

THE FOUR HORSEMEN
by
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Based on the Book of Revelation

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FADE IN:

EXT. IRAQI TEMPLE - DAY

A group of 20 US MARINES, Delta Company, are in a fire fight with 60 Iraqi INSURGENTS.

The Insurgents take cover behind two huge stone columns in front of the monolithic sealed stone doors of an ancient Temple. The Temple stands alone in the middle of the desert.

Machine gun FIRE and EXPLOSIONS litter the landscape.

LIEUTENANT JAKE CAMPBELL (24), winded, runs up to a wrecked armored Humvee where SERGEANT GABRIEL WILSON (34) peers out towards the Temple while listening intently on his headset.

JAKE

They're chewing us up, Sergeant.

GABRIEL

Two snipers Lieutenant Campbell.
Two and ten o'clock.

JAKE

Where?

GABRIEL

One on each cornice of the Temple.

JAKE

Shit.

Jake drops his backpack and slings his rifle forward. He speaks into his headset.

JAKE

Delta Company, take cover.

Gabriel takes off his helmet and puts it on the end of his gun. Jake lowers his targeting scope and sites the cornices of the temple through a hole in the wreckage.

Gabriel lifts the helmet with his gun. It takes two bullet HITS and flies off.

Jake FIRES twice. Two Insurgent snipers fall from the cornices of the Temple. Gabriel's headset BLARES.

JAKE

What are they saying?

GABRIEL

Whatever they're transmitting, it isn't Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian or Kurdish.

JAKE

Never seen you stumped, Wikihead.

GABRIEL

But it's definitely Aramaic in origin.

JAKE

They seem more interested in the Temple than us.

GABRIEL

It's Babylonian, sir.

JAKE

What's it doing out here? We're miles from Al Hillah.

GABRIEL

Can't tell you, sir. I can only tell you what those hieroglyphics say.

JAKE

What do they say?

GABRIEL

This temple is a gateway.

JAKE

To?

GABRIEL

Hell.

JAKE

What?

GABRIEL

That's what it says. It's dedicated to the dark God of War that the Babylonian's called Baal.

JAKE

War. I'm sick of war. Sick of all the killing. I'd give anything to end killing and war forever.

An incoming shell EXPLODES near them and they dive for cover.

GABRIEL
About these Insurgents?

JAKE
If we take out those columns, we
take out these insurgents.

GABRIEL
It's an ancient Temple sir,
thousands of years old.

JAKE
Is it on the list of protected
sites?

GABRIEL
What list?

JAKE
I've got my orders. Take down those
columns!

GABRIEL
Aye, sir. Lauer! Trapazano! Blow
the pillars.

From behind the wall of an ancient ruin BRIAN LAUER (21) a
corn fed blond from Ohio, and ANTHONY TRAPAZANO (TRAP)(26), a
lean muscled Italian, don their shoulder missile launchers.
Lauer dares a quick look as bullets PEPPER the area.

LAUER
Sarge, we're gonna need cover fire.

GABRIEL
You ready Trap?

Trapazano loads and locks his launcher.

TRAPAZANO
Ready to rock and roll, Sergeant.

GABRIEL
Delta Company, man your guns. On my
command -

He looks around at his fellow marines who wait, ready.

GABRIEL
FIRE!

The Marines opens FIRE at the Insurgents, who take cover. Trap and Lauer step out, lock their targeting systems on their respective pillars, and LAUNCH their missiles. The missiles STREAK towards their pillars.

CAIUS LONGINUS (32), a relentless brooding fanatic, covered in a hooded black robe and the Insurgent's leader, motions towards the missiles with one outstretched hand.

On one finger he wears a golden ring that bears the shape of a small black hand shaped of onyx.

The missiles veer inwards towards each other, away from the pillars, come together as one, and spiral towards the center of the Temple doors.

TRAPAZANO

What the fuck?

The missiles strike the Temple doors with a deafening EXPLOSION! Rock fragments fall like RAIN followed by billowing smoke and an eerie quiet.

GABRIEL

They don't sound like they fell, sir.

JAKE

Fuck it. We're going in under the smoke. Delta Company! Let's clear this thing out. Let's go!

Jake and Gabriel FIRE their machine guns towards the Temple and run through the smoke. Delta Company follows. The Marines gather, backs against the Temple wall, on each side of the shattered and deserted Temple doors.

JAKE

Trap! Lauer! You took out the doors.

They come up to Jake.

TRAPAZANO

Targeting systems were locked, sir.

GABRIEL

They must've used counter electronics to throw off the targeting systems.

LAUER

They didn't look like they were packing sophisticated electronics to me, Wikihead.

JAKE

Doesn't matter. They've gone inside.

Trapazano reaches up to turn on his helmet light to pierce the impenetrable unnatural shadow within the Temple. Jake stops him.

JAKE

Black Ops.

From inside their helmets they pull their infrared lenses down over their eyes. The lenses reveals Insurgents who crouch down inside the Temple as green patches of light.

JAKE

Hostile Portal Op!

Trapazano and Lauer HIT the ground at each outside corner of the Temple doorway. They lay down cover FIRE. The Marines rush in and fan out throughout the Temple.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

The Marines spreads out man to man on the closest Insurgents, who are blinded by the darkness. When the Marines reach their positions Jake gives the order.

JAKE

NOW!

The Marines take out the Insurgents. One of the Insurgents manages to pull the trigger on his machine gun. Its staccato BURSTS strobe the Temple and ignite monstrous images of fights to the death between Marines and Insurgents and carved dark Pagan Gods.

Jake and his Marines HIT the deck. On the far side of the large room, a stone door SLIDES open. Longinus tosses a quartz stone, carved into the shape of the sun, high in the air and he gestures. It EXPLODES with sun like brilliance.

GABRIEL

Magnesium flare!

The light momentarily blinds the Marines. The surviving Insurgents escape deeper into the Temple.

A few of the Marines engage the last of the Insurgents. The shattered pieces of quartz slowly fade, but continue to give light.

As an Insurgents runs past Jake, blinking, Jake palms a grenade into the hanging hood of the Insurgent's robe.

Gabriel grabs the last Insurgent and they fight.

TRAPAZANO

I counted twenty-seven that escaped through the door, sir.

Gabriel BREAKS the neck of the Insurgent he grapples with. As the lifeless hands slide off him he sees on one finger a golden ring that bears a small black hand shaped of onyx.

Gabriel looks at the hands of two other dead Insurgents and removes the identical rings from each of their fingers.

Lauer picks up one of the glowing pieces of quartz and shows it to Jake.

LAUER

This wasn't a magnesium flare.

An EXPLOSION and SCREAMS rock the Temple walls.

JAKE

I palmed a grenade on one of them.

TRAPAZANO

Twenty-six and counting, sir.

INT. TEMPLE HALLS - NIGHT

Jake, Gabriel, Lauer, Trapazano and the rest of Delta Company head through the narrow pitch black halls deeper into the Temple. In the distance they see the flicker of light.

GABRIEL

Torches.

JAKE

Why tell us where they are?

TRAPAZANO

A trap.

LAUER

Or they don't care if we know.

JAKE
Use your eye.

INT. INNER CHAMBER - NIGHT

Six Insurgents bear torches and they all gather on the far side of the inner chamber wall. Hieroglyphics cover the wall. Longinus pulls a keystone from around his neck.

He scans the surface of the wall, deciphers the symbols, and inserts the key into the correct hole. The wall SLIDES open.

EXT. INNER CHAMBER - NIGHT

Lauer stands at the turn to the inner Temple and looks at a small video screen, his electronic eye extends around the corner into the room. Delta Company waits just behind him.

LAUER
They're disappearing into what
looks like a sliding wall.

JAKE
The hell they are!

INT. INNER CHAMBER - NIGHT

Jake jumps past Lauer and into the room. He BLASTS his machine gun. He hits three Insurgents who fall and the rest take cover behind the closing wall and return FIRE. Jake dodges and weaves, but continues to runs towards them.

The moment before his outstretched machine gun barrel can jam the door it seals SHUT. The butt of Jake's gun BOUNCES off the wall and Jake's body SLAMS against the wall.

JAKE
DAMN!

The rest of the Marines arrive. Gabriel flips on his helmet light and scans the wall.

TRAPAZANO
Are you ok, sir?

JAKE
I am not ok! I am sick of them
getting away from us.

GABRIEL
This is amazing.

Everyone else turns on their helmet lights and looks at the hieroglyphics on the wall.

JAKE

What is it?

GABRIEL

There are two sets of glyphs.

JAKE

Two?

GABRIEL

Babylonian and, clearly added later, ancient Greek.

LAUER

How can that be?

GABRIEL

Alexander the Great conquered Babylon on his way to India and Greek became the language of learning for a thousand years.

JAKE

The Greeks must have been the ones who sealed the Temple doors.

LAUER

Do you really think it could have been lost out here in the desert, all these years?

GABRIEL

I think so, yes.

TRAPAZANO

What do the glyphs say?

GABRIEL

The Babylonian glyphs say this is the Temple of Baal.

LAUER

Who?

GABRIEL

A dark God of war. In ancient texts he was the enemy of Yahweh. He was known as the Lord of Flies and married the mortal woman Jezebel.

TRAPAZANO
Sounds like Satan.

JAKE
What's the Greek say?

GABRIEL
The murderer of Christ will one day
return to raise him from Hell.

TRAPAZANO
Who will return? Pontius Pilate?

Gabriel scans the glyphs and touches a name.

GABRIEL
No. The Roman soldier who used a
spear to pierce Christ's side. His
name was Caius Longinus.

JAKE
Why would this guy want to bring
back a Dark God?

Gabriel shines his light across the Greek lettering.

GABRIEL
This record says Baal sent his son,
Longinus, disguised as a Roman
soldier to stop the Crucifixion.

LAUER
That's insane.

JAKE
Why stop the Crucifixion?

TRAPAZANO
To prevent Christ from completing
his mission: dying to forgive the
sins of the world.

LAUER
This is getting weird, sir.

JAKE
How do you know that?

TRAPAZANO
Sunday school.

Gabriel continues to read the hieroglyphics.

GABRIEL

When Longinus failed, Baal was entombed here as punishment, and can only rise again in a time of war to bring about Armageddon.

LAUER

I think we should get out of here, sir. Let the Insurgents have the place.

GABRIEL

We can't do that.

JAKE

Why not?

Gabriel turns from the hieroglyphics back to the Marines.

GABRIEL

The Spear is entombed here too.

TRAPAZANO

The Spear of Destiny?

GABRIEL

Yes. There's a legend that says the Spear guarantees victory in battle to anyone who holds it.

TRAPAZANO

Hitler spent a fortune trying to find it.

GABRIEL

This legend says God created the Spear to ensure that the followers of Christ would be victorious in the battle of Armageddon.

TRAPAZANO

You think these Insurgents know about this?

GABRIEL

I don't think these are Insurgents.

JAKE

Who do you think they are, Gabriel?

GABRIEL

According to these glyphs, the worshippers of Baal were called the Black Hand.

INT. TOMB OF BAAL - NIGHT

Longinus leads the Black Hand to a large stone sarcophagus that sits centered in the room on a raised stone dais. Elaborate designs cut in grooves cover the sarcophagus.

As they approach the Tomb their torches flicker and go dim. Six of the Black Hand slice their arms open, wrist to elbow, and draw a large pentagram around the tomb in their own blood. As each man finishes his task, he drops to the floor from lack of blood and dies.

The torch bearers back away from the Tomb and their torches brighten. Six others stream past the torch holders and surround the Tomb within the inner circle of the raised dais.

INT. INNER CHAMBER - NIGHT

Gabriel faces the rest of the Marines.

JAKE

You've been reading too many history books.

GABRIEL

I didn't have a chance to show you, sir, but every Insurgent we've encountered has been wearing one of these.

Gabriel opens his hand and shows everyone the golden rings, each set with a black onyx hand.

JAKE

What's the rest of it say?

Gabriel turns and reads the hieroglyphics to the end.

GABRIEL

The Greek says the Tomb of Baal, which lies behind this door, is the first of the Seven Seals of the Apocalypse.

LAUER

I don't believe any of this!

JAKE

What happens if the Seal is broken?

GABRIEL

The first Horseman of the Apocalypse is released into the world.

LAUER
You're making this shit up!

TRAPAZANO
Easy, buddy.

LAUER
The Sergeant has lost it, sir!

JAKE
At ease Corporal. Which is the
first Horseman of the Apocalypse?

GABRIEL
War, sir.

TRAPAZANO
We have to stop them from getting
the Spear, Lieutenant.

LAUER
You don't believe this shit. You
can't!

GABRIEL
There's one more thing, sir.

JAKE
What's that?

GABRIEL
The engraved signature of the Greek
who made this record.

TRAPAZANO
Who was it?

GABRIEL
It's signed "John of Patmos".

TRAPAZANO
John... you mean...

GABRIEL
Yes. The same man who wrote the
Book of Revelation.

Jake looks from Trap, to Lauer, to Gabriel.

JAKE
Blow the door.

LAUER
No!