

THE BIRTH

By

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EXT. DESERT - DAY

1

Large black ant crawling over rocks and sand.

A large front hoof misses the ant.

Ant continues to crawl.

A sandal with a dirty and crusty foot misses the ant.

Large back hoof misses the ant.

Ant continues to crawl.

Ant is hit with a wooden plow and is buried under rock and sand as the earth is torn up.

EXT. DESERT FIELD - DAY

2

Two burros are being led by two men dressed in desert attire from 2000 years ago. There is another man on the back of each team working the plow. They are working side by side.

Twenty feet behind them there are about 15 women and children all above the age of 10 spreading seed.

On the side of the field there are about a dozen Roman soldiers.

The soldiers are walking back and forth talking to each other. None are too concerned about the people working in the field.

Four Roman riders on horseback come over a small hill and down a road to the edge of the field.

All the guards stop talking and become much more attentive.

CUT TO A SMALL BOY WITH A WOMAN.

JONATHAN

Mom, I wanted to show you this.

He reaches into his cloak and pulls out a small bag.

His mother is a young woman in her early 20's.

MOTHER

Jonathan, what are you doing?

JONATHAN

I cut a hole in my tunic. I have been putting grain into this bag underneath.

MOTHER

Jonathan, I did not teach you to steal.

JONATHAN

But Mom, you have been so hungry lately. You can make bread tonight.

Two guards see the exchange and start to come over.

The mother sees the men and becomes scared.

MOTHER

Jonathan, run home. I will take care of this.

Jonathan starts to run off.

Now the other guards are moving in.

Jonathan darts one way then cuts back.

The men on horseback are watching and one takes off towards the boy.

The horse races in front of the boy and rears up on its hind legs.

The boy, scared, falls back and is captured by the guards that first saw him.

His mother has now run up.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

He has done nothing. He is just running home. I told him to run home.

One of the guards reaches under the boy's tunic and pulls out the bag.

GUARD

Sir, this boy is stealing seed.

Now the other riders have come over. So have the guards and the crowd.

The guards stand between the mother, son, riders and the crowd. They draw their swords on the woman and their children.

The man on horseback who stopped the boy.

PHILO

(speaking to the crowd)

I am the new Praetor of the region.

(speaking to the boy)

You will not steal from Caesar or the Roman Empire.

MOTHER

Sir, I beg of you. He is just a boy. Mercy, please.

PHILO

Marcos, give 40 lashes to the woman in front of the boy.

A man on horseback nods to the guards and two of the guards grab the woman. She falls to the ground wailing, but they lift her up easily yet roughly.

PHILO (CONT'D)

Then crucify the boy in front of the mother.

Now all the women wail and protest no's.

MOTHER

No... please... NO

PHILO

(to the boy)

You will not steal from Caesar. Any of you. Is that clear?

The boy is in total shock realizing what he has done.

Philo turns his horse and there is a young girl blocking his way.

She looks about 11 or 12. Her head is bowed and she does not look up. She is not wailing like the others.

The horse takes two steps backwards.

He kicks the horse towards the girl but it whinnies and takes another step backwards the wrong direction.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
 What do you think you're doing  
 little girl?

MARY  
 I am praying Sir.

PHILO  
 Really?  
 (amused)  
 Which gods do you pray to?

MARY  
 There is only one God.

PHILO  
 And what is this god's name?

Philo slides off his horse. The guards surround him facing the crowd of women. The mother is still crying. The boy is still being held.

MARY  
 Jehovah Jireh.

PHILO  
 I have heard about your God -- the  
 God of the Jews. So, are you  
 praying for our destruction?

He laughs at this and looks at his men.

MARY  
 No sir, I am praying for a savior.

PHILO  
 To save you from this awful desert  
 or from us Romans.

MARY  
 Our Savior will save the entire  
 world.

PHILO  
 Do I not scare you, little girl?

MARY  
 I am terrified of you, Sir.

Philo likes that answer.

PHILO  
 And is this God of yours all  
 powerful?

Mary nods.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
So can he make a rock so big he  
cannot lift it?

His men laugh.

MARY  
He already has, Sir.

PHILO  
What, this hell of a world?

His men laugh louder.

MARY  
No Sir... Your heart.  
(She looks up)  
But if you lift your heart to God,  
he can again make it flesh.

INT. ROOM - DAY

3

Philo is at his home. Two young girls run into the room and jump on his lap. Justa is about 8 and Mata 10.

JUSTA  
Daddy, do you have to go away  
again?

MATA  
We don't want you to leave. You  
have only been home for a few  
weeks.

PHILO  
Yes my loves, I have to go. I have  
a new promotion. But after two  
short years I will be back. My  
service to Rome will be finished  
and I will be here all the time.

JUSTA  
Are you really going to the desert?

PHILO  
Afraid so.

JUSTA  
Well, just be careful. Daina at  
school said the desert can turn  
your heart to stone.

PHILO  
My heart will never harden. I  
promise.

With that, the girls hug their dad.

EXT. DESERT FIELD - CONTINUOUS

4

Philo's memory of his girls has changed him somehow. He has just noticed that this is also a young girl.

PHILO  
You think my orders too harsh  
child?

MARY  
Sir, the crows will come this  
evening and eat the seed from  
Caesar, but you do nothing to them.  
They do nothing at all, not even  
the planting.

Philo eyes her suspiciously.

PHILO  
What is your name child?

MARY  
Mary.

PHILO  
And Mary, you think your God can  
turn my heart back to flesh?

MARY  
With God, nothing is impossible.

PHILO  
Well Mary, your God must favor you.

He mounts his horse.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
Stay that last order Marcos. Do not  
lash the mother or crucify the  
child, but give him... three  
lashes.

To Jonathan he repeats

PHILO (CONT'D)  
You do NOT steal from Rome.

He turns to Mary and throws back his cape to show scars on his back.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
I was once shown mercy for doing something stupid.

To Jonathan.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
(slowly)  
Once!

To Marcos.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
And Marcos, bring four archers to the field every evening and morning for the next week. Shoot every crow that steals Rome's grain.

To Mary.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
I have never liked crows. Annoying creatures.

Mary slightly smiles.

PHILO (CONT'D)  
Now, get back to work.

The horseback riders take off the way they had come and the boy is walked in the same direction. His mother follows by herself crying. The crowd again gets to work. One woman walks up to Mary.

ANNA  
What do you think you're doing child?

MARY  
I'm sorry Momma. I didn't know what to do but pray.

ANNA  
That was the new leader of the Roman garrison. You had no idea what he could have done to you.

MARY  
I know, I'm sorry.



ANNA

Your father is going to kill you  
when he hears of this.

MARY

Well... We don't really have to  
tell him, do we? We can keep it a  
secret like you told me to about  
the pillows you bought last week.

ANNA

Oh Mary, what am I going to do with  
you?

Mary and her mother continue to seed the field. Pull back to  
see crows begin to fly in.

INT. JOACHIM HOUSE - LATER

5

This is a small room, part livingroom part kitchen. Mary is  
working with vegetables and Anna is stirring a pot over the  
fire.

In walks Mary's father, Joachim, a very good looking man with  
dark hair and a beard. He is wearing gold scarves.

JOACHIM

(singing)

Family, I am home.

MARY

(also singing)

Welcome Father. How was rehearsal?

JOACHIM

(singing)

Rehearsal was wonderful. I sing to  
our God. He blesses us, but

(he lowers his voice)

I heard there was some trouble in  
the field today.

ANNA

Bernice's child Jonathan was caught  
stealing grain. They took him to  
lash him.

JOACHIM

(Singing again low)

Praise God they didn't do anything  
worse.

Mary and Anna share a look.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

What was that?

ANNA

What was what?

JOACHIM

I saw a look.

MARY

It is nothing. The new Praetor was there. I think he was getting a tour.

Joachim raises his head like he knows something is going on.

MARY (CONT'D)

So are there any new songs this week?

JOACHIM

You always want a new song, Mary.

MARY

I just love hearing you sing, Daddy.

JOACHIM

Being the only Cantor in our Synagogue does have its privileges. Then I come home and am surrounded by two beautiful women.

He goes over and grabs Anna.

Anna pulls away. She has heard this before.

ANNA

Frisky means there is something you are hiding. What's up?

JOACHIM

I don't know. After rehearsal the Rabbi said he wanted to ask me something. He wanted us both to come over at sunset.

ANNA

Nothing good happens with secrets. This worries me.

JOACHIM

Oh, I'm sorry. Was I not to notice  
the new pillows no one told me  
about?

Mary smiles at her mom who tilts her head like 'did you  
tell?'

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

Let's just have dinner. Go over and  
expect a blessing.

ANNA

You just go outside and expect to  
wash your hands for dinner. Mary,  
bring me the vegetables.

Mary runs a bowl across the room and Joachim goes out the  
door but the latch sticks.

JOACHIM

This stupid door. I wish I knew how  
to fix it.

Joachim exits.

INT. ROMAN OFFICE- EVENING

6

Philo and Marcos are talking at a table.

PHILO

I do not understand these Jews. How  
long have you been here?

MARCOS

Three and a half years.

PHILO

Then you leave in six months.

MARCOS

Yes sir.

PHILO

And where is home?

MARCOS

I am from Ostia on the Tyrrhenian  
Sea coast.

PHILO

Beautiful... do you miss water?

MARCOS

You have no idea. I miss my family more. Where is your home?

PHILO

I am from Verona in the Province of Boii. Beautiful trees and hills covered in grapes. Kids?

MARCOS

A son. He is in Rome studying. You?

PHILO

Two girls. Eleven now and eight.

MARCOS

So what is it you do not understand?

PHILO

Everything. These Jews have the worst piece of land I have ever seen. Strategically placed between three continents and every land trade route between them crosses here.

Marcos smiles and nods.

PHILO (CONT'D)

They have no industry, no natural resources, enemies on all sides. Not a friend in the world and still they give thanks to a God who is silent. They pray for a Savior who does not come. It is like the only thing they have is... faith?

Marcos nods.

PHILO (CONT'D)

I have been reading about one of their heroes, Joseph. Do you know him?

Marcos shakes his head no.

Philo lifts a scroll from his table.

PHILO (CONT'D)

He was his father's favorite but not the oldest and his brothers hated him, but it says here his God was with him.

(MORE)

PHILO (CONT'D)

They threw him in a well to die and it says here that God was still with him.

PHILO (CONT'D)

Then some travelers came by and took him out of the well and put him into slavery, and once again his God was with him. He was made his master's favorite and the woman of the house tried to seduce him. When he denied her advances she claimed he tried to rape her. He was put into prison and His God was still with him. Then he gave information to a cell mate who used it to get out and was to come back and get Joseph out after he was freed, but he forgot and left him there. Again, it says His God was with him. I don't know about you but I would be "God, could you go and visit someone else for a while?"

Marcos laughs.

MARCOS

Hey God, do you know my brothers?

PHILO

Exactly. This land gives you a choice. Saltwater or saltier water. Nothing can live here but goats and bees and then these Jews give thanks for a land of milk and honey. I wonder if they know they've even been invaded?

MARCOS

I think they know. I just don't think they care. They really believe that their God will come and save them.

PHILO

Well, if what I read is right, it won't be like anything they expect.

MARCOS

Let us hope we are not here to see it.

PHILO

Agreed... I hear our carpenter came today.

MARCOS

Yes, he came up from Bethlehem. He has a son but no wife.

PHILO

Do you think he noticed there are no trees here?

Marcos again laughs.

MARCOS

I was told he has a friend who can supply wood.

PHILO

(slightly frustrated)  
Great.

INT. RABBI'S HOUSE - EVENING

7

The house is bigger than Joachim's but there is less there.

The rabbi is a rather large man and he is sitting on some pillows. Two other men sit with him. Candles and a fire light the room

Jacob is a thin Indiana Jones looking man and his son Yoseph appears to be about 16 with lighter curly hair. Both are seated on pillows as well.

A knock on the door and a woman, the rabbi's wife, runs out of another room to answer the door.

Joachim and Anna enter.

RABBI

Ahh, Joachim, Anna. We were expecting you.

All rise.

RABBI (CONT'D)

Joachim, this is Jacob and his son Yoseph.

All nod at each other.

RABBI (CONT'D)

Jacob is a carpenter who has been working in Bethlehem and has been commissioned by the Romans for their garrison here in Nazareth.

ANNA

A carpenter? We are in the desert. Do you see any trees around here?

JACOB

I have a friend. He will be bringing wood as I need it. Each garrison is required to have a carpenter now. I think it is a new rule.

JOACHIM

Welcome, but how does this involve us?

RABBI

I know you have been renting your brother's house since he passed.

JOACHIM

I had... but the family left in the middle of the night last month and it is in no shape to rent.

JACOB

We wouldn't need much. I can repair anything damaged and I can pay.

JOACHIM

You can pay?

ANNA

He may be able to fix our door.

JACOB

The Romans are paying me a talent a month and I can pay you a tenth.

ANNA

A talent a month; you must be a good carpenter.

JOACHIM

A third.

JACOB

A fifth and I'll look at your door.

JOACHIM

(pause nodding slowly)

Okay, a fifth of a talent... paid  
in advance and you get the place  
back into shape.

JACOB

Agreed.

JOACHIM

And look at my door.

Jacob holds out his arm and smiles.

JACOB

Agreed.

They grab arms...

JACOB (CONT'D)

We have heard about your singing.  
So you are the Cantor?

JOACHIM

Yes I am. I hope you will be coming  
to...

Audio fades and so does the scene as you see the men sit on  
the pillows and Anna leaves the room in the direction of the  
rabbi's wife.

FADE OUT.

EXT. ANCIENT STREET - LATER

8

Anna and Joachim are walking arm in arm.

JOACHIM

They seem nice.

ANNA

Hmm, you like them because they can  
pay.

JOACHIM

We have not had a carpenter in the  
city for a few years.

ANNA

Why do we need a carpenter? We have  
no wood, besides what we need to  
make charcoal.



JOACHIM

He said he has a friend. A supplier from Egypt.

ANNA

Hmm, a friend.

JOACHIM

Okay, what is it?

ANNA

I am worried about Mary.

JOACHIM

What is wrong with Mary?

ANNA

She just doesn't seem interested in boys.

JOACHIM

I have told her that the first boy she brings home she must not really like.

Anna stops and looks at him with a question on her face.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

Because I am going to kill him.

Anna pushes him in the arm. They continue to walk.

ANNA

There are just so few boys her age...

(Changes tone.)

Yoseph was nice.

JOACHIM

Anna, we are blessed. Mary has yet to grow into a woman's form. It has protected her from the Romans. They still see her as a child, and she will always be our child.

ANNA

In many ways she is still such a child.

JOACHIM

We trust God with our tomorrows. We must trust Him with our todays... and also hers.

Anna sighs as she holds him a little tighter and rests her head on his shoulder as they continue to walk down the street.

INT. JOACHIM HOUSE - NIGHT 9

Anna and Joachim enter from the front door. The fire burns but all the candles are out. Anna lights one from the fire.

ANNA  
Mary, are you here?

INT. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT 10

She is in bed and rises on an arm when she hears her mom.

MARY  
Yes Mom. I'm in bed.

INT. JOACHIM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 11

ANNA  
Good night, Honey.

MARY (O.S.)  
What did the rabbi want?

ANNA  
Men stuff. I will tell you in the morning.

MARY (O.S.)  
Okay. Good night.

ANNA  
Good night.

JOACHIM  
Sweet dreams.

MARY (O.S.)  
Goodnight, Daddy.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 12

Mary snuggles into her pillow and falls asleep. A smile crosses her face.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

13

Flowers of every color. Mary waves at a group of girls who are dancing in the distance.

All wave back.

Rabbits hop and birds fly around. Humming birds are humming a very Middle Eastern tune. (Maybe Mary's theme song.)

One lands on her finger.

MARY

You only hum because you haven't  
learned the words yet.

The bird sticks out its tongue and flies away.

A line of young boys her age are doing strongman poses to impress her. She laughs at them.

Looking at her feet she sees puppies. She sits on the ground and begins to play with them. She picks one up.

MARY (CONT'D)

Now you're the silly type of boy I  
can hang with.

The puppy licks her face.

GABRIEL (OS)

Hey Mary, full of grace?

Mary turns to see Gabriel standing behind her. He is wearing a light beige tunic and has curly black hair. Super cute. In fact, it is hard to tell if he is a man or a woman. Except no breasts so he's a he. Just really a cute he.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

The Lord is with you.

MARY

Wow,

(to herself)

So, that's what the term tall drink  
of water means?

GABRIEL

I am the Angel Gabriel.

MARY

Angel huh, I am not sure I believe  
in angels.

GABRIEL

Just because you don't believe in something does not mean it isn't true.

MARY

Okay, now you sound like my dad.

GABRIEL

Good singer. I like his voice.

MARY

I do too.

GABRIEL

Mary, you believe in prophets and messengers?

MARY

Maybe from a long time ago, but I'm going to need a little proof here.

The sky turns from blue to gold. The clouds begin to move rapidly left to right across the sky and change from white to metallic silver. The field changes to all purple. The animals disappear.

Gabriel grows to twice his height and in one motion pulls a shield adorned with a lion and a lamb from behind his back. He draws a flaming sword and, as he swishes it back and forth - Whosh Whosh, giant blazing white wings unfold from his back.

Mary still sitting covers her eyes with her arm and turns her head.

MARY (CONT'D)

Oookay... Oookay. That... that's Impressive.

GABRIEL

Do not fear, Mary.

MARY

Really... do not fear? Have you ever seen you do that??? Cause... there's really only one response.

GABRIEL

Mary look.

Mary turns her head back, lowers her arm and opens her eyes.

The world is as it was. She picks up her favorite puppy kisses its head and puts it under her chin.

MARY

So an Angel... Gabriel... really cute Angel... so are all angels as cute as you???

GABRIEL

Mary focus.

Mary pouts a little at that rejection.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I have come to bring you a message. You are as beautiful on the inside as you are on the outside.

Mary doesn't know how to take that. Is this angel hitting on her?

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

God has smiled on you and has chosen you to deliver a son. His name will be God is with us since he is the Son of the Most High and will sit on the throne of David. He will rule the house of Jacob forever and have no end.

MARY

Umm, Gabriel,  
 (Mary smiles with her teeth closed and shakes her head back and forth)  
 Ummm... I've never, um, actually been with a guy that way? How's this going to happen?

GABRIEL

The Holy Spirit of God will hover above you and that is why your child will be called the Holy Son of God. Did you know your cousin Elizabeth has conceived a child in her old age? Everyone believed she was barren but now she is six-months pregnant. See, with God, nothing is impossible.

Remembering her own words from earlier that day.

MARY

Got it, sure, why not. Holy Spirit,  
Dream Angel... really dreamy Angel,  
Son of God. Sure, okay.

GABRIEL

And Elizabeth.

MARY

And my 60 year old cousin is going  
to have a child. No, got it. Let it  
be as you say. I'm in, what could  
happen?

Mary again smiles, kisses and snuggles the puppy.

GABRIEL

Blessed are you among women.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - MORNING

14

Mary is snuggling her blanket as she did with the puppy. Her  
eyes open and she turns on her back and looks out the window.

On the only leafless branch of an olive tree outside of her  
house sits a dove. It's watching her.

MARY

That's funny.

She throws back the covers and grabs a day dress and starts  
to change.

Looking out the window, she sees the dove is still watching  
her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Going to change my clothes you can  
go away now. Nothing to see here.

Looking down at her chest.

MARY (CONT'D)

Unfortunately.

Looking out the window Mary sees the dove fly off.

MARY (CONT'D)

Weird.

INT. JOACHIM'S HOUSE - MORNING

15

Mary enters as Anna is taking a pot out of the fireplace.

MARY

Good morning Mom. Where's Dad?

ANNA

Your father is opening his brother's house for the new carpenter and his son. That is what the rabbi wanted to talk to us about.

MARY

A carpenter? Do they know we are in the desert and have no trees here?

ANNA

I guess he has a friend. He works for the Romans.

MARY

Why would the Romans need a carpenter?

Anna shrugs and puts some of the contents in a bowl.

ANNA

Who understands anything about the Romans? Breakfast?

MARY

Sure, I'll have a bite.

ANNA

Are you okay Mary?

MARY

I'm fine. Why?

ANNA

I don't know. You just look... different. Not look just... something.

MARY

I had a weird dream last night. Have you heard anything from your cousin Elizabeth?

ANNA

My cousin Elizabeth in Judea? No not a thing.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

There was a traveler that told your father that her husband Zachariah had stopped talking for some reason but that may just be a rumor. Was she in your dream?

MARY

Well kind of, in my dream she was pregnant.

ANNA

(Laughing)

That wouldn't be possible. She must be in her 60's by now. There is no way she could be pregnant. That doesn't happen.

MARY

Well, with God, all things are possible...

Looking down as she remembers the dream and what she told the Roman Soldier yesterday.

ANNA

But some things are certainly not likely. Are you sure you're okay?

MARY

I'm fine. Just the same, would you mind if I went to visit?

ANNA

By yourself? YES, I would mind. I don't need you traipsing off to Judea. Especially because of a dream.

MARY

What if I got a couple of my friends to go with me?

ANNA

Like who?

MARY

Sarah, Imma, maybe Aaron and Jonathan if he is feeling better.

ANNA

The carpenter's son, Yoseph, seems to be a nice boy. Maybe you could ask him also?

(MORE)



ANNA (CONT'D)

He's about your age and I'm sure he would like to meet some kids.

MARY

Okay, so if I can get a group together who want to go on a trip, I can go?

ANNA

Only to visit Elizabeth.

MARY

Promise, that's all we are doing.

Mary gets up and heads toward the door.

ANNA

Where are you going now?

MARY

I'm going to go to the well and see if anyone's there.

Mary pulls on the door.

MARY (CONT'D)

This stupid door.

ANNA

Take a jug with you and bring back some water since you're going there.

The door finally opens and Mary grabs a jug by the door. She looks inside and turns it upside down and taps the bottom.

MARY

Okay I will. Be back in a little while.

ANNA

And if you see your father, remind him to have the carpenter look at our door.

Shutting the door behind her, she runs by a window.

EXT. NAZARETH- DAY

16

Mary walks through the village passing a couple of people, but there are not a lot around. Two Romans walk by.

As she passes a few other villagers standing together, they pay her no attention. She turns a corner and sees her father with Jacob.

Joachim sees her.

JOACHIM  
Mary, Mary, come here.

Mary walks over.

MARY  
(Sings)  
Good Morning.

To Jacob.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Hi.

JOACHIM  
Jacob, this is my daughter, Mary.

MARY  
Pleased to meet you, Sir.

JACOB  
Joachim, I didn't know you had any children. Hello. Do you have any others?

JOACHIM  
No, Mary is all the Lord has blessed me and Anna with.

Mary blushes at the fact she was just called a blessing.

JACOB  
Yoseph is my only child also.  
(yelling)  
Yoseph can you come out here?

YOSEPH (O.S.)  
Be right out.

JOACHIM  
What are you doing out, Mary.

MARY  
I am going to the well to get some water for Momma and to see if any of the village kids are there.

A door opens and Yoseph exits.

JACOB

Yoseph this is Mary. Joachim's daughter.

Yoseph and Mary see each other for the first time and unable take their eyes off each other, they speak very slowly and carefully.

YOSEPH

Hi.

MARY

Hi.

JOACHIM

Mary, you're getting water at this time?

MARY

It's a long story. I wanted to see if any of the kids wanted to take a small trip.

JOACHIM

Where to?

MARY

I had a dream last night about one of Momma's cousins and I just wanted to check on her. Momma didn't want me to go alone.

JOACHIM

Which one?

MARY

Elizabeth?

JOACHIM

Elizabeth in Judea? Yes, that is too far of a trip to go alone.

MARY

That is why I am seeing if Imma, Sarah, Aaron, or maybe Jonathan wants to come.

YOSEPH

Judea is about the same distance as Bethlehem and we just came up from there last week.

Both adults look at him.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)  
Just... saying.

Looking again at Mary.

JACOB  
Mary... maybe can you show Yoseph  
where the well is?

He turns to Joachim.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
If that's okay?

Joachim nods.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
Take a couple of pots with you.

YOSEPH  
Two?

JACOB  
For now. You can get more later. We  
have a lot of cleaning to do.

MARY  
C'mon. It's not very far. You sure  
you can handle two?

Yoseph stands a bit straighter.

YOSEPH  
Yes, of course I can carry two.

He looks at the pots concerned.

MARY  
Okay, we'll be back in a bit.

Mary and Yoseph walk off. The men watch and talk silently to themselves.

Mary, remembering something, turns.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Hey Dad, Mom asked me to remind you  
about the door.

Joachim makes a motion like he is opening a stuck door. Jacob nods and looks in the back of a small cart. Taking out a toolbox and both men walk off screen.

Yoseph and Mary continue to walk toward the well.

MARY (CONT'D)

So you are from Bethlehem?

YOSEPH

Born and raised.

MARY

I've never been there. What's it like?

YOSEPH

It's about half the size of Nazareth I guess. We had a cart with all our stuff in it so it took us a bit longer to get here.

MARY

How long?

YOSEPH

Ten days.

MARY

Ten Days? It only takes us four to get to Jerusalem.

YOSEPH

We spent two days in Jerusalem. My dad had a bunch of business there.

MARY

I love Jerusalem.

YOSEPH

I know. Huh? It's great. I don't know if I could live there permanently, but it is so fun to visit.

MARY

Have you thought about where you would like to live permanently?

YOSEPH

No, right now I just want to travel. I would love to see Greece.

MARY

Egypt.

YOSEPH

Asia.

MARY  
Turkey.

YOSEPH  
Rome?

They both stop, turn and look at each other.

MARY  
No way.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)  
No way.

MARY  
I am so not interested in going to Rome.

YOSEPH  
I know can you imagine a city full of Romans?

MARY  
Scary.

Both start marching like Roman soldiers.

YOSEPH  
You must kneel before Caesar.

MARY  
You must die.

YOSEPH  
No, you must die.

MARY  
And after you die make sure you kneel. Cause I am super smart. We wear metal in the desert.

Turning a corner they pass two Romans standing in the sun, sweating. Laughing they begin again to walk normally.

YOSEPH  
I would like to go to Lebanon and see the cypress trees.

MARY  
Being a carpenter's son, I bet you would.

YOSEPH  
Wanna know a secret?

MARY  
Sure.

YOSEPH

I have never seen a real tree.

MARY

We have trees all around us. Olive trees, palm trees.

YOSEPH

I know, but most are just like tall bushes and you can't really make anything easily. I meant like an oak, and cypress and... and pine. I really would like to see a real pine tree. The stuff they use in Jerusalem for the temple. You know real wood.

Mary just looks at him and smiles.

MARY

Here, let me have one of your jugs.

YOSEPH

No, I've got em.

MARY

I know, just place one on my head and I can help carry for a bit. Just for a little while, we're almost there.

Yoseph puts one jug down and the other on Mary's head. He then shakes out his arms and picks the jug up again.

YOSEPH

I don't know how women do that?

MARY

We all have our gifts.

Yoseph is now looking at Mary the way she had just looked at him. Neither one noticed the other.

EXT. WELL - CONTINUOUS

17

Mary and Yoseph round a corner of buildings. There are Seven women at the well sitting and talking. It is late morning but not yet noon.

A few feet away under a shelter of sticks are a few teenagers and smaller kids.

Walking over.

MARY

Hey guys.

Everyone says hi back.

SARAH and IMMA look about the same age as Mary but have developed.

A couple younger kids are with them. One of the boys jumps out from behind some barrels.

BOY

Hi Mary, Guess what?

MARY

What?

BOY

I found a dead scorpion this morning and cut off his stinger. Want to see?

MARY

No thank you. I'm good. Hey everyone this is Yoseph. He just moved here from Bethlehem.

SARAH

Never heard of it.

YOSEPH

It's a small town about a day South of Jerusalem.

BOY

Do you want to see my scorpion.

YOSEPH

Yeah!!!

The boy grabs Yoseph's hand and leads him around the building.

SARAH

He's cute.

Mary watches him leave.

MARY

Must be a boy thing.

IMMA

Well maybe a new boy will add some excitement around here.



MARY  
Speaking of excitement. I was  
wondering if anyone wanted to take  
a trip?

SARAH  
Maybe, where?

MARY  
Judea.

Sarah and Imma look at each other. Not excited.

SARAH  
That's like a four-day walk.

MARY  
Five if we add a day in...  
Jerusalem.

IMMA  
Now you're talking.

Another young man with the beginnings of a beard shows up.

AARON.

MARY  
Hey Aaron.

AARON  
Morning Mary. What's going on?

Sarah opens up a part of the blanket she is sitting on. Aaron  
sits next to Sarah. They might be a thing.

MARY  
I was just seeing if anyone wanted  
to take a journey.

Yoseph comes back alone.

AARON  
Journey to where?

SARAH  
Judea.

MARY  
Aaron this is Yoseph. He just moved  
here from Bethlehem.

Aaron gets up. He is about a head taller than Yoseph. He  
sticks out his arm and they shake.

AARON

Bethlehem, that's as far as Judea.  
What made you move up here?

YOSEPH

My dad has a job working for the  
Romans. He's a carpenter.

IMMA

A carpenter. Um... you might not  
have noticed but we don't have any  
trees here. We're in the desert.

YOSEPH

My dad has a friend that will get  
him wood.

AARON

Works for the Romans. They're not  
very popular around here. They just  
lashed one of our friends  
yesterday.

MARY

How is Jonathan? Has anyone checked  
on him?

SARAH

No, we were waiting for Aaron and  
then we're all going to go over at  
the same time.

AARON

I want to get back to the fact this  
guy's dad works for the Romans.

YOSEPH

He works for them. He isn't one of  
them.

MARY

My dad says to let God take care of  
the Romans. We need to take care of  
ourselves.

IMMA

My dad says the same thing. The  
Romans won't last forever, but God  
will.

Aaron isn't liking Yoseph.

SARAH  
 Lighten up, Aaron. It's his dad not  
 him. Come on, let's go visit  
 Jonathan.

Everyone gets up and heads up the street.

YOSEPH  
 (To Mary)  
 I left my pots.

MARY  
 Don't worry. They're safe.

INT. JONATHAN HOUSE - DAY

18

Again a small and very sparsely decorated home.

Jonathan is laying in the living room on some pillows. His  
 mom is folding clothes and putting them on the counter.

Knock on the door O.C.

Jonathan's mother opens the door.

SARAH  
 Good day. Ma'am, we've come to  
 check on Jonathan.

MOTHER  
 He is resting. Let me ask.

She turns.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 Are you up, honey?

JONATHAN  
 Yes Mom, let them in.

All the kids come in and some stand while some sit on the  
 floor. Mary stands between Aaron and Yoseph, next to Yoseph.

Imma is the closest to Jonathan.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)  
 Hey guys. Thanks for coming by.

Imma reaches into a bag and takes out a loaf of bread.

IMMA  
 My mother baked a loaf of bread for  
 you.

SARAH

My mother sent over some vegetables  
and dried fruits.

Both hand their bags to the mother.

MOTHER

(to Imma)

Did you or your mother send this?

IMMA

(sheepishly)

My mother helped.

Mother smiles at the offer.

Noticing Yoseph.

MOTHER

And who is this?

MARY

His name is Yoseph. He just moved  
to town with his father.

AARON

His father works for the Roman scum  
that did this to Jonathan.

MOTHER

Really?

YOSEPH

My father is a Carpenter. What  
happened?

AARON

I'll tell you what happened. They  
have taken our land and are eager  
to put us into slavery or just kill  
us all.

MOTHER

My son did something very stupid.

Looking at Aaron.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

The new Praetor had him lashed. The  
old one would have had him  
crucified.

Walking over to Mary.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
Thank you Mary.

Beginning to cry.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
You saved my son's life.

Hugs Mary tightly.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
(looking her in the eyes)  
I am... we are... both indebted to  
you forever.

YOSEPH  
What did you do?

MOTHER  
She stood up to him.

MARY  
I prayed... and answered a few  
questions.

YOSEPH  
Stood up to whom?

MOTHER  
You saved my son's life.

JONATHAN  
You saved both me and my mother.

IMMA  
It was pretty awesome.

SARAH  
I never would have had the courage  
to do what you did.

YOSEPH  
Wait, you stood up to the Roman  
Praetor?

MARY  
I answered a couple of questions. I  
prayed. We all were praying.

MOTHER  
No Mary, You were praying. Only  
you. You engaged. You saved my  
son's life.

YOSEPH

You stood up to the Roman Praetor?

IMMA

It was seriously awesome.

AARON

If I had been there...

MOTHER

Aaron you weren't there and what Mary did... It should be an example to us all. Stand firm and pray. We saw the results. You saved my son's life.

MARY

I am so sorry I didn't even think about bringing anything over.

YOSEPH

I could go and get some water. I have a couple of pots over by the well.

MOTHER

That would be great. Thank you. I haven't had a chance to get to the well this morning.

MARY

Yoseph, I'll go with you. Are you guys sure you're okay? You don't need anything else.

MOTHER

(with so much love and gratitude in her eyes)  
No, we're fine. Thank you again so much. I can never thank you enough. You are the most... amazing girl.

Aaron glares at Yoseph as they leave.

EXT. DAY - CONTINUED

19

Outside on the way to the well.

YOSEPH

Looks like Aaron doesn't like me very much.

MARY

He's been angry for a long time. His family had a run in with the Romans and they lost all their property. He is his father's oldest so he lost the most.

YOSEPH

You really stood up to the Romans?

MARY

No, all I did was pray. Really it just got out of control. I was scared to death. Then last night I had a dream and this morning all I could think about is getting to see my cousin in Judea.

At the well they begin to fill the pots.

YOSEPH

So you forgot about the Romans... must have been some dream.

Mary looks up and sees a dove on the ledge of the building.

MARY

Yes, it was SOME dream...

EXT. WELL - MORNING

20

The kids have gathered.

Aaron, Yoseph, Mary, Imma, and Sarah.

MARY

Good morning everyone. Thank you so much for coming on the trip with me.

IMMA

When you told us you were going with us or without us we didn't have a choice.

SARAH

Plus ten days with Aaron

MARY

You guys are going to behave, right?

AARON

Of course.

Looking at Yoseph.

AARON (CONT'D)

Why's he coming.

MARY

He just traveled most of the way last week.

SARAH

Aren't you tired?

YOSEPH

No, not really. I've been walking since I was a kid. I'm getting pretty good at it.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

Besides, as I keep hearing, there isn't any wood around here.

MARY

I tell you what, your dad did a great job on our door.

YOSEPH

I know we are paid by the Romans, but we really are here for the community. If anyone else needs anything done just let me or my Dad know.

AARON

For a charge I'm sure.

YOSEPH

Do you work for free?

Aaron looks at Sarah.

AARON

Sometimes.

MARY

Okay guys, we have a long way. Let's head out.

IMMA

Can we stop by Jonathan's?



MARY

YES!!!

The kids put their sacks over their shoulders and head off.

Music interlude EDM track of Jewish Trance music.

The kids are coming out of Jonathan's and walking down the trail. Drone flies overhead.

Stopping for lunch at an oasis, eating figs and bread, refilling their jugs of water and head out again.

Preparing to bed for the night and making camp.

Waking up and the boys go one way around a boulder and the girls go another.

While walking, Mary points at a bush and Yoseph shakes his head and mouth. "That's not a tree."

Later sitting in the shade of an overhang and pantomime their dreams.

At a stream, the boys carry the girls over. Aaron and Sarah, Mary and Yoseph share a moment in the middle of the stream. Aaron and Yoseph do a fireman's carry with Imma. Lunch is on the other side.

Next morning Mary points to trees on the side of the bank. Yoseph mouths "Bushes." She gets a pouty face.

Mary says "what's a tree?"

Yoseph cuts a bunch of reeds and grasses and stands in the early sun. His body's shadow looks like a trunk and the grasses look like a tree? He shows Mary his shadow.

She mouths "You've never seen one?"

Yoseph mouths "I can dream." Imma comes over and sticks a reed in his armpit.

Now all the kids come over and start sticking reeds and grasses in every open area.

He starts to wiggle he reaches into his tunic and pulls out a small lizard.

Laughing, Mary shares a look with him.

More trail and passing shepherds with flocks, a group of about 20 Romans. More walking and talking. As they cross the top of a hill, they stop and from over their shoulder you see a very large city.

IMMA

Jerusalem.

Off they continue.

EXT. JERUSALEM WALL - EVENING

21

As they talk people pass, Villagers and Romans.

MARY

So do we want to leave in the morning? It's one more day to Judea.

SARAH

We could stay here for a day one each side of the journey.

AARON

We just walked for three days and never got around to talking about this?

YOSEPH

Mary what do you want to do?

MARY

I want to see my cousin as soon as I can.

YOSEPH

So sleep here and we leave in the morning.

SARAH

Or... Aaron and I stay here for a couple of days and you guys continue without us.

IMMA

Yeah you could meet us back right here in three days.

Looking at Aaron and Sarah?

IMMA (CONT'D)

Someone has to watch you two.

MARY

That's not what we planned.

AARON

We didn't really plan anything.

YOSEPH

Mary, I could walk with you.

IMMA

Wow, I didn't see that coming.

Everyone smiles at Mary and Yoseph.

YOSEPH

C'mon you guys we had told Mary we would walk with her to her cousin's.

You hear music and partying going on over the wall.

AARON

Or we change our plans.

Mary, seeing she is not going to change their minds, looks dejected and asks Yoseph.

MARY

You wouldn't mind going the rest of the way with me?

YOSEPH

I did tell my dad I would talk to a friend of his here but I can do that on the way back if that's okay?

She seems to be moved by him.

MARY

Thank you.

AARON

We'll bed here or... do a quick walk through.

SARAH

Walkthrough?

YOSEPH

Dude, this is Jerusalem. It's a day from one side to another. There is no quick anything here.

IMMA

Yoseph's right. We should get some rest. I've been walking for three days.

Taking off their gear, they begin setting up camp.

EXT. WALL - MORNING

22

The kids are all packing up their gear.

MARY

Okay, we meet right back here  
tomorrow evening.

IMMA

You sure you can make it there and  
back by tomorrow night?

MARY

We should be there by evening.

YOSEPH

Sleep the night.

MARY

Leave in the morning.

YOSEPH

Be back tomorrow evening.

IMMA

You guys are kind of cute,

Mary and Yoseph give each other a look, pick up there stuff  
and head out.

EXT. DAY - LATER

23

Mary and Yoseph are at an oasis and are finishing some pita  
bread.

Yoseph puts his gear on and reaches down to help Mary up. As  
she gets up, he looks at her hand. Then he looks in her eyes.

She blushes and picks up her stuff.

They begin to walk down the path.

YOSEPH

You know that felt really nice.

MARY

What?

YOSEPH

Holding your hand.

Mary reaches out her hand and Yoseph takes it. They continue  
walking hand in hand.

Begin track **Glimmer in the Dust** from 3:22 to end.

Mary and Yoseph continue walking, pantomiming and stealing glances.

EXT. DAY - LATER

24

Coming over a small hill, they see a small city. The buildings are different. They are brightly painted. Think Bahamas meets Middle East.

Walking down the hill, they pass flocks of goats and another group of Romans.

They stop to talk to a couple of people close to their own age and they point into the city getting directions.

Stopping at a nicely painted blue house, Mary knocks on the door.

An old weathered man opens the door and nods his head up.

MARY

Hi Cousin Zachariah, I don't know  
if you remember me, but I am Mary,  
daughter of Joachim and Anna from  
Nazareth.

His expression changes to one of absolute joy.

He nods and nods and walks out to hug Mary.

This is my friend Yoseph. He has helped me on the journey.

The old man extends an arm and Yoseph grabs it in greeting.

MARY (CONT'D)

Is Elizabeth here?

He again nods and nods and opens the door and motions them in.

YOSEPH

(whispering)

Why doesn't he speak?

MARY

I don't know.

INT. ZACHARIAH - CONTINUOUS

25

Pointing at some pillows, they sit as he leaves the room.

MARY

There was a rumor that he had lost his voice. I guess it's true.

Zachariah comes into the room with a very pregnant Elizabeth.

Mary and Yoseph get up.

ELIZABETH

Mary, is that really you? Oh my, how you've grown.

MARY

It looks like you've grown also.

All of a sudden she grabs her belly and moans in a little pain.

MARY (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

ELIZABETH

Yes, well I think so. Zachariah. I need to speak to Mary. Can you and her young friend go and get some water?

Zachariah points to a couple of pails by the door.

Yoseph gets up and grabs two.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I didn't even introduce myself. I am Elizabeth, Mary's cousin.

YOSEPH

No, that's alright. I mean it's nice to meet you. My name is Yoseph. Can we get you anything else?

ELIZABETH

No, just some water, and take your time. We need to visit.

Yoseph looks at Mary who smiles and nods. He and Zachariah leave.

Beat

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Mary, blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the child you carry!  
(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

MARY

I had a dream where an angel told me you were expecting. I know how, well, old you are and I came as soon as I could to see for myself.

ELIZABETH

As soon as the sound of your voice reached my ears the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!

MARY

Of course I believe, but I don't know why he would pick me.

ELIZABETH

Of course you wouldn't, but your whole body radiates love. It has ever since I have known you. I also know the love you have for God. Do you remember the song you wrote and used to sing on your visits here?

Mary softly sings, (May insert a track here)

MARY

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me--Holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm. He has scattered those who are proud in their innermost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant, Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.

ELIZABETH

Why do you think you wrote that  
song as a little girl?

Mary shrugs.

MARY

Well, it has a whole new meaning  
now. I wasn't really good at  
rhyming back then.

ELIZABETH

So, you are carrying the Messiah?

MARY

Yeah, I am kind of sure I am.

Elizabeth's baby jumps again.

MARY (CONT'D)

Are you sure you're okay?

ELIZABETH

Yes, but I have a favor to ask.

MARY

Sure anything.

ELIZABETH

This is a big one?

MARY

Okay?

ELIZABETH

Zachariah is an old man. I am also  
really old to have a child. We  
really need help. We don't have any  
relatives in the area. I know this  
is a lot but can you stay with me  
until the baby comes?

MARY

You mean like months from now?

Elizabeth nods.

ELIZABETH

I know it's a lot.

MARY

No, no, it's okay. I would love to.  
I can send Yoseph back with the  
message.

(MORE)



MARY (CONT'D)

My parents don't know about any of this, about me. About you.

ELIZABETH

Thank you so much. You don't know how much this means. I have been so worried. Two old people having a baby. It's crazy.

MARY

Nothing is impossible with the Lord.

(beat)

You know, I seem to be saying that a lot lately.

ELIZABETH

Well, let me show you around the house. It's not much. The kitchen is over here.

Elizabeth gets up and so does Mary. They head off to another room...

FADE OUT.

EXT. ZACHARIAH - EVENING

26

Yoseph is sitting by a fire pit in a courtyard attached to the house. He is next to his bedding and poking a small fire with a stick.

Mary comes out and sits next to him very close.

MARY

It's nice out here.

Yoseph shrugs. He is in thought.

MARY (CONT'D)

You know how our plans have been changing lately?

Yoseph looking at her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Elizabeth has asked me to stay with her and help her and Zachariah around the house until the baby comes.

YOSEPH

What did you say?

MARY  
I said I would.

YOSEPH  
Wow, that does change my plans.

MARY  
How?

YOSEPH  
I was thinking about going back to Nazareth and asking your Dad if I could... you know maybe... court you. Maybe ask you, you know someday... to marry me... someday.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)  
If you would be okay with that. The courting I mean.

MARY  
I'd be okay with that. I would be really okay with that.

YOSEPH  
But now you're four days away.

MARY  
(looking sad)  
Yeah.

YOSEPH  
But let's think about this. I do want to travel.

MARY  
You do love to travel.

YOSEPH  
And it's only four days.

MARY  
Four days for a traveler is nothing at all.

YOSEPH  
And you will need clothes.

MARY  
Yep, this is all I brought.

YOSEPH  
And I know your parents will want news.

MARY  
About Elizabeth and Zechariah.

YOSEPH  
And you.

MARY  
Oh, and me, of course.

YOSEPH  
And it would probably keep us from  
fighting.

MARY  
Wait, What would we fight about?

YOSEPH  
For one thing you're four days  
away.

MARY  
Oh yeah, there is that, Wait so we  
wouldn't fight about me being four  
days away because I am four days  
away.

YOSEPH  
Exactly.

MARY  
Good, I got it.

YOSEPH  
I get to travel. You get to help  
your cousins, I get to visit. You  
get an awesome fiance. I can only  
see one downside to this whole  
plan.

MARY  
What's that?

Yoseph picks up Mary's hand and looks in her eyes.

YOSEPH  
That I am going to miss you every  
single moment I'm gone.

Beat, okay two beats.

Mary stands.

MARY  
Auuugggg!!!

Heading towards the door.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Good night Yoseph.

YOSEPH  
Good night Mary.

Mary goes in and shuts the door.

INT. ZACHARIAH - CONTINUOUS

27

Mary is on the inside of the door.

MARY  
(looking up)  
Please tell me this is part of your  
plan.

She heads O.C.

FADE OUT.

EXT. ZACHARIAH - MORNING

28

Door opens and Mary walks out.

Yoseph packed his gear and is ready to walk off.

MARY  
Here is a list of the things I'll  
need. Just give this to my mom or  
dad.

YOSEPH  
Wait, you can write... and read?

MARY  
Yeah, I know I'm not supposed to,  
but my dad believes that women were  
made from a rib so that we would  
walk side by side a man. God would  
have made us out of a toe if we  
were supposed to be below you.

YOSEPH  
Makes sense.

MARY  
Then you'd have to get your other  
foot circumcised.

Yoseph just looks blankly at her.

MARY (CONT'D)  
So they'd be even.

YOSEPH  
We... shouldn't circumciseion...  
talk... bad.

Mary smiles.

MARY  
So what's the plan?

YOSEPH  
I'll meet up with the guys this evening. I have some business in Jerusalem for my dad. Then we will probably leave tomorrow late morning. I don't know what my dad needs when I get home. I'm sure he will want some help with something. I mean we just moved in and then hurry back here. It may be like two weeks though, maybe longer.

Mary pouts.

MARY  
You don't have to leave right away. Would you like some breakfast?

YOSEPH  
It's a long walk and I should get going...

Mary again pouts.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)  
Leaving on an empty stomach isn't a good idea, so maybe a couple figs.

MARY  
Good. I'll be right back.

Mary runs into the house, and before the door closes, she comes out again with a tray of food.

YOSEPH  
Are you feeding an army?

MARY  
I got up early and watched you sleep.

YOSEPH  
You watch me sleep?

MARY  
Yeah, from the window and then I  
got hungry. Then I thought you'd be  
hungry. Then I started preparing  
food. Then you got up and...

Motions to tray.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Breakfast... You don't have to eat  
it all. You could take some with  
you and share it with the guys  
tonight.

YOSEPH  
I do have to leave sometime today.

MARY  
I know, in a short time?

YOSEPH  
I'm sure I have time for a couple  
of figs.

Yoseph grabs a fig, biting into it he looks at Mary.

Mary is pleased that she is feeding her man.

INT. JOACHIM HOUSE - DAY

29

Knock (O.C.)

Joachim answering the door sees Yoseph standing there.

JOACHIM  
Hi Yoseph, Where's Mary?

YOSEPH  
That's why I'm here. May I come in?

JOACHIM  
Of course, of course, what's  
happened? Anna, come here.  
Something's happened to Mary.

YOSEPH  
No, No, nothing's...

Anna rushes in.

ANNA

Oh no, oh no, what has happened to my Mary?

YOSEPH

No, no, nothing's happened.

JOACHIM

Where is she?

YOSEPH

Well something's happened, a lot really, but she is fine.

ANNA

Then where is she?

YOSEPH

She stayed in Nazareth with your cousin.

ANNA

Why would she do that?

YOSEPH

Everyone, sit and calm down. Do you mind if I sit? I've just walked four days in two.

JOACHIM

Please sit. Would you like some water? Anna get him some water.

YOSEPH

No, no, I'm fine. I'll get some in a moment.

Everyone sits.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

Mary was right about your cousin. She is pregnant, very pregnant. You were right about her husband, the rabbi. He has been unable to speak. They are both also very old. I mean really old. Elizabeth asked Mary to stay with them and help. Mary said she would. She sent this to explain and also it's a list of things she'll need.

Yoseph hands them the scroll Mary had given him.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

I came straight here but I still have to check in with my dad before I can return to her.

JOACHIM

Then you know Mary can read and write.

Yoseph nods.

YOSEPH

I think it's cool. She's a very special girl.

JOACHIM

Well, you will not need to go. I can take her what she needs. I will leave this afternoon.

ANNA

But you have duties in the synagogue. Next week is Shavuot.

JOACHIM

Okay, I'll talk to the rabbi and see what he says.

YOSEPH

Hold on. Mary knows it would be two weeks before I would return with what she needs. Let me help my dad and make sure he has settled in.

JOACHIM

I told you, you don't need to go. I need to check on my daughter.

YOSEPH

I do need to.

They both look at Yoseph.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

I gave her my word I would come. Besides, we all know it is not a good idea to travel alone. Anything can happen. So let me go with you. I am sure you would like the company and I know I will.

JOACHIM

But why would you go if you don't need to?



YOSEPH

Because I told her I would... If I am not allowed to go with you... I will just follow behind.

Anna and Joachim look and nod. This was the right answer.

JOACHIM

Okay, you go home and check with your dad.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

He has been working every day with the Romans and in the community. We haven't had a carpenter here in a while. I'm going to go talk to the rabbi and tell him I will not be here the week after Shavuot, and Anna, why don't you see about pulling some things together for Mary.

ANNA

Yoseph, why don't you ask your dad and see if you two would be able to come for dinner after Shavuot?

Yoseph looks at Joachim who nods approval.

YOSEPH

Thank You. I'll ask him.

They all get up.

Yoseph heads for the door.

Joachim follows.

JOACHIM

Yoseph, thank you for all you have done for Mary, and I would like to have you as a companion next week.

Reaching out his arm, Yoseph grabs it.

Yoseph exits.

EXT. JOACHIM - CONTINUOUS

30

The door shuts behind Yoseph.

YOSEPH

And we have a couple other things  
to talk about. I won't mind a  
little bit of running room.

Yoseph exits O.S.

EXT. JOACHIMS - MORNING

31

Joachim is rolling up a mat.

Yoseph appears O.S. and walks up to Joachim.

YOSEPH

Good morning, Sir.

JOACHIM

Good morning Yoseph. Ready?

YOSEPH

Yes Sir.

Anna exits the house.

ANNA

I have another bag of food for the  
trip. Oh hi Yoseph.

YOSEPH

Good morning Ma'am. I'll take it.

Joachim leaves him smiling.

JOACHIM

I have two bags for Mary. Can you  
take one also?

YOSEPH

Yes Sir.

Joachim hands him the biggest one.

ANNA

Don't you think he has enough to  
carry?

JOACHIM

He's young.

Yoseph picks up the bag and shoulders it.

YOSEPH  
 It's not bad. Besides,  
 (Looking at Joachim)  
 I doubt we'll be walking fast.

Anna smiles and slaps Joachim's arm.

ANNA  
 I like this boy.

JOACHIM  
 I know, I know. Anyone that can  
 make a joke about me. Haha. Okay,  
 let's go Samson.

Joachim kisses Anna and both men turn to walk O.S.

EXT. OASIS - LATER

32

Joachim and Yoseph are at a familiar oasis having a meal.

YOSEPH  
 So, how did you and Anna meet?

JOACHIM  
 Anna's father was the rabbi before  
 the rabbi we have now. As a kid, I  
 loved his messages, his heart, for  
 God. I would sit for hours and  
 listen to him teach. A very wise  
 man. He is the one who encouraged  
 me to sing. Do you sing?

YOSEPH  
 Do I sing or do I sing well?

Joachim shrugs.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)  
 I do not sing well.

JOACHIM  
 Mary loves to sing. We have been  
 singing instead of talking to each  
 other since she was a little girl.

YOSEPH  
 When did you notice Mary was  
 special.

JOACHIM

To a parent, your children are always special, set apart, different and better than other kids. When did you notice?

YOSEPH

What do you mean?

JOACHIM

Yoseph, your voice changes when you talk about her. Anna and I talked about it after our dinner the other night. I am a musician, I hear things.

YOSEPH

I kind of wanted to talk to you about that.

JOACHIM

Okay.

YOSEPH

I was waiting for the right time.

JOACHIM

You are waiting for a better time than now?

YOSEPH

I was hoping for a perfect time.

JOACHIM

Sometimes this is the perfect time.

YOSEPH

Okay, well Sir. I know I haven't known you or Mary for a long time, but I really like her and was wondering if you would let me... maybe begin courting her.

JOACHIM

Have you talked to Mary about this?

YOSEPH

Yes Sir.

JOACHIM

And what was her reaction?

YOSEPH

She wanted me to talk to you.

JOACHIM

I am going to have to think about this.

YOSEPH

I understand.

JOACHIM

I really should walk more. I am a bit out of shape.

YOSEPH

You are doing well. We are making good time.

JOACHIM

Maybe you can carry another small bag and we can continue with this pace. Otherwise, I will have to rest more often.

YOSEPH

O... kay... Sure.

Joachim picks up the largest bag. He smiles at Yoseph who purses his lips and reaches out his hand. Joachim smiles larger and bends to pick up the smallest. He hands it to Yoseph who is relieved.

JOACHIM

Are you sure?

YOSEPH

Yes Sir, I can handle it.

Taking the bag and they begin walking.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

33

Yoseph and Joachim are sitting by a small fire. Again eating.

JOACHIM

Then Anna's friend turns and sees a snake. He jumps back into the camel who...

Joachim looks behind Yoseph and stops talking. Yoseph begins to turn and...

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

Yoseph. Stay still, remain calm.

Two men, very dirty and disheveled, appear out of the darkness. Thug One is smaller and heavier. Thug Two is tall and stronger. Both have terrible teeth.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)  
Good evening gentlemen.

THUG 1  
Gentlemen? Where?

Both laugh.

THUG 2  
This is not a good place to be traveling alone.

THUG 1  
What brings you to this place?

JOACHIM  
We are traveling to Judea to visit a rabbi and my daughter.

THUG 1  
Oh... a man of God.

Both laugh again.

JOACHIM  
Yes, in fact, I am.

THUG 1  
You don't look like a rabbi?

JOACHIM  
I am a cantor.

THUG 2  
And the boy?

JOACHIM  
He may be becoming my son-in-law.

Yoseph smiles at Joachim at the thought.

THUG 1  
And taking them money?

JOACHIM  
(laughing)  
No, clothes for my daughter. Reaching in a bag he grabs outerwear. Maybe a bit small for you.

Yoseph pulls out a long cloth.

YOSEPH  
Women's underthings. You need  
these?

JOACHIM  
Girls shoes.

YOSEPH  
Maybe some haircare. Would you like  
to steal a brush?

THUG 1  
This isn't funny.

JOACHIM  
No, it isn't. If you want something  
to eat, we will be glad to share a  
portion with you.

Yoseph looks at Joachim like what are you doing?

JOACHIM (CONT'D)  
But it would not be a good idea to  
steal from a man of God.

Looking at Yoseph.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)  
Or his companion.

THUG 2  
We are already cursed by God.

JOACHIM  
Really? Boils?

YOSEPH  
Scabies?

JOACHIM  
Teeth falling out?

Thugs smile and show missing teeth.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)  
All of them?

YOSEPH  
Leprosy?

JOACHIM  
Torture and imprisonment by the  
Romans?

YOSEPH  
They cut off hands and feet I hear.

JOACHIM  
And your ears.

YOSEPH  
And your tongue.

JOACHIM  
Then they crucify you.

THUG 1  
Okay, okay, you have no money,  
carry women's clothes and are holy  
men.

THUG 2  
Haven't we heard this before?

JOACHIM  
Here, take this.

Joachim tosses a small bag to them.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)  
There is enough food for a couple  
of days. Do you need water?

THUG 2  
No, we have water.

JOACHIM  
Then can I pray for you?

THUG 1  
Yes Sir, that would be wonderful.

THUG 2  
I don't think anyone has prayed for  
me since my mother was killed. I  
was a child.

Joachim stands and begins to walk towards them.

THUG 1  
You mean now? Here? No, no, we are  
not worthy to be touched by a man  
of God. Thank you, but please pray  
for us later.



YOSEPH  
Sometimes now is the best time.

He can't believe he just said that.

Joachim looks at him.

JOACHIM  
The boy is right.

THUG 2  
No Sir, Thank you for the food.

THUG 1  
Thank you for the prayers.

Both men turn to leave.

JOACHIM  
Go in peace.

After they have left.

YOSEPH  
Wow, real robbers. Why did you give them food?

JOACHIM  
They were, like us, created in God's image but they have forgotten God. So they live so far beneath what they are capable of.

YOSEPH  
Weren't you scared?

JOACHIM  
Of course I was. But sometimes a little fear is good. If you don't feel fear, you might not be doing enough. I am scared when I sing a lot. It just doesn't stop me.

YOSEPH  
So when are you going to pray for them?

JOACHIM  
Like you said, right now is a good time. Besides, I don't see us falling asleep any time soon.

YOSEPH  
That's true. There is one problem.

JOACHIM

What's that?

YOSEPH

I don't know if I really know how to pray. I mean I pray... but I normally let the rabbi do the praying.

JOACHIM

It's simple. You just talk to God. Here's a prayer Anna's father taught me.

Both men bow their heads,

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

Holy God. Blessed is your Name...  
Your Kingdom come let your will be done... in heaven as on...

AUDIO AND VIDEO FADE

EXT. ZACHARIAH HOUSE - LATE DAY

34

Joachim and Yoseph approach. Mary is outside hanging clothes on a line not seeing the men approach.

JOACHIM

There is a familiar face.

MARY

Dad!

Mary runs over and hugs her dad.

MARY (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

Noticing Yoseph and looking coyly.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hi Yoseph.

He stretches out his hands and she grabs them and looks longingly in his eyes

JOACHIM

So you two remember each other?

MARY

Yes, really Dad, what are you doing here?

JOACHIM

I am checking on you. Yoseph told us you were staying with your cousins, but your mother and I wanted to see for ourselves.

MARY

So Mom sent you.

JOACHIM

Yes.

YOSEPH

And I came because I promised you I would.

JOACHIM

Quite a young man Mary. I like him.

MARY

I do too Daddy.

He motions for them to give them a hand which they are still holding.

He places one of his hands below and the other on top.

JOACHIM

I give you permission to court my daughter Yoseph. If that's okay with you Mary?

MARY

(Nodding)

Thank you Daddy.

YOSEPH

Thank you Sir.

JOACHIM

Now, where are your cousins? I would like to check on them also?

MARY

How long are you staying?

Mary and Joachim hug and walk into the courtyard. Yoseph follows...

FADE OUT. VIDEO AND AUDIO

TITLE: 35

Three Months Later

INT. ZACHARIAH HOUSE - DAY 36

Knock on the door (os)

Mary answers it.

MARY

Yoseph!

Mary and Yoseph hug.

MARY (CONT'D)

Come in, come in. You have to meet the baby.

YOSEPH

Good afternoon Elizabeth, Good afternoon Zachariah.

Elizabeth nods

ZACHARIAH

Hello Yoseph.

YOSEPH

You can talk?

ZACHARIAH

Yes. My voice came back to me at the naming ceremony. We were told by an angel to name him John and the elders were against it because no one in my family is named John. I spoke up and...

ELIZABETH

He really spoke up.

Mary picks the baby up from Elizabeth and hands him to Yoseph.

MARY

Yoseph, meet John.

Yoseph holds him out a bit. Uncomfortably.

MARY (CONT'D)

Here, put him in your arm like this,

She moves his arm.

YOSEPH

Hi John. Look at all that crazy hair.

MARY

Look at you. You're a natural at this whole baby thing.

YOSEPH

Wow, He's a little baby man.

The baby make cooing noises.

ZACHARIAH

See Yoseph. The reason I lost my voice is because I doubted a voice I heard while in the Temple giving an offering to the Lord. It was the Lord, I mean it really was the Lord and he told me Elizabeth was going to give birth to the one that would announce the coming of the Messiah. I didn't mean to doubt. But we are so old and people our age don't have kids. I don't know why I doubted but I did. It just didn't make sense. I guess when you're God you don't have to make sense.

ELIZABETH

You know, Yoseph, we could not have done this without Mary's help...

Yoseph is totally engaged with the baby.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

You look like a natural with John.

YOSEPH

Thank You.

(looking at Mary)

I plan on having children someday.

He looks back at John. Mary and Elizabeth share a glance.

ELIZABETH

You know John is here to proclaim the coming of the Lord.

YOSEPH

(talking in baby speak)

Yes you are.

(MORE)

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

You're here to tell everyone about  
the coming of the Messiah.

ELIZABETH

So, John comes... then the Messiah.

YOSEPH

Yes you will... tell everyone about  
the Messiah, but first you have to  
learn how to talk.

ZACHARIAH

I'm sure that will come soon  
enough.

YOSEPH

It's pretty awesome that God chose  
you.

(looking at Mary)

And to think we could be part of  
the story.

(baby speak again)

And all because of John.

Mary, Elizabeth, and Zachariah all look at each other. Yoseph  
cannot take his eyes off John.

MARY

Let's let John be with his mother.  
Do you want anything to eat or  
drink?

YOSEPH

To tell you the truth I would love  
to wash my feet.

MARY

Great. I got water this morning.  
Let's go out to the courtyard.

Mary takes John and gives him to his mother. She and Yoseph  
go outside to the courtyard.

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

37

Mary and Yoseph exit. Mary grabs a bowl as Yoseph takes off  
his sandals.

YOSEPH

Mary, I have so much to tell you.  
How long before you can return?

MARY

I was only going to stay till the baby was born. We talked the other night and decided I can go any time I want. I was hoping to return on this trip. The next time you came down.

YOSEPH

Wow, that's great. Sarah and Imma have been such a big help. We've been planning for your return.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

In fact, I guess I should make it official.

Yoseph gets up and sets Mary on the bench. He gets down on one knee.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

Mary, your dad has taught me that there is no more perfect time than now. I have fallen so deeply in love with you. I would love you to agree to be my wife.

MARY

Of course I would... But there is something I have to tell you.

YOSEPH

Okay???

MARY

We should trade places.

Mary gets up and has Yoseph sit.

MARY (CONT'D)

Yoseph, John has come to proclaim the coming of the Messiah.

YOSEPH

Yeah, I got it, but first he will learn how to talk.

MARY

Him just being here means that the Messiah will follow.

YOSEPH

Okay.

MARY

The scripture says he will be born to a virgin.

YOSEPH

Right.

MARY

Yoseph... This is so hard... I'm carrying him.

YOSEPH

Him... Who?

MARY

The Messiah.

YOSEPH

Carrying him where?

Slowly she holds her tummy.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

Wait. What??? You're pregnant?

Mary nods.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

Who did this to you?

MARY

No one did this to me. I'm still a virgin.

YOSEPH

You can't be pregnant and a virgin.

MARY

Yes, I know how it works normally.

YOSEPH

How did this happen?

MARY

I don't know. There was a dream and an angel and he said the Holy Spirit would hover above me, and then this dove is always here.

She points up to a dove on the roof.



MARY (CONT'D)

I mean this dove is always here.  
Then I came to visit Elizabeth and  
I'm... I'm pregnant.

YOSEPH

How far along.

MARY

I think about four months.

YOSEPH

Four MONTHS!!! That means you're  
going to bear a child in like five  
months from now.

MARY

I know, I can do the math.

YOSEPH

Mary, this isn't funny.

MARY

I know. I'm sorry. I am so sorry.

Yoseph gets up.

MARY (CONT'D)

Where are you going.

YOSEPH

Mary, I can't have another man's  
child.

MARY

It's not another man's. He is the  
Son of God.

Yoseph just looks at her. He's pissed. He picks up his  
sandals and bedroll.

MARY (CONT'D)

What are you going to do?

YOSEPH

I'll have to cancel the wedding and  
we'll figure something out with  
your parents. You know, they are  
going to think I did this.

MARY

Yoseph, please, no.

YOSEPH  
I can't have another man's child,  
Mary.

He turns to leave.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)  
Pack your things. We will leave in  
the morning.

MARY  
Where are you going?

YOSEPH  
I'm going to...

MARY  
Pray.

He turns to look at her.

YOSEPH  
Think.

He leaves and Mary falls to the bench and begins to cry.  
Start track **God have Mercy on the Lonely** - Melody Guy.  
Mary goes upstairs and gathers her things while crying.  
Sobbing she falls on her bed.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

38

Yoseph is walking through great pine trees. He marvels at  
their size and the creatures that live in them.

Coming to the edge of a cliff, he sees millions of people  
fighting. Above them are angels also in battle.

One angel in full fighting mode sees him and drops down to  
him. Frightened, he hides behind a tree.

GABRIEL  
Yoseph.

Yoseph remains quiet.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
Yoseph. Do not fear. Come out.

YOSEPH

I don't know if you've ever seen you, but I'm okay here.

GABRIEL

Look again.

Yoseph peers out and sees a man in a beige tunic, the man Mary saw in her dream, sitting on a rock right on the edge of the cliff.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I am the Angel that gave the message to Mary. Come join me.

Yoseph looks at the cliff and takes a seat a few feet away.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Something troubles you.

YOSEPH

My fiancée is pregnant.

GABRIEL

She is carrying the Savior of the world.

YOSEPH

I can't marry a pregnant woman.

GABRIEL

Why?

YOSEPH

Really, uh, what will people think?

GABRIEL

Yoseph, see that eagle? Do you care what it thinks.

YOSEPH

No.

GABRIEL

See the squirrels in the tree? Do you care what they think?

YOSEPH

Wow, so those are squirrels. No. Do they even think?

GABRIEL

On the ground, there are millions of men all doing battle. Do you care what they think?

YOSEPH

Not really.

GABRIEL

And of all those men, God introduced you to Mary. What about the angels. Do you care what they think?

YOSEPH

Well, I don't want to make you mad. You guys are really fierce.

GABRIEL

What about Mary? Do you care what she thinks?

YOSEPH

Yes.

GABRIEL

Why?

YOSEPH

Cause I love her.

GABRIEL

Want to know a secret?

YOSEPH

Sure.

GABRIEL

In the center of God's heart, that is where your love comes from. The center of God is love. This child Mary carries... He is going to love you like nothing you have ever experienced.

YOSEPH

I still don't know.

GABRIEL

See these millions? God could have introduced any of them to Mary, but he chose you. He is very pleased that you two love each other. She loves you, Yoseph.

Gabriel stands.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Tell you what. After you are married change, your name to Joseph.

YOSEPH

Like the son of Jacob?

GABRIEL

Yes, because your father is also Jacob and God was with him as God will be with you... You will raise the child as your own and name him Yeshua God is with us... So the question to ask yourself is, Do you want to be one of the millions who battle, or one of the few who accept and just love God's love?

Yoseph looks out at the field.

YOSEPH

Why do they battle?

GABRIEL

Ever since sin entered the world, men has been battling each other.

YOSEPH

Why did God create sin?

GABRIEL

He didn't create it. It is more the absence of God that is sin.

YOSEPH

Like at night when you blow out a candle, you have darkness?

Gabriel nods.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

Why do the angels battle?

GABRIEL

Some of us were affected also. But, since we know God personally, it's different for us.

YOSEPH

Why can't we just see God?

GABRIEL

Some people have, but you thought I was scary, people who see God have a habit of falling down dead. He has a plan for you to know him personally, but before you can, he has to become a person.

YOSEPH

The Messiah.

GABRIEL

And out of those millions, he brought you to meet Mary.

YOSEPH

And he made me fall in love with her.

GABRIEL

He doesn't do that, but I am glad you did.

YOSEPH

Me too.

They continue talking.

FADE OUT. VIDEO AND AUDIO

EXT. COURTYARD - MORNING

39

Mary still brings things out of the house.

Yoseph walks in to the courtyard.

**God have Mercy on the Lonely** melody plays on the BG

YOSEPH

Morning Mary.

Mary so dejected and sad. She is still crying.

MARY

Good morning. I am almost ready.

YOSEPH

Mary, I am sorry.

MARY

I know. How can you marry a pregnant woman?

YOSEPH

No, you don't understand. I am sorry I didn't trust you, I am sorry I hurt you, I am sorry I doubted your love for me. I am sorry I didn't listen. We will raise this child as ours. No one needs to know any different.

MARY

Okay... but... what happened?

YOSEPH

I had a dream last night.

Mary looks at him.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

There was an Angel.

MARY

Did he get all scary?

YOSEPH

He started out that way. Pretty impressive, really.

MARY

I know, huh?

YOSEPH

But he turned out to be a pretty nice guy.

Mary stops crying and looks at him with love again.

YOSEPH (CONT'D)

I don't care what anyone thinks. People, eagles, angels, or squirrels.

MARY

Squirrels?

YOSEPH

He showed me trees. Wow, they are big.

MARY

With squirrels.

Yoseph nods.

Mary hugs him tightly.

MARY (CONT'D)

I am so glad you saw trees.

YOSEPH

I don't care what anyone thinks  
except for you. Because I love you.

MARY

You know, after we get married, I  
don't think I can get more  
pregnant.

YOSEPH

True, But you can become less  
virgin. So we can wait till after  
the birth.

MARY

I love you so much.

Yoseph cups either side of her face and they kiss for the  
first time.

As they separate.

EXT. JEWISH WEDDING - DAY

40

Yoseph stops kissing Mary and they step on glasses. (May have  
to research)

There is a party going on.

People are singing and a couple of musicians with oud's and  
drums.

Everyone is joyous. Sarah runs in with Aaron and announces  
their next to be married.

Jonathan and his mom are laughing with Imma.

The boy and others in the village are enjoying themselves.

Joachim and Jacob are sitting together and Anna is fetching  
food and wine.

JOACHIM

Mary, Yoseph, come over here.

Mary and Yoseph come over.

Joachim stands.



JOACHIM (CONT'D)

A toast. I have not lost a daughter  
I have gained a son and a good  
friend... a new brother.

He looks at Jacob and they toast.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

To a long marriage and many  
grandchildren.

Everyone laughs.

JOACHIM (CONT'D)

If she doesn't eat him out of house  
and home.

Mary realizes that she is beginning to show.

Her mom, Yoseph, and Imma share looks. They are the only ones  
who know.

Jacob stands.

JACOB

As is tradition, we have added a  
room onto the house we are buying  
from Joachim. The newlyweds will  
stay there till they can get a  
place of their own.

Everyone cheers.

Yoseph walks to the parents. And turns to the crowd.

JOSEPH

Also, as is tradition, I can, on my  
marriage day, take a new name. So I  
chose Joseph. The same as the hero  
in the scriptures. His father was  
Jacob and mine is also.

JOACHIM

Then a toast to Joseph and Mary.  
Long life and many children.

The party continues.

FADE TO.

EXT. JOSEPH'S COURTYARD- DAY

41

Mary is outside in a new courtyard. Hers. She is hanging laundry. She is really big now.

Joseph enters from O.S.

JOSEPH

Hey, Mary.

MARY

Hey, Honey. What's up?

She puts her hand to her back and stands up.

JOSEPH

Is your back hurting?

MARY

Always.

JOSEPH

Another pregnant woman thing?

MARY

Yes.

JOSEPH

Like going to the bathroom every five minutes?

Mary gives him dagger looks.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Here, let me rub it.

He sits her down and pushes circles on her back.

MARY

Oh, that feels great. So, what's the news?

JOSEPH

It's not good. Caesar has ordered a census. Everyone must go to the city they were born in and register.

MARY

I was born here?

JOSEPH

But, since you're my wife, we have to go to Bethlehem.

MARY

No problem. We have made journeys that long in four days. You have done it in two. You're a traveler, remember?

JOSEPH

But not with a pregnant woman.

MARY

It won't be a problem. You know the way. We'll pack light. You still know people we can stay with, right?

JOSEPH

Yes, my father's friend, Earley, runs the Inn. I'm sure he'll give us a deal. Maybe even stay for free.

MARY

Okay, when do we have to leave?

JOSEPH

Can we leave tomorrow?

MARY

Great, walking will be good for me.

EXT. JOSEPH'S COURTYARD - MORNING

42

Mary is bringing out another bag. There are about (25).

Joseph exits the house and sees the pile for the first time.

JOSEPH

Mary, I can't carry all those.

MARY

I can help.

She picks up two small bags.

JOSEPH

Point to five.

MARY

Most of it is food. I am eating for two.

JOSEPH

Another pregnant woman thing.

He puts on as many as he can.

MARY

Okay, trade the blue one for the red-striped one and we're good.

Joseph pulls out the blue one. It was one of the first he put on so he has to take off most and start over, grabs the red striped one.

Mary grabs the blue one and starts to put some things into one of the small bags she is carrying.

MARY (CONT'D)

What? We can eat this at our first stop.

JOSEPH

That will be on the other side of the fence when you have to stop and pee.

MARY

Oh great idea. I should go now.

He just stands there with 12 bags and bedding looking at her as she runs (O.C.).

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

43

JOSEPH

So your Dad has said nothing.

MARY

No, I really don't think he counted the time. He is just excited about having a grandchild.

JOSEPH

And your Mom?

MARY

Oh she knows. She knew the morning it happened.

JOSEPH

But she hasn't said anything?

MARY

You don't understand. God has given my mother the gift every Jewish mother prays for.

JOSEPH  
A grandchild.

MARY  
No!!! I was an unwed mother. He  
gave her a reason to make me feel  
guilty every time we talk for the  
rest of her life.

Joseph laughs.

EXT. TRAIL - LATE DAY

44

They are at a split in the path.

JOSEPH  
I don't remember which path to  
take.

MARY  
We go this way.

JOSEPH  
How do you know that?

MARY  
The star.

She points to a star ahead of them.

MARY (CONT'D)  
We should follow the star... When  
do you ever see a star in the day  
and... and where would you ask for  
directions anyway?

JOSEPH  
I can't believe you're following a  
star. Is that another pregnant  
woman thing?

MARY  
No, just a woman thing.

Walking about 10 steps. She points to the ground.

MARY (CONT'D)  
And then there's that.

A medium size rock on the side of the road is scratched with  
the word Bethlehem and an arrow pointing the direction she is  
going.

JOSEPH  
Lucky guess.

EXT. NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

45

They have laid out the bedding.

JOSEPH  
Wow, that star is really bright.

MARY  
Have you noticed how it doesn't  
move like the sun, moon or other  
stars?

JOSEPH  
No, not really. Okay, bedding is  
all laid out.

MARY  
Do you have our special blanket.

JOSEPH  
Right here.

Mary gets on the ground and turns on her side. Joseph cuddles  
in behind her and covers her with the blanket.

MARY  
This is nice.

JOSEPH  
My favorite part of the day.

MARY  
Oh, oh.

Joseph pulls the blanket off of her.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I've got to pee.

Joseph lies on his back.

JOSEPH  
I know. First of 20.

MARY  
Sorry, not enough room for baby and  
tinkle. Now, this IS a pregnant  
woman thing.

JOSEPH  
I understand.

EXT. MORNING

46

Mary turns from her back to the side Joseph was on. He's not there.

MARY  
Joseph.  
(to herself)  
I just can't get comfortable.

JOSEPH (O.C.)  
Just taking care of my business.  
I'll be there in a bit.

MARY  
Okay.

She grabs the covers and turns on her left side bringing the covers with her.

There on a rock beside her face is a large black scorpion.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Joseph.

JOSEPH (O.C.)  
In a minute.

The scorpion turns to look at her.

MARY  
(whispers)  
Joe...

The scorpion raises its tail in a striking pose.

Mary reaches behind her to pull herself back. She feels a small rock and, in one fast move, she squashes the bug.

Scorpion guts shoot all over her face.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Auuuggg!!!

Spitting.

Joseph walks up.

JOSEPH  
Good Morning.

Mary pushes herself up and looks at Joseph.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Ew, what's all over your face? Is this another pregnant woman thing?

Mary glares at him shaking.

MARY

NO! THIS IS NOT ANOTHER PREGNANT WOMAN THING. GET ME A CLOTH AND SOME WATER.

JOSEPH

We should save the...

MARY

GET ME A CLOTH AND SOME WATER. NOW!!

Joseph realizes something isn't right so he starts digging through their stuff and hands her a cloth.

EXT. DAY - LATER

47

They are climbing a small hill. She is about 10 feet ahead of him. He is definitely staying behind her.

MARY

Joseph, I feel so bad you have to carry so much.

JOSEPH

It's okay. The way we are going through food, it's getting lighter by the minute.

Mary stops and glares at the camera.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I mean... I'm eating it too.

MARY

I was thinking. I could carry the bags downhill if you would carry them uphill and we could split them when it gets flat. That way we can make better time.

JOSEPH

Sounds good to me.



MARY

Look, it gets flat right up ahead.

They walk about 20 steps and Joseph takes off half his bags and hands them to Mary. It's a bit much for her but she is not going to complain.

They walk about another 20 steps and round a corner and it begins to go downhill.

It seems about 25 miles all downhill.

Joseph begins taking off all the bags and puts them on Mary.

She is bending over with the weight.

JOSEPH

Oh yeah. This is much better.

He stretches and notices her hunched over.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Oh honey, let me help.

He grabs a small bag and turns to walk away.

Mary begins to walk hunched over by the weight. She is not a quitter.

Joseph takes about ten steps and turns back to Mary.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

You know, maybe we could split them even going downhill. I am just not used to walking this light. I may get out of shape.

MARY

I wouldn't want that to happen to you.

He walks back to her and takes all the bigger bags leaving her four smaller ones.

MARY (CONT'D)

I just wanted to help.

JOSEPH

You are helping... I love you. Serosly Mary, you are the strongest most incredible woman. I have no idea how you have been able to come this far.

He hugs her and they continue walking side by side.

EXT. OASIS - DAY

48

They are eating dates and resting. Joseph is rubbing Mary's feet.

JOSEPH

We can take the trail left and go to Jerusalem or right and go to Bethlehem. They are both about a half-day's journey.

MARY

I vote Bethlehem. I think the baby's going to come soon and I want to be at the Inn when it happens... I don't want to deliver out here.

JOSEPH

You think you may have it out here?

MARY

I don't know. This was farther than I thought it would be.

JOSEPH

I don't know what to do if you go into labor.

MARY

Like everything else, let's just trust God... and take more breaks.

Joseph nods.

EXT. BETHLEHAM EVENING

49

Walking, there are more people here than you can believe.

Hundreds. This is a small town of about 20 buildings and a bazaar. There are tents and lean-to shelters of every type.

Small cooking fires on the street.

JOSEPH

Mary, I have never seen it like this.

MARY

It's not a problem. I didn't expect so many people though. Let's just get to the Inn.

JOSEPH

Okay, its down here.

They walk down a street and turn a corner.

They pass a few Roman Solders.

Tents and people are everywhere.

They come to a building with dozens of people on the inside.

Joseph goes up to the front door and peers in.

EXT. INNKEEPERS PORCH - NIGHT

50

JOSEPH

Earley, Earley.

A man in his late 40's comes to the door.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Earley, I don't know if you remember me. Yoseph, son of Jacob the Carpenter.

EARLEY

Of course, I remember you.

A girl screams like she is being murdered.

EARLEY (CONT'D)

Hannah, leave your sister Mariah alone.

JOSEPH

Do they still fight?

EARLEY

I think they wake up at night just to kick each other.

JOSEPH

Earley, this is my wife, Mary.

EARLEY

Wife? You have only been gone a little over a year.

(MORE)

EARLEY (CONT'D)

It is a pleasure to meet you, Mary.  
And you're having a baby?

A woman runs by the door.

EARLEY (CONT'D)

Zella, Zella, come here. Remember  
little Yoseph?

Zella comes to the door.

ZELLA

(yelling to someone O.C.)  
Mariah, don't throw things at your  
sister.

MARIAH (O.C.)

She threw her bread at me.

ZELLA

Yoseph, so good to see you again.

JOSEPH

Well, my name is Joseph now. I  
changed it when I got married. This  
is my wife, Mary.

Two girls appear at the door. They are so close to the same  
age, it would be hard to tell them apart.

HANNA

I want to change my name. I could  
be Wonder Princess.

MARIAH

They only named you Hanna because  
they couldn't spell. Blaauucckk.

HANNA

They did not. I want to be Wonder  
Princess.

ZELLA

Hannah, go upstairs and get ready  
for bed. Mariah, go pour water for  
the dishes.

HANNA

I don't want to go to bed.

She stomps off and up the stairs. For the rest of the scene  
you hear her stomping.

MARY

They seem nice.

ZELLA

Pleasure to meet you, Mary. It's pretty crazy here right now.

EARLEY

Joseph, did you come here for the Census?

JOSEPH

Yes, I did. Any chance you have a room?

EARLEY

Not at all. I have ten people staying in the living room.

ZELLA

Mariah, fill the washing bowl don't play with the dishes. I've got to go. Nice meeting you.

Zella runs off. Mariah yells at her sister to stop stomping.

The stomping gets louder.

EARLEY

In fact we have 25 people in town as census-takers and maybe 200 more that were born here. It's crazy.

MARY

Joseph.

JOSEPH

We just traveled six days from Nazareth and Mary is really pregnant. We need something.

EARLEY

There's nothing I can do. We have the kids in our room and three or four people in all the others.

MARY

Joseph.

JOSEPH

There has to be someplace.

EARLEY

I don't even have a spare blanket to make a tent. You can have whatever you need; I just don't have any room.

MARY

Joseph.

Mary bends over in pain.

JOSEPH

Mary are you okay?

MARY

It's time.

JOSEPH

Time for what?

Mary gives him that look again.

MARY

(Taking a couple deep breaths)

It's time to have the baby.

JOSEPH

You mean now? Here?

Mary is holding her tummy and nodding. Another pain.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Earley, you've got to help us.

EARLEY

I, I can't believe I am saying this... but I cleaned out the Manger in the back today. I was hoping to rent it to either a tax collector, a money lender, or a Roman if one came by. But that is all I have.

JOSEPH

Look, that will be fine.

EARLEY

Come on, it's back here.

JOSEPH

Come on Mary. Do you need a hand?

MARY  
No, I can walk.

Earley leads the way and Joseph picks up the bags and follows. Mary takes his arm. In the back is a rather large open building made for animals and not humans.

INT. MANGER -NIGHT

51

Earley lights a lantern and hangs it above a stall.

Joseph sets up the bedding and helps Mary lie down. She has another contraction.

EARLEY  
I'm going to get Zella. She may be able to help. Wow, look at that star. It's going wild.

Outside it is getting lighter and wilder as the star begins to dance in the sky. It is almost a lighthouse with hundreds of beams.

Earley leaves to get Zella.

JOSEPH  
I am so sorry this is where you must have the baby.

MARY  
This is fine. I just want to have it out of me.

She grimaces in pain again.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Ah, ah.

Joseph holds her hand.

JOSEPH  
What do you want me to do?

MARY  
Pray. Really pray, not just think.

EXT. NIGHT - MANGER

52

Zella and Earley come back followed by Hanna and Mariah.

MARIAH  
Is she having a baby?

HANNA  
I want to have a baby.

MARIAH  
You are a baby.

HANNA  
Am not.

MARIAH  
Are too.

HANNA  
Am not.

MARIAH  
Are too.

ZELLA  
You guys stay out here. I'll see  
what's going on.

The girls keep fighting in the background.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

53

ZELLA  
Joseph, go outside. Mary, I am not  
a midwife. I really have never done  
this before.

Joseph exits the stall and stands near Earley outside.

Mary is having pains.

ZELLA (CONT'D)  
Has your water broken yet?

Mary Nods.

ZELLA (CONT'D)  
When?

MARY  
It happened when we came into town.  
I told Joseph that I had to tinkle  
but it wasn't tin... ah.

Again with a contraction.

ZELLA  
Okay, let me look.



Zella lifts up her dress.

ZELLA (CONT'D)  
Mary... You have a Hyman.

MARY  
I'm still a virgin.

ZELLA  
How can you be a virgin. Joseph  
have you not been with your wife.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS 54

JOSEPH  
I can be with her. I just  
haven't... quite yet.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS 55

ZELLA  
How can you be pregnant and still  
be a virgin?

Mary shrugs and has another contraction.

ZELLA (CONT'D)  
Wait a minute... a virgin... the  
star... A baby... Bethlehem...  
(whispers)  
THE MESSIAH.

Mary again nods... another contraction.

ZELLA (CONT'D)  
Oh my God, Oh my God, Oh my God.

MARY  
I think He is everyone's God.

Another contraction.

Zella runs out of the manger.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS 56

Zella runs out and to the kids. She is freaking.

ZELLA  
I need you to get a pot of water as  
hot as you can.  
(MORE)

ZELLA (CONT'D)

Hanna, I need you to get as many clean cloths as you can find.

MARIAH

I want to get the...

ZELLA

(yelling)

Shut up. Shut up. SHUT UP! NO FIGHTING. NO BACK-TALK. JUST GO AND GET THE CLOTHS. CLEAN CLOTHS AND HOT WATER... NOW!!!

Both kids are standing with their eyes wide open. They have never seen their mom flip her \_\_\_\_\_. They turn and run to the Inn.

EARLEY

Zella, are you okay? You have never yelled at the girls like that before.

Zella walks to Joseph and Earley

ZELLA

Earley, she's a virgin. A pregnant virgin in Bethlehem... The star... Virgin. Bethlehem?

Earley looks at Zella, then the star, then Zella.

EARLEY

The Prophecy?

Then he looks at Joseph.

EARLEY (CONT'D)

The Messiah?

Joseph squeezes his lips together and nods his head.

EARLEY (CONT'D)

Oh my God, Oh my God, Oh my God.

Zella hits him in the arm

ZELLA

And you put him in the manger?

EARLEY

I didn't know. There wasn't anyplace else? I'm so sorry. Anything you need is yours.

Zella runs back into the manger.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

57

ZELLA

How are you doing Mary, was it?

Mary gives her the look she gives Joseph. Has another contraction.

ZELLA (CONT'D)

Okay breathe like this.

Zella does four pushing breaths.

ZELLA (CONT'D)

It's really important that you don't push till I tell you to.

MARY

Okay.

Mary has another contraction and does the breaths.

ZELLA

Now there might be a little ripping.

MARY

Ripping. What ripping? What's going to rip? No one said anything about ripping.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

58

The star is freaking out. There are long beams of light flooding the whole Earth like a searchlight.

Joseph looks at Earley.

JOSEPH

Ripping?

EARLEY

It's more like a little tear.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

59

MARY

Tearing? There is no tearing no  
ripping. No, no, no. No one said  
anything about tearing and ripping.

Mary has another contraction and breathes four times.

ZELLA

Okay, it's almost here. It's almost  
time to push.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

60

The girls are running to the manger.

HANNA

Momma, I have cloths

MARIAH

I have water. It's very hot.

Zella sticks her head out of the manger and takes the items.

ZELLA

Girls, I am sorry I yelled.

The girls nod it's okay and move over to their dad.

MARIAH

Dad what's happening?

Earley bends down and hugs his girls.

The star is freaking out.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

61

ZELLA

Okay, its time. Push.

Mary screams. You see her. Sweaty, screaming, crying,  
screaming, crying, screaming, crying. Head tossing back and  
forth. Light is strobing across her face as it moves right to  
left.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

62

The star is going wild. It disappears with a whoosh only  
leaving a full moon and the normal stars in the sky.

HANNA

Daddy, what happened to the light?

A baby cries from inside the manger.

Everyone slowly turns to look at the manger.

Zella exits.

ZELLA

Joseph, go in and meet your son.

Joseph enters.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

63

Mary is laying on her side holding a baby.

MARY

Joseph, here's your son.

Joseph kneels beside Mary and picks up the baby and looks at his peaceful face.

JOSEPH

He is so perfect. Mary, he's so beautiful.

Handing the baby back to Mary he lies beside her and holds them both.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

64

Zella and Earley are standing side by side. In the far distance, there are lights dancing in the sky. Something's going on, on the other side of the hills.

ZELLA

I wonder what that is over where the Shepherds stay?

EARLEY

Tonight, who can say? Look at the animals.

Not noticing them till now a couple of sheep, a cow, and some chickens all are facing the manger. All are laying down just looking at it.

ZELLA

Now Earley, that's a miracle.

Hanna and Mariah are sitting next to each other on the ground. Hanna has her head on Mariah's shoulder Mariah has her arm around Hannah. They are sleeping.

EARLEY

Could he really be the Prince of Peace?

ZELLA

He seems to be tonight.

They walk over picking up their children then continue walking back to their Inn.

INT. MANGER - MORNING

65

Joseph enters with something in his hands.

JOSEPH

Look Mary. I got up early and made a cradle.

He starts to put bedding in it.

INT. INN - MORNING

66

Earley is coming down the stairs. He looks in the room and sees a big open space. Something is missing.

EARLEY

Zella, Where's my chair?

ZELLA

I think Joseph took it. You said he could have anything he needed.

EARLEY

But my chair. What would he need with my chair?

ZELLA

Who can understand teenagers?

EARLEY

(pouting)  
But it rocked.

INT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

67

Joseph puts the baby in the cradle.

JOSEPH

Look Mary... it rocks.

He rocks it back and forth.

MARY

You really are a carpenter!

JOSEPH

I told you so.

You hear a commotion outside.

INT. INN - CONTINUOUS

68

You hear the commotion.

EARLEY

Now what?

They open their door and step out on the porch.

Coming up the road is a large caravan. Three camels with riders are followed by dozens of people and animals. Shepherds and goats.

EARLEY (CONT'D)

I am going to need a bigger Inn.

ZELLA

Well, it's a good thing you have a carpenter... living in your manger.

She slaps him on the arm again and walks back into the house.

He hangs his head and sighs.

EARLEY

They are never going to let that go.

EXT. MANGER - CONTINUOUS

69

Joseph comes out of the manger.

JOSEPH

You should see this, Mary.

MARY (O.S.)

I think I am just going to lie here for a moment.

The caravan walks up the road but one of the camel riders stops.

ANDREW

Yoseph?

JOSEPH

Andrew what are you doing here?

ANDREW

I am on a journey with my fellow wise men to find the King of Kings foretold by a star last night. Did you see it?

JOSEPH

Andrew, everyone saw it and I think you found him.

Now Mary appears.

MARY

Joseph? Who is this?

JOSEPH

Mary, remember all the times I stopped in Jerusalem to do business for my Dad? Well, this is Andrew. He's a trader, a Magi, an astronomer.

ANDREW

I am involved in many enterprises. These are my friends. Steven and Fritz.

Both nod.

JOSEPH

Andrew this is my wife Mary. Wait a minute.

Joseph looks at Mary and she nods yes.

STEVEN

And you had a child last night?

Mary nods as Joseph comes out of the manger carrying his child.

JOSEPH

This is our child.



All the men dismount from their camels and get down on one knee. So do all the people with them.

FRITZ

We have brought you gifts.

ANDREW

But this might not be the best place to give them to you.

STEVEN

Our camp is not far. Can we take you to it?

FRITZ

Maybe you would like a bed and a bath?

MARY

Yes please, but I don't know how far I can walk right now.

STEVEN

You've walked enough.

All the men rise. He snaps his fingers and two men come with a stretcher.

ANDREW

Just lay here and we'll carry you.

JOSEPH

Let me pack up.

ANDREW

We'll take care of that as well.

Men run into the manger and start to gather their belongings.

JOSEPH

Wow, I didn't expect this.

Mary looks at him again with those loving eyes as she lies on the stretcher.

Standing on the side of the road are a few Shepherds. Mary motions for them to come look at the baby.

As they leave they reveal a very young boy with a drum.

Mary motions to him.

Shaking his head, looking down, he points to himself.

She continues to wave him over and he runs up with his drum.  
A baby squeals with laughter.

INT. TENT - DAY

70

Mary opens her eyes. She realizes that she has been asleep and is in the most comfortable bed of her life.

She gets up and looks over at the simple cradle that Joseph built for them.

Rubbing her tummy she realizes.

Jumming out of bed she sees the baby and is relieved.

Hearing voices and lifting the baby up she walks over to the bed and begins feeding and singing to him.

Insert **Mary's Lulaby**. Movie theme.

INT. TENT - LATER

70A

Part of the tent opens and Mary exits into the room. Her hair is wet and she is drying it.

Looking at the cradle she smiles. Turning her gaze to the bed she see's two sets of folded clothes. The ones she has been wearing. Now clean and folded and a new set. Royal blue with gold and bright red.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

71

The men are sitting on pillows and telling stories. They are laughing when Mary pulls a flap back and enters. She is wearing the clothes you see on stained glass. There is no doubt she is Mary the mother of Jesus. She is carrying the child.

MARY  
Good Afternoon.

ANDREW  
Afternoon?

The men laugh.

STEVEN  
Mary you have been sleeping since we brought you here yesterday.

MARY  
I slept all day.

JOSEPH  
And all night. You got up a couple  
of times to feed the baby but fell  
asleep so when he was finished I  
put him back in the cradle.

MARY  
I must have been tired.

STEVEN  
Deservedly so.

MARY  
So, what have all you men been  
talking about?

JOSEPH  
I had a dream last night.

MARY  
(slowly)  
Did it involve an Angel?

Joseph nods.

ANDREW  
We came to Bethlehem through  
Jerusalem.

FRITZ  
Met with your King Herod. Not a  
nice man.

ANDREW  
I have never trusted him.

STEVEN  
He wanted us to see about your  
child and report back to him.

FRITZ  
None of us trust him. He's up to  
something.

ANDREW  
So we have decided to head south to  
my home in Egypt.

MARY  
Egypt?

ANDREW

Yes Mary. I have offered Joseph a job in one of my businesses.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

We hoped you would consider coming and living for a while. So we can find out King Herod's true intentions.

JOSEPH

Mary, they brought us gifts.

ANDREW

Besides a job, I have gold. Enough for you to live on for many years.

STEVEN

I have brought Myrrh.

FRITZ

I have brought Frankincense. Is there any chance I can hold the baby?

MARY

Of course.

Mary walks over and hands the baby to Fritz.

MARY (CONT'D)

You have been so kind and your offers so generous, but I don't...

ANDREW

It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than to stop us from helping you and the Messiah.

FRITZ

Hi there, little King. Why, you're a stinky little King aren't you?

Mary rushes over and grabs the baby.

MARY

He is not a stinky little... Oh wow... Okay... I can fix that.

She looks around and Andrew points to a changing area.

MARY (CONT'D)

Wow, what did you feed him? Is there a camel missing?

Everyone laughs.

ANDREW

There are no camels missing.

JOSEPH

Anything coming out of him came out of you.

MARY

You know you're going to have to learn how to do this also, Joseph.

The wise men smile at him.

MARY (CONT'D)

I, for one, love the idea of going to Egypt for a while, but I know my parents will want to see their grandson.

STEVEN

That's not a problem. We can send for them at any time.

ANDREW

Have you given any thought to a name yet?

Mary walks the baby over to Fritz again.

MARY

We were asked to name him Yeshua.

ANDREW

Yes, God is with us. That was Emmanuel in Ancient Arabic.

STEVEN

That was also foretold.

Fritz looks at the baby. This is the first time we see the face of the baby. He is blowing bubbles and smiling.

FRITZ

(in baby speak)

In my language you will be called Jesus.

Andrew and Steven look at each other.

ANDREW

That name will never catch on.

Steven shakes his head "no".

Mary walks over and sits next to Joseph.

Camera pulls out, audio fades as talking continues. Up and up till all you see is the world quietly sitting in space.

Insert track **Arrival**

Run titles.

Mary got to see Egypt.

Joseph got to see trees.

We never let go of the fact,

The child was born in a manger.

THE END.