

**Episode 55: "Burning" -Written by JV Torres
Directed by JV Torres**

>>>SCENE ONE

[action music]

David: [running and out of breath] Sir John! Sir John! Edward from the north base just rode back--and he's badly hurt! [swallows hard] He says a large mob of cannibals have overtaken the base! He says they're on their way here! I don't know what those things are--they're supposed to be people, but they act like animals! Edward said they were eating the dead in the fields. [bringing his voice down] He said-- [whimpers] they were eating people while they were still alive!

Sir John: [annoyed] Why couldn't David come here and tell me this himself!

David: [still a little out of breath] When he arrived, he could barely talk. He-he lost a lot of blood, Sir John. He had bite marks on his arms and back. I can't even say for sure he is still alive now as we speak--he was barely hanging on when I left him. It's a miracle he was able to drive and get to us at all.

Sir John: [breathes in hard through his nose] Everyone to their posts now! Prepare for an attack! Get your arms ready! [sound of people running and guns cocking]

Woman 1: Sir John! The cannibal mob has been spotted coming from the northeast sector. Our guards at the post have already engaged them. What are your orders?

Sir John: Take the first team with the grenade launchers and flame throwers. Burn those bastards alive! [sounds of explosions, machine guns, screams and loud growls]

Woman 1: [more screams and gunfire] [radio beep] Sir John, we underestimated their numbers! We're going to need more firepower!

Sir John: [on radio] The second team is on their way up the hill to the south of you. We need to break the mob up into smaller groups. The second team will use bazookas and grenades for that. Once we break them into smaller groups, we'll be able to flank them! [more gunfire, screams and explosions]

Captain Tabernacle: [on radio and near hysterics] Sir John, the bazookas aren't working! The mob isn't breaking into smaller groups! And there seems to be more of them coming in the distance! Sir John, they are eating the dead laying on the ground! [gags] This is an abomination! Sir John, what are your orders? We're being overwhelmed! Sir John! Sir John! Sir John! Sir John!

[boom]

NEW KINGDOM RADIO THEATRE. <Commercial>

>>>SCENE TWO

[transition music]

Narrator: Danger lurked around every corner throughout the kingdom. And King Asilas purposely ignored much of the lands being overrun by gangs, warlords and even mobs of cannibals. Meanwhile in Ohio, Cody Valentine and JJ decided to abandon their initial idea of heading to D.C. and instead decided to head back to New Eden. Their encounter with an apparent extraterrestrial being greatly influenced this decision. They figured being near the king would be the safest place for them to be. But when they arrived in New Eden, they saw something they could not believe. King Asilas, the man who once proclaimed to be the steward of humanity, stood before the masses of people outside the Grand Castle and proclaimed himself to be a God. [boom]

Cody: [sound of a motorcycle slowing down and turning the engine off] I think we're going to need to go the rest of the way on foot. The streets are jammed with people everywhere. It's so eerie.

JJ: [sound of a restless crowd] Why are people in the streets for? That's strange.

Cody: Maybe they're waiting in line for food? They all look pretty hungry.

JJ: Well, they're not cannibals. If they were, they would have attacked us by now. [approaches someone] Hey, miss? Why are so people walking around the streets for?

Woman 2: King Asilas is supposed to give a speech.

JJ: Oh? I thought there was a food line or something.

Woman 2: A food line? Where? Who's giving food away? I have three starving kids at home! If someone is giving food away, they should give it to women and children first! There used to be a code of honor among people! There used to be respect for life! But that is no more. Instead, we are given words. Words! Not food, not opportunities, not a better life! But words! What good are words when you have a hungry family? Huh!? [shouts into the distance] Answer me this, King Ass! [grumbling of people nearby, then redirects back to JJ] I better stop this or I'll get arrested again. Spent three nights in jail last time.

JJ: Look, thank you for the information. I didn't mean to trouble you.

Woman 2: No trouble at all. You aren't the problem. [shouts away to the distance] The people in that damn castle are the problem! They don't care about us common folk. They get to live high up there, all fancy and eating whatever they want, but what about us? [crowd begins to cheer as the king steps up to the podium]

Asilas: My fellow Americans! [crowd cheers] The thing on everyone's mind these days is what could else possibly go wrong now? What calamity awaits us this day when we see the dawn? Will there be another terrorist attack? Or more earthquakes? Or large rocks falling out of the sky and destroying our cities? No! What we face now more than anything is the shortage of food. Americans are not people who deal with long lines for a loaf of bread. Americans were never meant to have to resort to rationing in order to survive. This is not the land promised by any God! This is

not the paradise we were told we would have when we fundamentally changed everything about ourselves, our country, our world. This is not the life we signed up for! [loud cheers] The Christian God has sent us many messages over the years. The Christian God has promised many things to His people. But as we look around, we are left to wonder where those promises went. What happened to our paradise? Where did our faith and loyalty lead us? The Christian God has failed us! And so now we are left to resolve this great mystery of our lives. We are left destitute in the ashes and ruins of our broken hearts. But rest your weary minds, my brothers and sisters. Lift your spirits for your king will do whatever is necessary to bring us all back to prosperity. I will be my brother's keeper! I will be your savior! I will be your God! And so I ask you here and now to take a knee and swear your loyalty to your king until the death! [crowd begins to grumble] Remember I am your absolute ruler. I am your only light and your only salvation. Down! Set yourselves down on one knee and swear your loyalty to your king now! [crowd begins chanting "King Asilas"]

Woman 2: I will not take a knee, sir! I am sorry, but I cannot submit myself to you. You are a man, not a God! And I am not alone in this belief! This young couple here with me will also not take a knee because we know you are not a God. You are only a man. And if anyone is responsible for the atrocities we face, it is you, sir! [loud grumbles]

JJ: [loudly whispering] Hey lady, don't get us involved in your personal jabs at the king!

Woman 2: [loud whispers back] Well, I don't see either of you taking a knee. You might as well be in agreement with me!

Cody: Babe, I think we better get out of here. [crowd grumbles louder]

Man in the crowd: Those three won't take a knee! Get a brick and stone them! [crowd becomes a mob and start shouting]

Cody: [anxious] Babe, we gotta go! Go-go-go!! [sound of running and bricks hitting the ground and people chasing] Get on the bike! Quick!

JJ: [hurridley] Let's go, come on! [starts motorcycle and revs it hard--tires burn rubber on the asphalt]

[sound of angry mob fading out in the distance]

>>>>SCENE THREE

[transition action music]

Cardinal: [footsteps and door closes] Holy Father, I think the time is approaching to come out of hiding.

Pop: Oh? What makes you say that?

Cardinal: The pilgrimage to Galilee. It should happen sooner rather than later.

Pope: Do you have a death wish or something? Asilas will have us assassinated as soon as I show my face. Surely, you can't be serious?

Cardinal: Who are we to redirect prophecy, Holy Father?

Pope: [scoffs in sarcasm] So you do wish to die. I see. We may be of better use to the world as martyrs. Is that what you are thinking?

Cardinal: Perhaps our fate will not be met at Galilee, Holy Father. If the Cardinals will accompany you and you give a powerful sermon on the mount, the people will flock to you as they did the Christ. It's practically the only Holy site left. And the world truly needs light in this dark hour.

Pope: I'm not convinced Asilas won't try to have us killed, even if we are followed by masses of people.

Cardinal: I must confess something to you, Holy Father. I went to see my cousin.

Pope: And what did Lord Capone have to say?

Cardinal: I suppose I overplayed the bloodline card, so not much. But when we were children, we had a code. I believe he was telling me the king has no interest in assassinating you.

Pope: Well, everyone else seems to think so.

Cardinal: I am convinced he does not. My cousin would have worded his responses the way he did if you were in any danger from the king.

Pope: But can you be certain?

Cardinal: I am convinced, Holy Father.

Pope: [sighs] Ok. Then, let's start making preparations for the pilgrimage. And we'll need to get the word out to the faithful. We'll need them along our journey.

Cardinal: God will protect us and the flock from any harm. I believe this in my heart. And should something unfortunate befall us, at least we have lead by example. [boom]

[SONG: "HELP ME" BY TIMOTHY YURKOVITCH]

>>>SCENE FOUR

[transition music]

JJ: [sound of motorcycle revving down and stopping] I don't understand, babe. If we're going to D.C., why do we need to make a pit stop in Indianapolis? Wouldn't it be better to cut through the Tennessee/Kentucky line instead of going north and out of the way?

Cody: Did you forget we were attacked by cannibals in Kentucky? Something tells me our chances are better traveling a little north of there and bypass the crazies.

JJ: Let's just hope there aren't any up that way.

Cody: Well, I have some good friends that live near Indianapolis. They're like family--the old man worked with my Dad for many years in the motor business. They go way back. And he made a handsome living--got some big property in that area. He'll let us stay for a while until we can figure out what to do. We've got to have a plan before we get to D.C.

JJ: Well, let's not rest much and get back on the road. I don't want us to be on the road when the sun sets.

Cody: I agree. I just thought you had to use the bathroom or something.

JJ: Not right now. [gets back on the motorcycle and revs up]

[sound of motorcycle on the road and then slowing down]

JJ: Why are we stopping?

Cody: [makes a spitting sound before replying] Up ahead. There's a road block.

JJ: Maybe they're just cops looking for looters.

Cody: Nah-ah. If they were cops, there's be red and blue lights flashing. I think we better make a detour. [revs motorcycle and moves up a bit and then stops again]

JJ: Cody, what are we doing here? There's nothing out here. Just trees and autumn bugs. [slaps skin in annoyance]

Cody: Help me push the motorcycle into the woods. We need to stay out of sight. It's going to be nighttime soon. [transition music and sound of people in the distance] Babe, you hear that? Shh. Listen.

JJ: [whispering] Sound like people singing and yelling. [footsteps in the woods and the yelling getting closer] Look, it's a group of people in the clearing.

Cody: Shh. No more talking. Let's get a closer look. [sound of footsteps walking slowly and people cheering getting louder]

JJ: [whispering] Oh my God, Cody! They have kids tied up. [kids screaming help in the distance] What are they doing?

Cody: I'm not sure I want to know. [people cheering "meat" "meat" "meat"] I can't believe it.

JJ: They're burning them alive! They're going to eat those kids! We have to do something!

Cody: Shh. We can't do anything, babe. We have to walk away now.

JJ: [near tears] No! They can't do that!

Cody: [trying to calm her and reassure her] Babe, we have to turn around and find a safe spot to hide--near our motorcycle. When day breaks, we get back on the road. [sounds of people cheering and kids screaming] There's nothing we can do to save those kids, I'm sorry.

JJ: But they're just kids [starts whimpering] My heart breaks for their mothers. They're probably going crazy right now looking for their babies. Oh. This world has turned so awful, Cody. [cries quietly]

Cody: I know, babe. I know. Let's just pray we get through the night. [kids screams get louder and fades]

[boom]

>>>SCENE FIVE

[transition music—door closes]

Narrator: Chaos, division and great atrocities infected the entire kingdom. King Asilas behaved in ways that made those on the High Council nervous. The king was blatantly disregarding the concerns of the people. And he had publicly declared himself a living God. But in spite of the alarm this behavior instilled in his most trusted inner circle, much of the High Council business continued without addressing the king's state of mind. But the dangers popping up all around everyone kept the focus away from the king's brazen behavior and centered on the situations at hand. Such as the Yellowstone eruption. Dr. Liverpool gave Lord Oreb and the king a status report on the eruption of Yellowstone. Liverpool said the original states were still in danger of more catastrophic earthquakes. Satellite communications were still grossly affected by the cosmic rays. And the weak magnetic field was causing millions of people to get severely ill. This exacerbated an already tumultuous human crisis. However, once again Dr. Liverpool made his report with no suggestions or ideas to remedy the problems. This angered the king and Asilas told Liverpool if he made one more report without any suggestions, he would no longer have any use for him--nor would anyone in the world. This veiled threat sent chills up Dr. Liverpool's spine and he finally made one suggestion. Liverpool said there might be a way to circumvent the satellite limitations and get them back online. Utilizing the remaining spy satellites and reconfiguring their functions would give the king an advantage over the clusters of nomad tribes, warlords, and mobs of cannibals--which were threatening to destroy the entire kingdom. Finally, Dr. Liverpool brought something that had pleased the king. [boom]

[door closes]

Asilas: Assemble a tactical Spartan team and reset their Trishuls to make the clusters fight among themselves. We'll make them disband from within.

Oreb: With all due respect, sir, I do not think this is wise. The nomadic tribes are populated by people whose minds have reverted to primitive impulses. We simply have not tested the Trishul to do to them what it was designed to do. We don't know how their minds work.

Asilas: They engage in barbarism! They're like animals. We tested the Trishul extensively on animals before we did human trials! Damn it, Oreb, check Lord Roberts' notes.

Oreb: I will. But perhaps there might be more effective ways to combat the nomads without deploying Spartans.

Asilas: Well, I'm listening.

Oreb: Why don't we use conventional planes and bomb them? We know the locations of most of them--using our infrared scanners. We don't need GPS satellites, we'll use antiquated radar. Look, we have been tracking them for weeks. [pause] Wherever they go, they exhaust the resources and then move on to the next town. Their patterns are very predictable. We can bomb them when they are on the move to lessen collateral damages.

Asilas: Not a bad plan. Ok, we'll go with that. But if this doesn't lower the spikes of nomadic tribes, then we try the Trishul. Understood?

Oreb: Understood, sir.

Asilas: And send a special ops team to bring some of the nomads and cannibals to our secret base. I want these animals studied, poked and prodded to learn all we can about them. There's got to be some reasoning going on in that animal brain of theirs.

Oreb: Of course, Your Majesty. I will get on it right away. [boom]

>>>SCENE SIX

[transition music--door closes]

Capone: Sir, you asked to see me?

Asilas: Yes, Quintin, have a seat. [sound of glass on a table] Some whiskey?

Capone: [nervously] Sure. What's on your mind, sir?

Asilas: I need you to take care of a couple of things, my friend. First, I need you to find a way to exterminate billions of people using the most efficient and practical methods.

Capone: I beg your pardon, sir? Exterminate billions of people? What do you mean?

Asilas: Exactly how it sounds. There are too many people alive in this world, Quintin. We have been tasked to eliminate billions. That's what we have to do. But there aren't enough bullets, and in case you haven't noticed, we don't have the kind of control that we used to. It will be hard to trick people into walking into gas chambers. [sighs] No, we need to find an efficient way to do this. I think you are the right man for the job.

Capone: Sir, this is not my expertise. It's more something Oreb might know about better than I could.

Asilas: Oreb is busy doing a million things, Quintin. Look, you don't have to come up with anything right this minute, just mull it over for a few days. You'll think of something. But there's something else unrelated I wanted to talk with you about. Princess Monica and my grandson.

Capone: My contacts in Munich say there's been some chatter underground about your grandson. There's no doubt Malcolm Banks has them both. I'll bet all my money he's a shape-shifter. And I'll also bet the Drax are back in this realm.

[Outro music]

YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THE RISE OF KING ASILAS, EPISODE 55: BURNING, STARRING:

JV TORRES AS KING ASILAS, CAPTAIN TABERNACLE & MAN IN THE CROWD

AMANDA HAGGIST AS JJ

AUSTIN BEACH AS CODY VALENTINE

DAVID S. DEAR AS POPE INNOCENT XIV

STEVEN FISHER AS LORD JEREMY OREB

JOHN DOBY AS LORD QUINTIN CAPONE

AARON H. AS CARDINAL

MICHAEL MARSHALL AS SIR JOHN

LEVI REID AS DAVID

JESSICA GRIER AS WOMAN 1

COURTNEY CLARK AS WOMAN 2

ARMANDO VALENZUELA AS MAN IN THE CROWD

AND NARRATED BY SERGEI BRAZHNIOV

THIS EPISODE FEATURES THE SONG "HELP ME" BY TIMOTHY YURKOVITCH. DOWNLOAD THE MUSIC OF TIMOTHY YURKOVITCH ON BANDCAMP.COM TODAY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAST, THE MUSIC OR THIS PRODUCTION, PLEASE VISIT US AT WWW.THERISEOFKINGASILAS.COM FOR A FULL LIST ON OUR SEASON 4 EPISODE PAGE. AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PODCAST FRIENDS:

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