

# Born to Redeem

THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY



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## *Characters*

JESUS: 33-year-old male

NARRATOR: Deep, male voice

MAN: 30-year-old male

WOMAN: 30-year-old female

SERPENT: Young male or female in costume

MARY: 15-year-old female

JOSEPH: 28-year-old male

GABRIEL: 25-year-old male

MICAH: 45-year-old male

ISAIAH: 52-year-old male

EXTRAS: Some of the characters above can be used for the extra, non-speaking roles.

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## *Setting*

A big, blank stage is needed, with spotlights coming up on different areas, suggesting different locations and timeline. Each area will require its own props and additional items to compliment the scene.

Additionally, sound effects can be used to enhance the scenes and narration.

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## *The Story*

What is the real meaning of Christmas? The potency of this time of the year has been lost in over-commercializing and prioritizing earthly gifts over the true Gift of Christmas.

This sketch tells the redemption story in a condensed form, highlighting the real reason Jesus was born into this earth. It is a fun but serious sketch that requires the use of spotlights, and much creativity to make it come alive, but it is guaranteed to

leave a lasting impression on the audience as it relates to the real meaning of Christmas.

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### *Play Details*

**Length:** 15-20 Minutes

**Cast:** 7 Males | 2 Females | 1 Male of Female | Plus extras (Non-speaking)

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Biblical Drama

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# *The Script*



## **The Stage is Dark**

**NARRATOR:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light.”

*A single Spotlight comes up, and gradually expands to cover the stage area.*

**NARRATOR:** And there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness.

*The spotlight narrows into a single beam, leaving most of the stage in darkness.*

**NARRATOR:** God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” Then God created a space to separate the waters above from the waters below. He made the trees, the plants, the vegetation. He made the lights in the sky for signs and for seasons. He made the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and the animals on land.

**(SOUND EFFECTS can be used for the above dialogue, i.e. birds chirping, sounds of animals, wind blowing, etc.)**

**NARRATOR:** Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

*A MAN emerges from the darkness, into the beam of light. He looks bewildered, in awe, as he examines himself. He is wearing a sparkling gown.*

*The spotlight expands a little bit.*

**NARRATOR:** Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person. Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

*A WOMAN emerges from the darkness. The MAN is in awe of her beauty. He embraces her. She is also wearing a sparkling gown.*

**NARRATOR:** So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them, made a little lower than God and crowned with glory and honor. God gave them authority over all things. Now when it says “all things,” it means nothing is left out.

*The SPOTLIGHT expands even more to fill the stage as the MAN and WOMAN begin to explore their environment.*

**NARRATOR:** Men walked the earth, glorious in structure and divine in function, having dominion and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and over creation itself. Men could move through the created world by thought. They could go anywhere in the universe, enforcing the will of the Father over all creation. Creation is God the Father's gift to man, the son.

*While the man tends to a plant, the woman's curiosity is drawn offstage as a FIGURE (man or woman in costume) crawls towards her from the darkness holding a fruit in its hand.*

**NARRATOR:** Now, the serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made.

**SERPENT:** Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?

**WOMAN:** Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’

**SERPENT:** You will not die. God knows that when you eat the fruit, you will become like Him. Your eyes will be open. Don't you want that? Are you satisfied with just having His image and not bearing His likeness?

*The serpent gives the fruit to the woman. She takes it, looks at it with desire. The MAN turns to look at her, curious.*

**NARRATOR:** The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful, and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness.

*They both eat the fruit.*

*The spotlight narrows, the light gets smaller, until the stage is again engulfed in darkness.*

**NARRATOR:** When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees.

**VOICE OF GOD:** Where are you?

**MAN'S VOICE:** I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.

**VOICE OF GOD:** Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?

*A beat.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up. The Man and the WOMAN crosses the stage, broken and crying. They are now wearing dull-coloured gowns.*

**NARRATOR:** The Lord God said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

*SERIES OF SCENES over the next few narrations:*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up on a MAN holding a stone with blood on it. His dead*

*brother is lying motionless at his feet.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up. A MAN dressed in Biblical clothing, sits with legs crossed on the floor, carving a god from wood.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up; a man and woman in a heated argument. A child sits innocently on the floor, head bowed in embarrassment and fear.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up; a man wipes blood from his knife/sword.*

**NARRATOR:** Man had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. They had lost their glory, honour, and divine function. They had fallen to a position lower in functionality than every created thing, so all creation was suppressed, and held back from functioning at its fullest capacity. Man fell, embracing a more animalistic nature because of sin. They became murderers, haters, adulterers, liars, fornicators, homosexuals. They slowly embraced a reprobate and fallen consciousness and fell into utter decadence. Their minds blinded to the truth of who they really are.

*Stage goes dark again.*

**NARRATOR:** Man needed to be redeemed, and only a Son can redeem sons. There was only one way to redeem man, and once again give them access to an inheritance that is rightfully theirs...

*SPOTLIGHT comes up on Jesus, head bowed in humility.*

**NARRATOR:** ...God must become man.

*Jesus slowly lifts his head to look out at the audience as...*

**LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.**

**NARRATOR:** In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness...

*SPOTLIGHT comes up. YOUNG MARY sits alone, writing something on the ground.*

**NARRATOR:** ...and the darkness can never extinguish it.

*GABRIEL appears to Mary.*

**GABRIEL:** Greetings, highly favored one. God is with you.

*Mary slithers back, afraid.*

**GABRIEL:** Don't be afraid, Mary.

**MARY:** Sir, who are you?

**GABRIEL:** I am a messenger. Sent by God.

**MARY:** A messenger?

**GABRIEL:** I bring you good news, dear one. Among all the women of the world, you have been chosen.

**MARY:** I don't understand, sir.

**GABRIEL:** You have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!

**MARY:** Jesus?

*SPOTLIGHT fades.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up on Micah.*

**MICAH:** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of

Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

*SPOTLIGHT fades.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up on Isaiah.*

**ISAIAH:** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

*SPOTLIGHT fades.*

**NARRATOR:** A virgin conception, in a time of Roman rule; when the church was hostile to sinners; meeting out judgment as demanded by law. An adulteress must die. A young woman who was not yet married, pregnant with God. For she must dwell in the secret place of the Most High to preserve the life of her child from men who would kill them both without hesitation, in the name of God. A private wedding, a secret conception and a humble birth.

*SPOTLIGHT comes up on Mary and Joseph, sitting at Baliff stage, holding Baby Jesus. The light slowly expands, revealing Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men and Town Folks, all standing around.*

**NARRATOR:** He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. They knew He was a King, but they didn't know who He really was. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son; the glory human beings once had.

*The stage is now fully lit, then slowly goes dark.*

*A beat.*

*SPOTLIGHT comes up on a man in a dull-coloured gown. Jesus enters, holding a sparkling gown. He removes the drab gown from the man, and replaces it with the sparkling gown.*

**NARRATOR:** He was born to redeem; to save all that was lost. To restore us once again, through faith in Him, that man and woman may once again become like God, made in His image and in His likeness.

**BLACKOUT**