

A script from



“Jesus in the Old Testament”

by
David Swanson

- What** We celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas by reading about His birth in the New Testament. But do we ever think about Jesus being present in the Old Testament? This script is a fun way to recognize that Jesus was part of the plan all along...from the very beginning. **Themes:** Christmas, Bible, God’s Word, Messiah
- Who** PJ
Hunter
Austin
- When** Present
- Wear** Each actor should be dressed in Christmas attire
(Props) Clock with 6-minute countdown
Bible
Umbrella
Red scarf
Pointer
Judges wig and gavel
- Why** John 1:1
- How** Our three story tellers are essentially miming each action as they tell the story. Action should be quick and sharp with well-planned props surprising and delighting the audience. Change the names of the characters to your actors’ names. Actors can also be played by females. Rehearse it until you can comfortably end at zero on the clock. Even five seconds early or late will spoil the drama.
- Time** Approximately 8 minutes

PJ, Austin, and Hunter stand center stage in warm Christmas attire holding BIBLE.

PJ: And now, a reading of the birth of Christ from Luke two.

Austin yawns loudly.

Hunter: I'm sorry, Austin. Are we boring you?

Austin: No, go ahead. It's Christmas Eve. We should read it.

PJ: What's wrong?

Austin: It's just...I don't know. We do that every year, don't we?

Hunter: That's kind of the point of Christmas. Revisit the Christmas story.

Austin: But Christmas is about celebrating Jesus. There's more than the babe in the manger.

PJ: All right, what do you propose?

Austin: *(Takes and flips through BIBLE)* Let's go through the Old Testament!

PJ: Okay, sorry folks. Austin has clearly lost the thread of what we're trying to do here. As you may or may not know, the Bible is divided into two parts the New and Old Testament. The New Testament is about Jesus and the church and the Old Testament is—

Austin: —also about Jesus.

PJ: Austin—

Austin: I'll show you. Come on. Let's go through it.

PJ: We only have like six minutes.

Austin: Jesus in the Old Testament...in six minutes.

Hunter: *(Excited)* We can totally do this!

Austin: Can we get six minutes on the clock, please?

GFX: 6-minute countdown timer starts.

PJ: Guys, you're insane. The Old Testament is thirty-nine books covering four thousand five hundred years from the creation of the world and the

history of an entire race of people. There's no way we can get through it all in six minutes! There's just no way.

Hunter: Actually it's like five minutes and fifty seconds thanks to all your whining.

PJ: Fine. (*Opens BIBLE*) In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth—

Austin: (*Overlapping with PJ's line*) —was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

Hunter: Wrong "In the beginning", Austin.

Austin: There's only one beginning.

PJ: Yes, Genesis says that God created everything.

Austin: And John says before THAT, Jesus existed and that through him all things were made.

PJ: He's right. We call that the pre-existent Christ.

Austin: So if He existed then we'll be able to find him throughout the Old Testament.

Hunter: We gotta go. We're only through one verse.

PJ: So God creates everything.

Austin and Hunter mime an explosion.

PJ: The garden of Eden and then Adam and Eve.

Hunter and Austin together. **Hunter** mimes taking a bite of an apple and sharing it with **Austin**. **PJ** pushes them stage left.

Hunter: They sin and are cast out of the garden. This sets in motion the rest of humanity and our need for a Savior.

PJ: Adam and Eve have kids...

Hunter: And their kids have kids until...

PJ: Sin has taken over and turned the whole world wicked. So God decides to start over with Noah and his family.

Austin opens an UMBRELLA, twirling it.

Hunter: God floods everything, and Noah sets about repopulating the earth.

PJ: Bringing us to Abram.

Austin: (*Singing*) Father Abram, had many sons. Many sons had Father Abram.

Hunter: So close.

PJ: Abram was his name at first. God changed it to Abraham when he told him that Abraham would be the father to many nations.

Austin: It did feel like it was missing a syllable.

Hunter: And through Abraham, the Messiah would come.

Austin: Yep. And that's a promise repeated to Isaac and Jacob and on down the line.

PJ: So...Jacob has his name changed to Israel.

Hunter: Israel has twelve sons.

PJ: His favorite being Joseph.

Austin and Hunter (*singing and dancing*) "Go, go **Joseph** you know what they say. Go, go Joseph you'll make it someday."

PJ: And the family moves to Egypt where the Israelites are eventually enslaved for

All: FOUR. HUNDRED. YEARS.

PJ: Which brings us to Moses. Moses goes to Pharaoh and says—

Hunter: (*As Moses*) Let my people go, so they may worship God.

PJ: And Pharaoh said

Austin: (*As Pharaoh*) No way, Mose-ays.

Hunter: (*As Moses*) Drat!

PJ: So God sent ten plagues, each worse than the last, but Pharaoh's heart was hardened—

Hunter: —and two sizes too small.

PJ: Until finally God took the first born of every household.

Austin makes a house shape.

Hunter: (Covering **Austin** in a RED SCARF) Unless a lamb was sacrificed and its blood was smeared on the doorposts.

Austin: Ew.

PJ: (Removing scarf) In which case, the Lord passed over the house and spared the household judgment.

Hunter: A Passover Lamb! And Jesus was called the Lamb of God!

PJ: Yes, okay. Passover is clearly about the coming Messiah.

Austin: You're catching on.

Hunter: Moses leads them out of Egypt. The people wander in the desert for forty years until Joshua leads them into the promised land of Canaan.

Hunter leads Austin and PJ marching around the stage.

Austin: And Joshua, while he's in Jericho planning the assault, sees Jesus.

PJ: No he doesn't. It says he sees the Captain of the Lord's Army.

Austin: Some say that was Jesus himself. Also, in the Old Testament when it says "The Angel of the Lord", like Moses and the burning bush, or Abraham and Isaac, you could say that's a pre-incarnate Jesus.

Hunter: You're so smart, Austin.

Austin: Wait. Are you being serious, or...?

PJ: Fine. So after Joshua, Israel gets the judges, right?

Austin: From Moses to Joshua on through to Samson, Eli, and Samuel the judges are great leaders and warriors. Jesus is later referred to as "The Righteous Judge".

Hunter puts a JUDGES WIG and GAVEL on Austin.

Hunter: By the time Samuel rolls around, the Israelites are tired of having judges and they ask God for a King. So they get Saul.

Replaces wig with King's CROWN, and Gavel with SWORD.

PJ: David slays Goliath and then later David becomes King and the Messiah is promised to be a descendant of his.

*PJ takes crown from **Austin**.*

Austin: And not just king, but a forever-king.

Hunter: David's son Solomon is granted wisdom from God. He writes Ecclesiastes.

PJ: *(As Solomon)* Meaningless. Meaningless. There is nothing new under the sun.

Hunter: He was really fun at parties. He also writes many Proverbs and pens the Song of Solomon, which is...

PJ: —probably best left to your parents, or your pastor, or whoever is doing your pre-marital counseling...

Hunter: Time check.

Austin: Gotta hurry.

PJ: After Solomon, the kingdom splits into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

***Austin** and **Hunter** form a map. **PJ** points to the north and south with a POINTER.*

Austin: During this time God sent prophets to speak God's truth.

Hunter: Because the kings certainly weren't doing it.

Austin: And it's here that we really see the birth of Christ being foretold. The prophets had a lot to say about it.

Hunter: Right, like Isaiah who lived in the eighth century BC.

PJ: Whoa. Eighth century? That's like over seven hundred years before Christ.

Austin: Right. And yet Isaiah has the most to say about Christ.

Hunter: Jesus would be born of a virgin. That he'd have a Galilean ministry.

Austin: He'd be a descendant of David. He would be buried in a rich man's tomb. He'd be spat on and struck.

PJ: (*Understanding*) All of which happened...

Austin: Exactly.

Hunter: Zechariah, another prophet, said that the Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.

PJ: I remember that.

Austin: Soon Israel falls to the Assyrians. And a little later Judah falls to the Babylonians beginning the exile in Babylon.

Austin pushes **Hunter** and **PJ** over. **PJ** gets up angry and comes at **Austin**. **Hunter** intercedes and stops **PJ**.

Hunter: Esther intercedes to prevent followers of the Lord from being put to death.

Austin: How very Jesus-like of her.

Hunter: Touché.

Austin: Daniel prophesies that the Messiah would come four hundred and eighty-three years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.

PJ: Four hundred and eighty-three years? That's awfully specific.

Hunter: And he was exactly right.

PJ: And then, starting with Hosea, we get to the Minor Prophets. They're called the Minor Prophets—

Austin: —because they were written by children. Brilliant, inspired chil—

PJ: No. It's because the books are short. Much like your attention span.

Improvise until the clock is at 25-30 seconds.

Hunter: Right. We've got thirty seconds.

PJ: Let's finish strong.

MINOR PROPHETS

Austin: In Hosea we see Jesus's undeserved faithfulness.

Hunter: In Joel, Jesus will offer salvation to all mankind.

PJ: In Amos, God will darken the day at noon during Messiah's death.

Austin: In Obadiah he's the mighty Savior.

Hunter: Micah says the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.

PJ: Haggai says the Messiah would visit the second temple.

Austin: Zechariah says that Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Hunter: Malachi says Christ would appear at the Temple.

PJ: And then God was silent for

All: FOUR. HUNDRED. YEARS.

CLOCK hits zero. Celebrations. High fives.

PJ: So that brings us to today.

Band begins intro to "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Austin: A day we celebrate the coming of the Messiah.

Hunter: The birth of a baby after thousands of years of preparation, prophecy, and proclamation.

Austin: This has always been the plan.

PJ: From the creation of the world.

Hunter: To the nation of Israel.

PJ: To all who believe.

Austin: The King of Kings.

Hunter: Lord of Lords.

Austin: God's only son. Our Messiah.

PJ: Our Savior. Our long-expected Jesus.
Transition into singing "Come Though Long Expected Jesus"

PURCHASE

SCRIPT

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