

Master Script – Christmas in Perspective

Narrator: Each year, Christmas is celebrated by millions of people around the world, but the holiday has evolved over the years to become many different things for many different people. Putting all of our traditions and feelings about Christmas aside, let's take a moment to hear the true story that gave people a reason to celebrate in the first place, and let's consider this miraculous event from the different perspectives of those involved in this story.

I. Chorus: Celebrate

Narrator: This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But before he could carry out his plan, something unexpected happened.

II. Marry and Joseph Here from the angel. (Puppet Show with Music)

Song: Jesus, Saviour by Chris August

Narrator: All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Now, in those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazaeth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

III. The Chosen Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND6Uk2U_SIQ

Narrator: While they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

IV. *Away in a Manger – Phil Wickham*

Narrator: Meanwhile, there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

V. *Shepherds*

Shepherds Script

Setting: Shepherds are in the field watching their flocks by night.

Rebecca: I can't do it.

Sarah: You can't do what, Rebecca?

Rebecca: You know half of our job is to count sheep to make sure we aren't missing any, right? But every time I start counting them, I start falling asleep.

Sarah: Rebecca, Rebecca, Rebecca. How many times do I have to tell you: when you've got a problem, you can come to me, and I'll get it fixed for you right away.

Rebecca: Sarah, the last time I came to you with a problem, it was a problem I had with my husband, and you told me to hang a plant above my doorway and to convince him that it's customary for him to kiss me under it. That didn't work.

Sarah: That's weird. Mistletoe works for me every time.

Rebecca: Well, I didn't exactly have mistletoe. All I had around was stinkweed.

Sarah: Well, there you go. You can't deviate from the plan and then blame me. Anyway, let me tell you about these beans I found. You put these beans in a cup, grind them up, pour some hot water over them, and whooo. You'll be able to count the sheep twice.

Rebecca: Beans that will keep you awake? Sarah, that's even farther out there than a plant that gets my husband to kiss me. Where do you come up with this stuff?

Sarah: Mock me now, but someday it'll catch on. Fame and fortune, here I come.

Rebecca: At least you have a dream. I can't fault you for that. But what about me? I'm stuck. I mean if it weren't for my cousin John telling me that this is how King David got his start, I never would have taken this job.

Sarah: Oh, I thought it was because you were a lousy used camel salesman? (looking up to the sky)

Rebecca: (Sarcastically) Did anyone ever tell you that you have the gift of encouragement? And.... What are you looking at?

Sarah: (Pointing at the sky) That star right there, was that there last night?

Rebecca: (Pointing and looking at the sky) What, that one?

Sarah: No, the one right there. The big one.

Rebecca: That one?

Sarah: (A little frustrated) No. For goodness sakes, the big one. The one that's taking up half the sky.

Rebecca: Wow. Yeah, that really is big. But how should I know? I don't know anything about stars. Forget the star, I'm pouring out my heart to you, Sarah. I'm telling you: my life has hit a dead end. When I wake up in the morning, I watch sheep. I watch sheep all day long. When I go to sleep I dream about sheep. When I die, all these sheep are going to come to my funeral. Isn't there more to life than this?

Sarah: Well, that depends on your definition of life.

Rebecca: You know, Sarah, I'm not in the mood for one of your philosophical monologs.

Sarah: Well, what do you want exactly?

Rebecca: I don't know. I suppose I just want to do something important. I want to feel important; you know?

Angel: (Very loud and unexpected) Shalom

Both Shepherds: (*startled, hiding in fear*) Ahhhhhhh

Angel: Do not be afraid.

Both Shepherds: (come out of hiding looking at the angel) Oh okay. (wiping sweat off forehead) Phew!


Angel: I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Rebecca: Lying in a manger? Didn't you say this is the Messiah? Why is he in such a lowly place?

Sarah: Maybe what's important to us, isn't important to him.

Rebecca: (Excited) Yeah, and maybe there is more to life than we know. Maybe what's important to him, is what life is all about. Let's Go find this baby!

Angel: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!



Narrator: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “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.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, God and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

VI. *Magi*

The 4th Magi Script

Magi # 4 – (Running to catch up, Waving Arms, and saying) “Wait for Me... Wait for me..”

Magi # 1: (Speaking to the other Magi about Magi # 4) “I thought you said we lost Him.”

Magi # 4: (Catching up to the others, Tired from running). “Thank goodness for that star! If it weren’t for that star, I wouldn’t have found you guys.

Magi # 2: (Sarcastically) “Pretty convenient that now you can read the stars.”

Magi # 4: “Oh no, just that really big super bright one. I mean, it’s like BAM! (Gesturing how big it is.) I’m still going to need directions home. Can someone write that down for me?”

Magi # 1: (Frustrated) “We don’t have time for this. We are going to see the Messiah.” (Turns and starts to walk away.)

Magi # 4: (Talking to himself while following the others.) "Look at us, the four wisemen. We're inseparable."

Magi # 2: "More like insufferable."

Magi # 3: "Speaking of suffering, my feet can't take much more walking. It's been 3 years. We should have been home by now."

Magi # 4: "You guys can blame me all day long for loosing those camels, but you guys all knew going into this that my double hitch knot needed some work."

Magi # 1: (Speaking to Magi # 4) "Why don't we proceed in silence. Reverent silence, in honor of the messiah."

Magi # 4: "I'm totally cool with that."

Magi # 1: "Good" (Turns to walk away.)

Magi # 4: "So I was thinking about my gift. I mean what baby needs white jade anyway?"

Magi # 1: "Look, we have been over this a thousand times. White jade represents his purity and goodness, the gold (opening his gift) represents his royalty, the burning frankincense reminds us that the aura of God is around us at all times and the myrrh is to anoint him as king of kings."

Magi # 4: "Right, right, right, right! But, I think that a better gift, one that'll make everyone forget that I lost the white jade... is" (Interrupted)

Magi # 1: (Interrupting Magi # 4) "You what?"

Magi # 4: "I think that a gift that makes the white jade just look like nothing, a gift that's better than the white jade I replaced..." (interrupted)

Magi # 2: (Interrupting) "You replaced with what?"

Magi # 4: With the greatest gift of all. Oh yeah, wait for it. Wait for it... Blam! (Opening gift)
Humas!

Magi # 2: "You must be kidding."

Magi # 4: "Do you mean, 'Hum-mus be kidding, because that's so awesome!' (Turns very serious)
Because, I'm not! I'm not kidding at all. Humas is delicious okay and its.. its very symbolic. People unite
together when they see humus, much like a saviour.

Magi 1, 2 and 3 – (Looking away and looking at each other in disbelief and disapproval)

Magi # 4: "Okay, it's my bad. (Very serious) You guys go see the Messiah. I'll just stay here."

Magi # 1: "I think that would be best.... At least you have a snack"

Magi # 4: (Looking at his gift, and very serious) "Yeah, I just thought ... it just doesn't matter what
we bring this little king. He doesn't need any of our gifts. I mean, you know he's a saviour. He's a ... He's a
gift to us. Maybe I was hoping he's bigger than all my mistakes. Yeah, I guess that's what I was hoping ...
Alright, I'll see you guys later.

Magi # 1 (Walking over to Magi #4, giving him his gift and trading him for his.)

Magi # 4: "Why are you doing that?"

Magi # 1: "Because I hope he's that kind of a saviour too." (Putting His arm around him) "Let's
go!"

Magi # 4: (Pause) "I wish someone had some pita bread!"

Narrator: On coming to the house, the Magi saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Jesus really was a king worthy of worship. In fact, his coming is good news of great joy for all people.

VII. Chorus: Joy to the World

Narrator: We have considered this miraculous yet ordinary story of our Lord's birth from the different perspectives of those involved in the story. Now it's your turn to consider this story from your perspective, because the story of God's love is still being written. (Pause) Merry Christmas.