



## **The Soldier Who Killed a King: A True Retelling of the Passion**

*David Kitz*

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# **The Soldier Who Killed a King: A True Retelling of the Passion**

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**The Soldier Who Killed a King: A True Retelling of the Passion** David Kitz  
**A stunning story of Holy Week through the eyes of a Roman centurion**

Watch the triumphal entry of the donkey-riding king through the eyes of Marcus Longinus, the centurion charged with keeping the streets from erupting into open rebellion.

Look behind the scenes at the political plotting of King Herod, known as the scheming Fox for his ruthless shrewdness.

Get a front-row seat to the confrontation between the Jewish high priest Caiaphas and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate.

Understand as never before the horror of the decision to save a brutal terrorist in order to condemn the peaceful Jew to death.

If you've heard the story of Passion Week so often it's become stale, now is the time to rediscover the terrible events leading from Jesus's humble ride into the city to his crucifixion. *The Soldier Who Killed a King* will stun you afresh with how completely Christ's resurrection changed history, one life at a time.

## **The Soldier Who Killed a King: A True Retelling of the Passion Details**

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Author : David Kitz

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David Kitz**

## **From Reader Review The Soldier Who Killed a King: A True Retelling of the Passion for online ebook**

### **Jalynn Patterson says**

#### **About the Book:**

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#### **My Review:**

Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection was a miracle by any days standard. Doesn't matter who you were then or now. The events that took place, I am sure most didn't realize what was happening. They were so caught up in the events that they were numb to the fact that God was literally before them and they were going to kill Him.

David Kitz wrote a poignant novel on the happenings before during and after--what we see from onlookers and what happened behind the scenes. Of course, he wasn't there but he offers us a look through others eyes to the gripping tale of Jesus' death.

The Soldier Who Killed a King is a great way to familiarize yourself with Jesus' story and the story of those that surrounded Him during that time whether they were on His side or not. Written primarily from a allegorical point of view the story was a good one and it really gave me another side that I didn't take into account.

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge from the author for my honest review. All opinions are my own.

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### **Sabrina Autumn says**

A first, the beginning of this novel took my mind back to the movie Risen. As I kept reading, the novel blossomed into so much more.

Kitz, excellent job staying super close to the biblical accounts surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ. The fictional details of the "what ifs" concerning not only the centurion, but also the many bystanders held me captivated. Those scenes were like coloring outside the lines. They gave the reader an additional piece of art without tampering with the original.

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If hearing the truth about Jesus Christ through Bible study, around Easter, or from a neighbor isn't appealing or worth believing PICK UP A COPY. Kitz will have your heart in his hand from the beginning until the end. He will make you question why you are still in denial. And for others he will lovingly remind you why Grace is sooooooooooooo AmAzINg!

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### **Sally Meadows says**

It seems more than fitting that The Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed to God and was betrayed on the eve of His crucifixion, is the setting of the climax of "The Soldier Who Killed a King." Here, the protagonist finally meets the living God in a gut-wrenching, unforgettable way that will change his life forever. David Kitz's narration draws us, throughout this book, into the complexity and brutality of New Testament times with such incredible detail that we can see, taste, feel, everything the soldier does. An enormously successful retelling of Jesus's final days from the perspective of the man who was instrumental in Jesus's death. And how through Jesus's death, the soldier found true life.

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### **Jimmy says**

I normally don't read fiction (besides comics) but I made exception for this book and I'm glad I did. This is a powerful retelling of the last week of Jesus. It is narrated in the first person by the centurion who confessed that Jesus is the Son of God at the crucifixion in Matthew 27:54. The author gave the centurion the fictional name of Marcus Longinus. This story is shaped by the biblical account of the last week of Jesus. I have previously enjoyed the author's prose in his book on the Psalms and here in his story of the last week of Jesus' life he takes things to the next level. It is excellent and I'm glad David Kitz wrote this. During one of the days I was reading this book I was in line to pick up my food to go at a restaurant. The lady ringing me up at the cashier counter asked what I was reading and I told her what this book was about. She didn't feel so comfortable and I told her how I enjoyed it and the incredible work the author has done in terms of its history and how it is written. She added "But it sounds so deep..." She is right. The passion of Christ is deep. And it is sobering. Yet it is joyful. Joyful because we know Christ came to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. Sinners such as you and I. David Kitz tells this story in a way that will grab your attention but also in a manner that is reverential and deep...because the subject is deep. Of course I recommend this book but more than that I want to "recommend" and plead for people reading this review to trust in Jesus as their Savior.

The first reason why I enjoyed this book is that it is shaped by the four Gospels in the Bible. I appreciated the fact that there are notes in the back of the book that gives verses in the Bible of dialogues that are quoted from those who speak and also where an idea or an action comes from in Scripture. It was spiritually refreshing to read this book as it made me think and read more deeply the biblical primary sources describing what happened. There were several instances as I was reading this it made me think of specific passages and events.

A second reason why I enjoyed this work is the author's consciousness of spelling out the geography and location. There is a map of Jerusalem in the beginning of the book. This was very helpful to get a visual of the location of where events takes place. Even within the narrative itself the author did a good job describing location. And at times I thought you get the sense of smell and sight of the place that you don't get from just looking at a map.

A third reason why I enjoyed the book is the author's attention to details with what a Centurion's life was like. From describing wedge formation of the soldiers, the plausible military background and experience of the Centurion from other campaign and the daily guard duties and day to day life of maintaining uniform and weapons you see Kitz has given a lot of thought and research. Also the dialogues between Roman soldiers and officials brought these men to life and you see how these were men who were flesh and blood. In the story Claudio was Longinus' nephew who was stationed with him in Jerusalem. Flavio was the tribune, Longinus' commanding officer. Renaldo was a trusted friend and fellow centurion who along with his wife provided Longinus and his wife Zelda companionship.

It isn't just the Romans that the book described well. Other more notorious character were also brought to life. The description of King Herod in the beginning of the book reminded me in a powerful way just what kind of evil man he is. It's one thing to read it dryly in a history book but it is another thing to see it in action as part of a book's unfolding plot.

Of course the most powerful reason why I enjoyed the book is the book's amazing description of Christ. Christ and His paradoxical juxta-position with His enemies and His situation: Who though was weak yet undeniably is strong; who before evil men who are powerful can frustrate them with His silence. Christ who can unnerve and melt the heart of hardened fighting men. As the story approached the Cross the book gets really intense from that point onwards. I was quite moved. I was very thankful for what Christ has done for saving sinners such as myself.

Get this book. It is well done. You would enjoy reading it. It will make you appreciate deeper what Christ has done on that most important day in history, and also all the events in the final week of Jesus' life leading up to it.

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### **Julie Barrett says**

The Soldier Who Killed a King by David Kitz

Wasn't sure I could get into reading this but so glad I got a review copy.

What an awesome read. Starts out with Marcus and he's the Roman soldier in charge as life comes to the city for Passover week. Growing up Catholic I was able to follow so much of this story.

Some parts of the story really helped me understand what really happened during that week and the resurrection that is commemorated as Easter Sunday.

Like following the soldier around as things are explained in words I can understand-just had to click on some

words and the online dictionary would load up and tell me what the word meant.

So many details and very descriptive you can see in your mind what's going on. Wish they had taught us this version when we were growing up-it's so understandable and clear.

Wasn't able to read the print version due to my poor vision after trying all my other glasses and magnifiers so got a kindle version that I could control the font size of the text. Would highly recommend this book, enjoyed the read.

Espeically liked the ending.

I was given the review copy by the author via Book Fun (The Book Club Network) and this is my honest opinion

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## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: The Soldier Who Killed a King

Author: David Kitz

Pages: 288

Year: 2017

Publisher: Kregel

My rating 5 out of 5 stars.

This story is about Marcus Longinus, a Roman centurion in Jerusalem in 33 A.D. The last thing for this soldier who is tormented by his past to expect is for Jesus of Nazareth to enter Jerusalem on a donkey as a king and perform miracles. He heals the sick and the crippled, he raises the dead to life, and proclaims that the kingdom of heaven has come. While Marcus cannot deny the goodness of this man, he is nevertheless disturbed by Him. For on His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus turns to Marcus and he hears a voice in his head, "I have a future for you". Marcus feels small and doesn't understand these words. He fears to be around Jesus and doesn't want anything to do with Him. However, forces beyond his control are at work. There are those in power who want Jesus dead. The fate of Jesus and Marcus seems tied together and it seems Marcus might be the one who nails Jesus to the cross at Golgotha.

I would recommend this book to others because it is a great retelling of the last week of Jesus' life here on earth. I like how it stays true to what the Bible says happened during that time and how it is told through the eyes of Gentiles. Now obviously, Marcus is made up and is supposed to be the Roman soldier who confessed that Jesus was the Son of God (see Luke 23:47), but it makes the story unique. I also like how it stays true to the history of the enmity between a lot of the Jews and the Romans at that time when Israel was under Roman occupation.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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## **Michelle says**

`The Soldier Who Killed A King` is a Christian historical fiction book by author David Kitz. It is a one week journey through the eyes of Marcus Longinus, the Roman centurion who oversaw the crucifixion of Jesus

(pg# 9). The book includes a map of first-century Jerusalem to guide you as you read.

The miracles that Jesus performed during the Passover week are listed throughout the book. It also tells of Jesus righteous anger over the moneychangers in His church. Although Jesus did perform the miracles listed in the book, the author conjectures what the Roman centurion may have witnessed.

I believe Christians of all faiths should read this book because it's told in the first person as if the main character was there. The reader will feel involved as the week unfolds. The parts I enjoyed most was when the book focused on Jesus, His miracles, and His followers. There were exciting, suspenseful, and exhilarating parts. However, the parts leading up to the crucifixion, and the crucifixion itself, were so vivid my soul could feel every lash, every slap, everything that was done to my Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus.

I recommend this book to believers and seekers of The Way.

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### **Meagan Myhren-bennett says**

The Soldier Who Killed a King

By David Kitz

A true retelling of the Passion

Marcus Longinus has lived for years in the Judean region doing his duty for Rome. But this year the Passover celebration in Jerusalem is unlike any he has before experienced. The city and the people seem to be on the verge of an uprising. A most unlikely man is being heralded as if he were a conquering king - a man who has a most disconcerting ability of appearing to see into the very core of a person.

But the favor this man has found among the people is not shared with those who rule the spiritual and commercial aspects of the Jewish people. And this lack of favor is about to drag all who rule into its net. The week that follows is one that will make Marcus question what he has always believed.

The Soldier Who Killed a King is a look at the week leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus seen through the eyes of the man who is charged with seeing the will of Pilate carried out. This is an emotional journey that takes the reader on the journey of Christ's final Passover, one that would change the world forever.

I have to say this is an emotionally moving work. The pain that Jesus must have suffered in His sacrifice is portrayed in such a way that I can say I felt sick at just what He suffered. David Kitz has truly brought this week to life. His portrayal of Herod, Pilate, and Caiaphas and the actions of each man to try to work and manipulate the outcome of events is remarkable.

I recommend this book - it is graphic and horrific, but to truly appreciate a sacrifice one must to be able to comprehend the cost and The Soldier Who Killed a King can bring this home.

I was provided a review copy of this book by the publisher with no expectations of a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Cath Mackay-wilson says**

This book was an incredible journey into the days and people that bore witness to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. David Kitz offers a divine connection to Passion week in a deeper way that is an emotional road towards a better connection with the world of Jesus. Although it is deeply rooted in the scripture, David's storytelling of the life and struggles of the Soldier from a new perspective. He offers a view of the Romans' and the citizens that reflects the struggle that many people have to find their relationship with God and Jesus Christ. I recommend this book to any small groups for a Passion Week Study as you are able to travel into that time and place with a new pair of eyes, your heart will be opened in so many ways. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and feel a deeper understanding of Passion Week. This book has helped me be more aware of how others can view any situation in a very different way than myself, and that is a precious lesson. Thank you David Kitz.

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### **Janet Sketchley says**

Remember in the account of the Crucifixion of Christ, the soldier at the foot of the Cross who declared, “Surely this man was the Son of God”? (Mark 15:39, NIV)

*The Soldier Who Killed a King* is this soldier's story, told first-person, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Resurrection Sunday. One week in the life of an ordinary Roman centurion who was caught in the tumultuous events of Holy Week.

Well-written and with as little brutality as possible, this is a thought-provoking novel worthy to be part of a Christian's reading each year before Easter. It's powerful any time of the year.

Sometimes seeing a familiar story through a fresh lens helps us find new insights. This time, I was struck by an aspect of Barabbas' release that I'd never considered before. (I've read the previous version of this book, *The Soldier, the Terrorist, and the Donkey King*, but somehow this snippet didn't stick with me.)

The language is fresh and approachable, with just a hint of formality to remind us this is a man from an earlier time. The centurion, Marcus Longinus, is an impartial observer of both Jesus and Herod as each arrives in Jerusalem through the Messiah Gate and proclaims kingship in his own way. Marcus' language in describing them matches the opinions he forms.

My favourite lines:

The news of Herod's arrival spread like flies on a rotting corpse. [page 64]

He [Jesus] was the donkey king. A horse would have put him above the crowd. A horse would have meant elevating himself like all the other egotistical men who led in this upside-down world. [page 119]

As a Bible dramatist, David Kitz presents the one-man, four-act play, *The Centurion's Report*. He's also the

author of the devotional book, *Psalm Alive!* and the children's book *Little Froggy Explores the BIG World*. And he posts regular reflections on the Psalms on his blog, complete with photos. See [davidkitz.wordpress.com](http://davidkitz.wordpress.com).

[Review copy provided by the publisher.]

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### **Molly Jaber (Cover To Cover Cafe) says**

When it comes to fiction books that are centered around Biblical times, it takes a really good author to hook me into the story line. Don't get me wrong, I love reading my Bible, however, not every author can create a story that brings the Biblical portion off the book pages and to the reader like a movie screen. David Kitz, however, truly hooked me with this book, and took me a first-class whirlwind ride through history.

I absolutely felt every emotion of this book, watching, most often on the edge of my seat, as Christ was crucified. This book really brings to life the Biblical and the historical detail. As I watched the Roman Centurion who was tasked with awful task, I found myself with tears in my eyes, both for him, and for Christ. It was a heartwrenching, gut twisting, thought provoking story of sacrifice and pain.

This book.....anything less than a 5 star review would be a disgrace. The style of which David Kitz wrote this novel is stunning and captivating. This book is definitely not for everyone though. If you are a reader of Biblical fiction, if you want to see what happened during that eventful week in time, then this book is for you. You will not be disappointed and you will want more! I know I am already ready for another beautifully written novel of Biblical times by this superbly talented author! Grab this book and be prepared for a jaw dropping experience of watching the crucifixion come to play. This review was originally posted on Cafinated Reads

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### **Kristin says**

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I love reading Christian biblical fiction. It's a great way to read a story that we have read time and time again from a new perspective, to get new insights from it. And I love boots on the ground, inside the characters, Biblical stories, from a character on the other side. Seeing it from Marcus' point of view was a point of view that I haven't yet experienced. Being able to read about the political intrigues and see what perhaps just one of those soldiers felt, to humanize them and understand they weren't just men blindly following orders, perhaps they had opinions and disagreed with their orders, much as we do today in modern time. Then to see from the ground zero perspective how Jesus changed the common person in an everyday manner, it really brings life to the story for me.

I think my next goal is to read a book similar to this on how early Christianity changed into what it is now. Maybe see a first person perspective on one of the early schisms.

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### **Karen Meyer says**

We are back in Jerusalem during Passover week. We see the crowds welcome their Messiah as he rides in on a donkey. The head centurion must keep the peace, a difficult task with tensions running high. This book

tells the Passion story with rich detail. The scene with Herod and Jesus is gripping, giving us a glimpse of why he acted as he did.

The author has researched and included many details of that time. His writing style is crisp, yet we can see the emotions of the main players.

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

"What would it have been like to live in the geopolitical center of the first-century world, when donkeys and camels were the cars and trucks, conversations over goblets of wine were the social media, and religious conflict influenced every facet of life? What would it have been like to live under pagan, political domination of Roman tyranny, while also under the oppressive ritualistic control of hypocritical religious bigots? What would it have been like to live in the very week that this dark, confused world was invaded by heaven - a week when history shifted from BC to AD?

The Soldier Who Killed A King by David Kitz, is a gripping story that offers its readers front row seats from which we can see the action. It's a hidden camera on the helmet of the primary witness of the history-altering drama when the Sovereign of the Universe, quietly riding a lowly donkey, overthrew the pomp and dominion of the most powerful kingdom this world has ever known. More than that, it's a look into the mind and heart of a man, not unlike you or me, who wrestled with the meaning and purpose of life.

As you read the thoughtful eyewitness account of Marcus Longinus, the Roman centurion, the soldier who killed a king, you'll feel his anxiety and anguish as well as the exult in his ultimate answers because - despite the differences of time and culture - his story is our story." ~ Dr. Barry Buzzetta

The Soldier Who Killed A King by David Kitz is a work of historical fiction. Like other works in this genre, there are points where imagination is essential in order to round out the characters and fill in the details missing from the historical record. However every effort has been made to tell this story in the biblically accurate manner. Frequently, when the story narrative intersects with the biblical account, direct quotes from the Bible are used. This book marks the week of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, a pivotal week in human history. Time and date entries at the head of each chapter acts as road markers as you work your way through the week. Most historical and biblical scholars situate this epic drama during the Passover week of AD 30, and if this is so, then we can pinpoint the many events to within minutes of this occurrence.

I received The Soldier Who Killed A King by David Kitz compliments of Kregel Publications. This is such a wonderful book because as the foreward states, you feel like you are seeing these events as they occurred through the eyes of the Roman centurion. As you near the crucifixion, the reality of what really happened begins to cause your chest to tighten as if you were actually there. You feel the nails being pounded into the flesh of Jesus even though he uttered no words while this barbaric death was performed. This is one of the reasons I love biblical fiction because it takes those notable events from the Bible and takes the reader right into the heart of the action. I will be keeping this one tucked away in my permanent library and well worthy of all 5 out of 5 stars.

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### **Annabel says**

I love this book. It's good in so many ways.

The whole concept is brilliant, telling the story of the passion of Christ from the point of view of the Roman centurion who declared “Truly this was the son of God.” David Kitz fleshes out the stories we know from the Gospels about all that happened that week. Herod Antipas, Pilate and Caiaphas are all here, as “the Fox, the Badger and the Weasel,” all three kings in their own right in the complicated political arrangement that was Jerusalem at the time, “all three craving more power, absolute power, while fiercely holding one another in check.” The centurion, whom Kitz names “Marcus,” is caught up in the middle of it all, answerable to Rome, and responsible for keeping public order, but fascinated by the Jewish man at the centre of the controversy. His declaration of Jesus as the true King in the story, didn’t come out of nowhere. Marcus had tried to find out all he could about the man who reportedly performed miracles. How he handled himself at his crucifixion finally convinced him.

Kitz has made every effort to keep everything consistent with the story in the Gospels, while fleshing out the details with accurate knowledge of the Roman Empire and Jewish politics. Imaginative details, such as Marcus’ wife and two children, are added, along with hints of his earlier life in the Roman army. He is portrayed as a man under duress, required to take part in the flogging and crucifixion and tormented afterwards by his conscience.

The book is beautifully and imaginatively written. It portrays the events so vividly that I found it hard to read at times. Of course, I knew how it had to end, but I didn’t know how Kitz would treat Marcus. I leave that to the reader to find out.

It is a brave person who has the courage to depict Jesus like this. Be assured, David Kitz’s Jesus is the same Jesus I know and love. It moves me to the core to realize is that this Jesus whom I know personally and so intimately is equally real and vivid and alive to him and many thousands of others.

Disclaimer: I was sent a copy of this book by the publisher. I would have given it a 5 star review regardless.

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