take the trunk out. It is yours.”

“It is too late for a bribe Marshal” said an older Regulator. “But we will take your trunk off of your hands. You won’t be able to use it where you are going.”

With that they slapped the back of Numo who ran off. The Marshal began to hang.

While he still had breath, Marshal Josh Davidson proclaimed “My work here is finished.”

The Regulators watched for a while to make sure he was dead. They rode into the town as soon as they could. Since the Marshal first mentioned the trunk they could not get it out of their heads. When they saw it, they were not sure they should empty it. They paid Izzy, the former Posse member, to open the trunk. They ran outside when he opened it. They listened closely to know when it was safe to go in.

He cried out in anguish when he did open it. At first they thought it was a trap, but when they finally came in they saw the trunk was filled with gold. Izzy was sitting in the corner crying.

The men surrounded the chest and the gold captivated them. They started to pocket the loot. It was only awhile later did they realise why Izzy was crying. He was holding onto a note from the General himself, the father of Marshal Josh Davidson. The gold was sent to pay for all taxes due to the people of the Badlands. The Marshal was right. His father would pay everyone’s debt.

## Final Solution

We know the story of Jesus' betrayal and death. We know that the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the priests and the teachers of the law were all upset with Jesus. We know that they conspired to get rid of him. After he turned over the tables at the temple they started to work together. The irony is that these groups were against each other on just about everything else. I find it ironic that they would find unity on this matter.

Even though the Romans were in charge of the country, they did keep their Sanhedrin. That was a ruling council of elders to decide on important matters. They were made up of 70 elders who represented the people. Now we know that not all of the Sanhedrin wanted to get rid of Jesus. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were members of the Sanhedrin who were followers of Jesus.

They waited for a favourable time to get Jesus. They knew if he was arrested in public that the people who supported Jesus would be upset. They were afraid of what an angry mob might do.

They found a disciple who agreed to betray Jesus. In my story, it was not known why Izzy Judson decided to betray Josh Davidson. In the gospels, we also do not know why Judas Iscariot agreed to betray Jesus. We can go over the various theories why, but that would take a very long time and that would take us away from our purpose of this lesson. We are focusing on the tension between Jesus and the Sanhedrin.

What we do know is that Judas did agree to betray Jesus. He found him at the garden praying and the temple guards arrested him and took him to the Sanhedrin to a secret trial. Because they did not have the official power to have him executed, they forced the hand of the governor to do it for him. We do see that they did stone people for breaking the law. However they did get in trouble from the Romans for it, but not enough to stop. It is believed that if the Romans carried out the execution then the anger could be placed on them if the people became upset. Again, we do not know all of their reasons. We do know that it did happen.

Whenever his enemies had questioned him earlier, Jesus would provide a powerful answer. In the past the religious leaders had try to trick him with questions and words. Some were more puzzles and actual questions. But Jesus would answer them time and again.

However this time, Jesus remained silent. He said very little to the Sanhedrin and not much to the governor Pontius Pilate. He could have answered the questions. He could have pleaded or reasoned his way out of his execution. But he chose not to. At any moment he could have broken free and left. But he chose not too.

I was with Shania in the car earlier this summer and she was talking about the death of Jesus. Some of you may know that we have been studying the crucifixion of Jesus in Junior High in our CSI Jerusalem project. If it does nothing else it has helped my daughter understand what Jesus' mission was.

She asked who killed Jesus and I turned the question around and asked for her thoughts. She remembered about Judas agreeing to betray Jesus so it was high fault. I asked her who did Judas betray Jesus too? The ruling council, she is still working on saying Sanhedrin. Then she said that it was the guards who actually put Jesus on the cross. Then she stopped, and was real quite for a minute. Then she started to talk, and you could tell that she really did not want to say what she was about to say. Not that that would ever stop Shania mind you. She said, "Daddy, it's God's fault." I asked her, how so. She said "Because he gave his son to die for us."

"Well, why did he die for us Shania?" I asked her.

She answered "He died for our sins, so . . . it is our fault. We killed Jesus."

With the release of the film, "The Passion of the Christ," the debate on who killed Jesus started again. People were afraid that anti-Semitic (which means against Jewish people) feelings would be rekindled. Unfortunately people have used the crucifixion of Jesus to do mean things to Jewish people. The sad thing is that my seven year old daughter could figure out what so many adults never could figure out.

It was not the trial that killed Jesus. It was not the betrayal of Judas. It was not the pronouncement by Pontius Pilate. It was not the nails that kept Jesus on the Cross. It was his choice. At any moment, he could have stopped it. But he chose to die.

For our scripture today, I want to talk about a famous conversation with Jesus and a member of the Sanhedrin. His name as Nicodemus. The third chapter of John tells us what happened.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. "

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." John 3:1-21

For God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son. Jesus willingly died to pay for our sins. He paid the price we could not pay. Why? Because God wanted us in our midst. He knew we could not do it on our own steam. He did what we could not.

## The Cavalry Arrives

The word that the debt had been paid got out. The people knew they did not have to pay any more Regulatory Taxes. There was something that changed since that day. The Posse regrouped and rode through out the Badlands. They were telling people about the good news. They told the people that the General would come one day and straighten it out.

The Regulators tried to regain control, but the good news of the General's impending return gave the people strength to resist them. They tried to change money again, but no one would take their money in exchange. Whenever a merchant tried to make people pay with the money of the Regulators, the people refused. They said that the merchants could take up the matter with the General. The people just started to share what they had with each other until the stores straightened up and took the authorized money again.

It was not so easy for the Regulators. They were targets and they were hunted down by the Regulators. Jim Bones was the first casualty. However the more the Regulators persecuted the Posse, the more the people supported the Posse.

One of the strangest things was that the horse of the Marshal, Numo, came back. He was a unique horse. When people saw Numo it was like the presence of the Marshal was still there. It also reminded them that the General was coming soon.

One day General Eli Davidson did come. He brought the Cavalry with him. He had heard what happened. He had sent deputies to keep the law like Jonas Wilde. They killed them. He even sent his only son to save the people. Again, they killed his servant. Now the General was here and the day of justice had come. Some of the Regulators tried to hide out and escape.

The General took every one of them and sent them to Gehenna prison. It was easy for him to identify them. The pieces of gold he sent were easily identified. It was the gold that they received as payment that secured all of their fates. They received the payment for an illegal act of their own tax. By taking the money, their sentence was automatic.

Justice had returned to the Badlands. Those who were on the wrong side of the law were removed. The righteous remained in a land of peace and prosperity.



## Waiting for Returning King

There are lots of differences between my story and the gospel. The biggest one is that Joshua Davidson stays dead. In the gospels, we know that the story of Jesus does not end at the tomb. We know that he rose again.

This is powerful and it gives us tremendous hope. If you think about it, if Jesus who was perfect could not live again, what hope do any of us have for life after death? But we know he did come back from the tomb. He was seen by many people over a period of 40 days. Then he ascended to his father. 10 days later the Holy Spirit descended and is with us today.

Most of you probably have not caught on to this but the word for the Holy Spirit used in the New Testament was Pneumo – which means spirit or air. It was pronounced Numo. That is why I named the horse Numo and why I chose to leave him with the people.

Right now, God's presence is with us. And he is much more effective than any horse. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and saviour and are baptised in him, we receive the Holy Spirit as well. He will not leave us. He will help us and give us comfort.

Something else to give us comfort is the fact that Jesus himself will come back to bring us home with him. For those of us who are already part of his posse or family, it will be a wondrous thing. For those who are not, it will be a terrible day. We can choose whose side we will serve.

## Names that Matter

A lot of the names in this book have specific meanings some are obvious and some are more subtle. Here is a glossary to people, places and things so you can better understand the story.

Big Rock Ranch – Peter, whose name was Simeon, was given the name Peter (meaning rock) by Jesus. Later Jesus would say, upon this Rock I would build my church after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ.

Capetown – This is a reference to the town of Capernaum which was on the Sea of Galilee.

Earl Koenig – This comes from a famous poem called the Elf King or Eorl König. It was the story of a father rushing to take his sick son to the doctor before death (the elf king) takes him.

General Eli Davidson – One of the names of God in the Old Testament is Elohim.

Gullies and Gully Lake – A Gully is like a miniature canyon, they are where rivers have run dry. I had lots of gullies where I grew up outside of Phoenix. In this story, it is a reference to Galilee where Jesus spent most of his ministry.

Jonas Wilde – This is of course the John the Baptist. He lived in the wilderness.

Josh Davidson – Jesus is a version of the name Joshua. He was also called son of David to point to the fact that he would be the king and that he would be a descendent of David.

Numo – The Marshal's horse is named after the Holy Spirit (Haggios Pneuma).

Regulator – In the Old West, local business men would sometimes hire their own protectors called Regulators. Billy the Kid started off as a Regulator. They are a reference to the Pharisees who added their own laws to God's law and made those more important.

Temple City – This is Jerusalem where the Temple was located.

Thunderbird Ranch – John and James were called the Sons of Thunder.