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# First Light (A. D. Chronicles, Book 1)



## Synopsis

Winner, 2004 Logos Bookstore Award for Fiction Go back in time to first century Jerusalem • just after the massacre of Jews before Passover • a dark time in the nation's history. Many long to see Yeshua . . . be healed by Yeshua . . . find hope in Yeshua. Others feel threatened and seek to destroy him. Meet Peniel, a blind beggar who longs to see the True Light. Flee on horseback with Marcus, a Roman centurion searching for Yeshua while on the run from Ceasar. Shudder as government officials plan to assassinate the Galilean prophet. Pray with Zodak, chief shepherd of Israel, for the Messiah he met at the manger. Feel the pain of Susanna and Maenen, a couple in love, forbidden to be together. The one constant in all of their lives is Yeshua . . . loved or loathed . . . a man who will forever change their lives . . . and the world as we know it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although Jerusalem's Hope, book six in the Zion Legacy series with Viking, was supposedly the conclusion, this new offering from Tyndale picks up the same basic story line and many familiar characters. It's now 2002, and Moshe Sachar takes his youngest son, Shimon, through a secret passage to an underground library chamber. There, Shimon is shown a cache of 70 scrolls and told to begin studying the fourth (other scrolls were the premise of earlier books in the series). The words of the document begin, "Those who lived in darkness have seen a great light..." Several pages later, the novel's time period changes to that of the document-New Testament times-where the story revolves around a young blind beggar named Peniel. Other familiar characters from the earlier series, including Zadok, Miryam, Nakdimon and Marcus Longinus, make appearances

throughout. The text, which is a retelling of New Testament events and history at the time of Christ, is heavily padded (Peniel is repeatedly visited by Old Testament characters, and their stories retold), and the pacing drags. Although the Thoenes are veterans of historical fiction, this plot sags under the weight of choppy dialogue and one-dimensional characters. CBA readers may recoil at some fairly gruesome incidents, as when Susanna bat Maccabee carries what she believes is her lover's heart around with her in a jar, or when another character is viciously blinded with a hot dagger. While hardcore Thoeane fans will add this to their collections, many readers' patience will be sorely tested by this too-long rehash of scriptural stories. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Viking canceled the Thoenes' Zion Legacy series after its sixth entry, *Jerusalem's Hope* [BKL S 1 02]. Undaunted, evangelical fiction's second-best-known duo (after Jenkins and LaHaye) have come home, as it were, to Tyndale, with a new series called *A.D. Chronicles*. It's simply a continuation of *Zion Legacy*, telling the story of Moshe Sachar in present-day Israel, whose discovery of ancient scrolls frames the historical story of Yeshua. Marcus Longinus, arguably the strongest character in the series, has a vital presence in this outing, doing his best to prevent the slaughter of Jews before Passover. The Thoenes introduce several new characters, the most appealing of which is a blind teenage beggar-boy, Peniel. The shepherd Zadok and the three Sparrows return from *Jerusalem's Hope*, though their travails are submerged in the larger story of Jewish revolt, Roman unease, and the imminent Crucifixion. Though every public library will want *First Light*, it lacks the narrative punch of its predecessors, perhaps because the Thoenes have now entered territory already famously, and more passionately, treated by such novels as *Quo Vadis* and *The Robe*. John MortCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

If you like historical fiction and want to learn about the personal lives of biblical characters that either have only a passing reference in the Bible (a nameless and blind beggar, for example) or are mostly written about in general terms (like the Roman centurions), as well as that of more well known persons (such as Herod Antipas), then this is the book for you. You will love The Thoeane's engaging writing style, and by the end of the book you will have learned quite a bit about Jewish customs. Also, *First Light* has some great fighting scenes that make you feel like you were there in the middle of the action.

I love Brock and Bode Thoeane's novels. I hadn't read one for quite a while and this was very good. I

am a Christian and the novel elaborates on some of the stories in the Bible and builds the characters of some of the people. I loved Peniel and was glad he was the young man who was healed of his blindness. The parents seem to fit the way the Bible described them too. It shows God's healing power.

First Light takes us to Jerusalem when Yeshua (Jesus) walked on the earth working miracles and teaching The Word with authority. We can experience life as a blind man who understands The Light as it was in the beginning and to feel the joy of seeing Jesus face to face with new eyes Yeshua made out of clay. This book is well written and more importantly, we see Jesus through the eyes of Jews and Romans as they try to grasp the assurance that He is The Messiah!

I bought this book because I attend a book club at my church. It was a used book at a good price and excellent condition. The story itself was ok but didn't really keep my interest.

From the first book, First Light, to the final book in the series of the A.D. Chronicles, the reader is taken to a time that we only dream of.. to walk with the Lord as He fulfilled His ministry here on earth. From the first chapters I felt I had been transformed into the scriptures to actually see what happened during Jesus' time on earth. In each book, I have enjoyed a much deeper understanding of why certain events occurred, why certain comments were made, and how politics, religion, prejudice, and despair under foreign rule created a world from which only God could bring redemption and love. I recommend this set of books to anyone who wants to transport themselves into the period of our Lord as described through the eyes of the Thoenes. I will refer to these often in teaching, as well as in witnessing.

I am giving this kindle edition two stars. The book itself is 5+ stars, but the transcription is so poorly done it detracts from the book. I read the whole series year's ago and was impressed enough to want to read it again. However whoever was in charge of the kindle version does not have a grasp of the English language. Extremely disappointed.

Beautifully written novel about life in Jerusalem in the last days of Jesus' ministry. Paints a stunning word picture of the struggles and triumphs of a blind boy, his sad neglectful parents, the religious authorities of the temple, the Roman and Herodian leaders and the followers of Jesus. This is a great Christian fiction. Some minor missing words throughout was the only thing that kept me from

giving it 5 stars.

The writing team of Bodie and Brock Thoene simply can't write a bad book, although the third in the series did not hold my interest as well as the others. I am now into the fifth book of the series and hope they write more before I get to the twelfth! Alexandra von Wrede

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