

Jesus' Birth through the Eyes of Isaiah

Drama/Video: Newscast Workshop

Newscast script

News Anchor 1: GOOD EVENING FROM JERUSALEM ON THIS OCTOBER DAY IN 435 B.C. I am _____.

News Anchor 2: And I'm _____ here with today's news.

News Anchor 1: The top story of this evening's news deals with the gold and silver utensils from the palace and the Temple. King Ahaz has collected these treasures to send to Assyria. Some people are grumbling about sending so much money to an empire which threatens to invade the city, but others think more should be sent. The people are afraid of an invasion.

News anchor 2: The local water supply has become polluted and the water is unfit to drink. Residents of Jerusalem are urged to travel to the Gihon Spring in order to draw water for cooking and drinking. And now for a word from our sponsor...

> INSERT COMMERCIAL #1 <

News anchor 1: A leper was arrested for entering the city gates today without announcing "Unclean!" He was banished from the city and should not present a health hazard to the people anymore.

News Anchor 2: There was a disturbance in the marketplace today. Young thieves stole food and knocked over booths before the police arrested them. They were hauled off to the local jail.

Stay tuned for more local news...

> **INSERT COMMERCIAL #2** <

News Anchor 1: A local prophet was making a disturbance of his own today. He was challenging King Ahaz to trust God and not to form an alliance with our enemies, the Assyrians. Jerusalem has always had its share of noisy prophets. The local population is tired of hearing these people bringing messages from God. When asked his name, this prophet answered "Isaiah" which means "may the Lord save." Many local people are hoping the LORD will save them from the Assyrian army, but the Jews have a history of not trusting God like they should. We now have a report from our STREET BEAT REPORTER, _____.

Street beat Reporter: Tonight people are grumbling because Isaiah has challenged the King. He went so far as to advise the King to ask for a sign. Isaiah said the LORD's exact words were: "Ask me for a sign, Ahaz, to prove that I will crush your enemies as I have promised. Ask for anything you like, and make it as difficult as you want." But the King refused, saying "I wouldn't test the LORD like that." I want you to hear from Isaiah himself what he dared to say to the King.

Isaiah: I told the King, "Listen well, you royal family of David! You aren't satisfied to exhaust my patience. You exhaust the patience of God as well!" What I meant by that was that God is getting tired of King Ahaz being so stubborn! I went on to tell him, "All right then, the LORD himself will choose the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel — 'God is with us.'" Now I ask you, _____, how is that for a sign!!?

Streetbeat Reporter: Isaiah, you really caused quite a stir. The King was very upset. Did he listen to you?.

Isaiah: No, so I have a message for the people of Israel from the LORD.

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Streetbeat Reporter: These prophets predict some wild things. God giving us a baby to solve our problems!!! You hear everything out here! Back to you, _____.

News Anchor #1: Thank you, ____ for that thought-provoking visit with a prophet. A child will be given to us. Hmmm. What do you make of it, _____?

News Anchor #2: I don't know, _____. Of course, they always say, "With God, nothing is impossible."

Stay tuned for sports news after this commercial break.

> **INSERT COMMERCIAL #3** <

News Anchor #1: And now, here is ____ with our local sports report.

SPORTSCASTER: Argos the Terrible retained his wrestling championship by defeating Michael the Mean last night in one hour and fifteen minutes. The crowds roared as the two struggled to pin each other in the dust.

The donkey races were held outside the city wall, and some of the contestants never made it to the finish line. Phineus was injured when his donkey stopped, but he didn't!

The local runners from Jerusalem have challenged the runners from Bethlehem to a marathon race across the desert. Each runner will need to carry a skin filled with water in order to make it to the finish line. The winner will be announced next week during Sports Showcase.

> **INSERT COMMERCIAL #4** <

Newsanchor #2: And now, here is _____ with the local weather.

Meteorologist: The temperature in Jerusalem today was a chilly 52 degrees. North of the city in Damascus, it was 46 degrees. Area residents should prepare for a warming trend. Sand storms are raging in the desert north of the city and residents are urged to stay tuned for severe sand storm reports throughout the evening.

The five day forecast is for the temperature to remain in the high fifties during the day and drop into the forties at night. No rain is expected.

News Anchor #1: This is _____

News Anchor #2: and this is _____.

BOTH: Shalom from Jerusalem!

(Sign off)