

## CHRISTMAS SCRIPT 2011

### Narrator

The story of Jesus really begins in eternity past as He is present with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in creation.

***John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

***Colossians 1:14-17** In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

And Jesus is present throughout the Old Testament

John 1:18 says “No man has seen God at anytime. The Son has revealed Him” but we read over and over again the Lord appeared THE angel of the Lord appeared. He appeared to Moses, Abraham, Hagar and Sarah, Joshua –

Jesus, God the Son    With us throughout eternity  
                                  With us throughout Scripture  
                                  With us throughout the Christmas story  
                                  And with us throughout our lives as believers

Narrator - 700 years before His birth Isaiah wrote

***Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

***Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

Jesus is Emmanuel God with us, with us tonight!

Sarah - My name is Sarah...I am the wife of Abraham “the father of the multitudes”.

The Lord God **appeared** to my husband Abraham with the promise of great things - land, a great nation, and that he would be a blessing to all the families on earth...but the promise I pondered the most was - “your descendants will be like the stars of Heaven”.

How could this be? I was heartbroken ... I am barren.

**Hagar** - My name is Hagar. I am Sarah's Egyptian maid. I loved my life in Egypt, a land of art and culture and abundance but Pharaoh gave me to Abraham and Sarah when they came to Egypt to escape famine.

They took me back with them to the land of Canaan, but oh, how my heart longed for the land of Egypt.

**Sarah** - Some years had passed and I now had a plan. I said to Abraham "the Lord has prevented me from having children, go in to my maid Hagar."

**Hagar** - I conceived! And I despised Sarah - this child would belong to her and she resented me, she treated me so harshly I fled from her and in the wilderness sitting by a spring of water, I could barely see through my tears, but there standing before me was THE Angel of the Lord, **The Lord Himself**, I saw Him! And He spoke and told me return, you will have a son named Ishmael and I will greatly multiply his descendants.

I was overwhelmed! I said "You are God, Who sees".

**Sarah** - I was almost 100 years old when the Lord appeared this time to Abraham with 2 angels.

We quickly prepared a banquet for the 3 men and, as they were eating under the tree, I listened from the door of the tent and heard the most incredible thing! The Lord Himself said "Sarah will have a son"

I laughed to myself. I am way past child bearing age and I am barren!

How could this be?

But the Lord said to Abraham "Why did Sarah laugh, is anything too difficult for the Lord? And just as the Lord had promised, the miracle happened and I gave birth to a beautiful son Isaac, and I remembered the Lord's words, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?"

2000 years later Isaac would be listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

"Is anything too difficult for the Lord?"

**Sarah and Hagar** - We saw the Lord, we saw the Lord Jesus, and He was so beautiful

**Narrator** - Luke 1:26-27 “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.”

**Mary** - The light was so bright I could barely see! His presence so magnificent I could barely breathe! And before I could take it all in he spoke “Greetings favored one.”

What was happening here? I was overcome with fear and trembling. What kind of greeting was this? And then he said “Do not be afraid Mary for you have found favor with God – there it was again “favor with God.”

And then in a voice from the very throne room of Heaven he announced this astonishing news.

**Narrator** - Luke 1:31-33 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

**Mary** - How can this be I am a virgin? I am engaged to Joseph and I am a virgin.

**Narrator**- Luke 1:34-37 The angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God’."

**Mary** - His name will be Jesus; He will be the Son of God. The angel said, nothing will be impossible with God.

**Mary** - My spirit was overwhelmed, yet overflowed with joy. From the depths of my soul I responded “I am yours Lord” ... behold the bond slave of the Lord be it done to me according to Your Word”.

And then he was gone

I was breathless...my whole being enveloped by the very Breath of Heaven.

**Joseph's Mother** - My heart was breaking!

My wonderful son Joseph was engaged to a beautiful girl. This engagement was as sacred and binding as marriage, it was a pledge of purity.

And now this – How devastating to hear Mary was with child... before the wedding. The whole town was astir, and who would believe the impossible probability of the truth.

Joseph, such a righteous man, and so deeply concerned – he didn't want to disgrace Mary and thought to just put her away secretly. The law was so severe in these cases, but stoning was not an option! Not for Joseph. He just couldn't do it.

But God – was so gracious, He sent an angel to Joseph in a dream.

**Narrator** - Matthew 1:20-21, 24-25 “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

**Joseph's Mother** - Can you even imagine such news. There would be a wedding! And, there would be the birth of a King to a couple who knew nothing of royalty. My son, poor in worldly possessions, yet rich in royal attributes, lowly in estate, raised high to the obedience of God.

And in all of this Joseph wondered how could God bestow on me such an astounding honor. Why me?

**The Inn Keepers Wife** - Acch, those Roman rulers always seeking more ways to squeeze more money from us!  
Here was another census for levying taxes and Bethlehem was overrun with the multitudes who had to traveled here or be overcharged.

You'd think I'd be happy as an Innkeepers Wife, with all the extra business but my caravansary (you would call it an inn, but this was no Holiday Inn.) This inn was in constant disarray.

Caravans of too many people around the outside square with tent flaps yielding little privacy and those animals that belonged to them in the center court making more than their share of mayhem and mess.

Noisy, unsafe and undesirable if you ask me! And I was more than exhausted cleaning up after them all.

So when this sweet young couple arrived looking for housing, I was almost glad there was no room!

But we knew a place of privacy and peace.....

**Mary** - It was so hushed, so still, a simple animal shelter would shelter the One who created them. A Manger, a feeding trough, would cradle the One who would feed our spirits, the Bread of Life.

My baby, my Jesus, unwrapped from His royal robes of Heaven, now wrapped in course linen and His mother's arms. The voice of God present in the tiny cries of an infant.

How could I know?

That His tiny feet would one day walk in sacrificial love – unwilling to save Himself that we may be saved.

How could I know?

That these tiny hands would one day be nailed to a cross that He may hand us redemption, salvation.

How could I know?

That this sweet little head would one day wear a crown of thorns that we may wear a crown of righteousness.

As I bent to kiss His angelic face I knew I was kissing the very face of God.

### **Shepherd's Sisters**

**Sister 1** I just had to go! I knew it was dark but I had to go and check on my little lamb.

He just wasn't doing very well and my brother "the shepherd" – well he just wasn't taking care of him.....boys!

**Sister 2** Well, there was no way you were going out there alone.....way too dangerous.

**Sister 1** I could have! I wasn't afraid!

**Sister 2** (shaking head) ....So we went out to the fields together where our brothers were watching over the perfect, unblemished lambs that would be the Temple sacrifice.

**Sister 1** My lamb must have been blemished because he wasn't watching over him!

**Sister 2** The sky was a black velvet that night and the stars were scattered like diamonds

and as we came over the hill.....

**Sister 1** We saw an angel and he was standing before all the shepherds and they were really really really afraid.

( I wasn't afraid....well maybe a little. He was really big )

**Sister 2** It was so brilliant, the glory of the Lord illuminated the hills and then we heard the angel say (have you ever heard the voice of an angel?)

**Narrator** Luke 2:10-12 “But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

He said “Do not be afraid. Behold.....I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Sister 1** And then suddenly the whole sky was so bright it was like looking right at the sun and there were so many angels – I never could have counted them all – and they were all praising God. It was like a...a...

**Sister 2** It was like a beautiful symphony of angel voices saying.....”Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

**Sister 1** And then the angels went up into Heaven.

**Sister 2** And we just stood there for a moment...amazed, ...a baby in a manger And our brothers and the other shepherds ran to Bethlehem to find “the Savior who is Christ the Lord”.

**Sister 1** And they **never** leave the sheep.

**Sister 2** But **this** was a miracle.....the shepherds of lambs chosen for sacrifice bowed before the Great Shepherd, the Lamb of God Who would be sacrificed for us.

**Wife of Magi** - My husband is a brilliant man, a man of scholarly standing, well versed in astronomy, science and medicine.

We live in the Kings court, he is one of the Magi, some call him a Wise Man. Although I had to wonder.....how wise could he be spending all that time searching the skies for one supernatural, unique star. I think the writings left by God’s prophet Daniel had worked on his mind...I mean really...a Gentile from what you would call a pagan land searching for the Star of the King of the Jews?

And then one night, he and the other Magi spotted it.....a supernatural phenomenon, unique and radiant star. They called it “His Star”... and the trip was on.

It took some time to organize an impressively large caravan of servants, supplies, camels and horses, for an exceedingly long journey. The gifts had to be fit for a king! They chose gold, representing deity, frankincense, a sacred incense for a sin offering, and myrrh, a perfume for burial preparation.

The camels sagged under the weight.  
The horses pawed the earth, prancing and snorting the breath of excitement...almost as if they knew the magnitude of this mission!

I knew I wouldn't see my husband "the Magi" for at least three or four long years, and when he returned he had an amazing story to tell.  
A story of a divinely guided journey, guided by the Star of the Messiah, and the holy angels of God.

But the most beautiful story of all, (his face verily glowed when he spoke of it), was his encounter with this child Jesus, the Holy One of Israel.  
He bowed and worshipped Him, and this man who had served kings all his life now served his True King, Savior, and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

We would never be the same!

**Herod's Wife** - You either loved him, or you hated him! I happened to love him, but even that love would prove to be not enough to save me and my son from his murderous wrath!

It was not easy being the wife of Herod.  
Herod the Great...the very name conjured up visions of intrigue, plots, sedition, jealousy and assassination.

He was a great statesman, a powerful leader who gained his power at the court of Rome.  
Oh, he knew how to use men for his diabolical purposes.

He built magnificent theaters, palaces, and amphitheaters...the pinnacle of his architectural genius was the glorious Temple of Jerusalem.

The Jews hated him and yet he called himself "King of the Jews"

He was paranoid, cruel and crafty and at the time the enormous caravan of magi arrived, he was hanging onto a tottering throne...he was thrown into a rage by the words the wise men spoke;

**Narrator** - "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen His Star and have come to worship Him"

**Herod's Wife** - Worship Him??? Herod was in a state of panic...he gathered all the chief priests and scribes..."What is this? Where was this Messiah to be born?"

**Narrator** - (And they said to him Mt.2:5-6) "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

**Herod's Wife** - And I wondered...you “religious leaders, why haven't you checked this out for yourselves? Why are these Gentile men from afar seeking your Messiah?

With craftiness, Herod secretly questioned the Magi ..”When did this star appear?” (he would later use this information to murder all the male babies of Bethlehem 2 years of age and under according to the timing the magi gave)

He sent the men to Bethlehem saying.. “When you have found Him, tell me, so that I too may worship Him” A great lie from the greatest of liars!

Herod never worshipped anyone but Herod!

I found all this amazing. Shouldn't this King of the Jews be born in royalty, in a kings palace?

**Narrator** - Her name is Anna. She was 84 years old; widowed after only 7 years of marriage.. so God had allowed her to spend her whole life in the Great Temple of Jerusalem and she had the privilege of praying and fasting day and night.

**Narrator** - And then one day... her prayers were answered and she got to see the Holy One of God, the glory of Israel, the Savior Jesus the Christ.

Just a baby when his parents brought Him to the Temple to present Him to the Lord and offer a sacrifice.

**Anna** - And I was praising God and giving thanks.  
And I told everyone, everyone  
Our Redeemer has come. I saw Him with my own eyes. I believe! He is Jesus and I believe!

**Narrator** - Jesus came to us, so that we could come to Him.

**Narrator** -The story of Christmas is a glorious story that weaves the scarlet thread of redemption throughout all Scripture from beginning to end.

**Narrator** - Jesus exchanged the heights of glory for the depths of humiliation.

**Narrator** -He came to die!  
He willingly wrapped Himself in all the pain and agonies belonging to us and took the entire burden of all of our sins upon Himself. He paid the price to set us free.

**Narrator** - His life for our life. His suffering for our sins. His payment for our debt. His death, for our eternal life.

**Narrator** -He wants to give you the most marvelous gift you will ever receive... the gift of Salvation.

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Come to Him. Come to Jesus.