

**SUPERBOOK**

"The First Christmas"  
#108

Written by  
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REV Sync Script 8-17-11

REGULARS

1. Chris
2. Joy
3. Gizmo
4. Superbook
5. Professor Quantum
6. Phoebe

GUESTS

7. Boy
8. Mom
9. Announcer
10. Cook
11. Wise Man #1
12. King Herod
13. Wise Man #2
14. Wise Man #3
15. Priest #1
16. Joseph
17. Mary
18. Angel
19. Soldier
20. Guard
21. Man #1
22. Arcangel Gabriel
23. Stonecypher

FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

The Three Wisemen travel on camels. They approach a bluff overlooking Jerusalem. The STAR shine high in the night sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STONECYPHER HOUSE - NIGHT

There are BLINKING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS strung everywhere and scores of Christmas character cut-outs on the lawn.

We SLOWLY PULL BACK to REVEAL PROFESSOR QUANTUM peering through binoculars at the house across the street. During this shot we hear:

CHRIS (O.C.)  
Hurry up, Giz! We gotta get down to  
the Mega Mall! It's almost time for  
the Annual Christmas Eve Scramble  
up Prize Peak!

INT. QUANTUM HOME - ENTRY - NIGHT

JOY is wearing a winter coat, hat, and scarf. CHRIS wears a ski jacket and scarf. The kids look O.C. down the hall, waiting for Gizmo. Professor Quantum turns and heads for a big box of Christmas decorations.

PROFESSOR QUANTUM  
My word! If that Stonecypher guy  
across the street puts one more  
cartoon cut-out on his lawn, I just  
may have to break out the  
inflatable "Mistletoe Reindeer!"

He reaches into the box and an enormous PLASTIC reindeer begins to self-inflate - <WHOOSH>

FAVOR GIZMO - he enters the foyer on the run, holding a pair of Ice Piton Clamps for shoes.

GIZMO  
Chris, I have your ice pitons to  
help you climb Prize Peak!

<KAPLOOOOWWWW> The sharp pitons run into the inflating reindeer and the decoration EXPLODES.

ANGLE ON CHRIS AND JOY - they are scrunched back against the side wall, hands over ears, with their eye closed. Gizmo zips in, looking O.C. rather guiltily.

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GIZMO (CONT'D)

(under)

Whoa...

Chris and Joy slowly open their eyes and look O.C.

JOY

That's one messed up reindeer.

WIDER ANGLE - The deflated-destroyed reindeer is draped over Professor Quantum who has been blown over by the closet door. His box is on the floor in front of him. PHOEBE ENTERS from the other room carrying the manger scene.

PHOEBE

What in the world is going on,  
Crispin?

Chris, Joy and Gizmo head past her towards the front door.

CHRIS

Oh, Mom, we're headed off for the  
Christmas Eve Scramble up Prize  
Peak.

Chris opens the door as Gizmo slightly raises his head and turns it backwards to face Phoebe.

GIZMO

That is correct, Mrs. Quantum.  
Chris could win...  
(ala the commercials)  
"...A jaw-dropping array of  
valuable toys and prizes that every  
child is dreaming about this  
Christmas."

PHOEBE

Ah, Chris. Before you go, can you  
set up the Nativity?

FAVOR CHRIS - He looks down at the nativity scene in Phoebe's hands.

HIS POV - it contains a Stable, complete with resin Nativity figurines: Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, Shepherds, Animals, etc.

CHRIS (O.S.)

But, I already put out the Santa  
and the elves and the snowmen...

ON CHRIS ND JOY

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
... not to mention three hundred  
yards of Christmas lights...

She leans in and gives him a dig.

JOY  
And a partridge in a pear tree?  
(giggle)

Chris shrugs, indicating around...

CHRIS  
And, well, there isn't a lot of  
room left... anywhere. Uh, for  
that.

Chris impatiently turns to the door.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Besides, it's no big deal.

He opens the door and zips out with Joy and Gizmo following  
as he calls back...

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
The manger scene's just *another*  
decoration. See ya, Mom!

The door <SLAMS> SHUT FILLING FRAME.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALL WIDE SHOT - EVENING

A light snow falls on a crowded parking lot. There are  
shoveled snow banks along the walkways but the paths are  
clear for foot traffic.

TRACKING WITH CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO

They hurry towards the mall doors - about 20 feet away.  
Chris is in the lead and suddenly takes off ahead of the  
others EXITING FRAME as he shouts...

CHRIS  
Last one into the mall's a frozen  
blizzard-burp-with-slush-on-top!  
(laughing)

Gizmo throws a forefinger in the air - still on the move

GIZMO

I, for one, certainly am NOT a  
blizzard-burp...

<SPLAT> a snowball has smacked into Gizmo's faceplate.

CHRIS (O.S.)

(off camera laugh)

CLOSE ON GIZMO - Gizmo's window washer pops out of his head  
and clears his faceplate. <SQUEEK-SQUEEK-SQUEEK>

GIZMO

Keep that up, Christopher Quantum,  
and you will be asking for a new  
robot for Christmas.

ANGLE ON CHRIS - as he side-slides (like a surf boarder pose)  
across the wet snow - right up to the mall doors.

CHRIS

Who-hoo...

As he grabs the handle his attention is suddenly caught by a  
BOY and his MOM who stare in the store window that is just to  
the other side of the mall door. CAMERA ANGLES OVER AND IN  
TO HIS POV - The window display shows a Christmas tree and  
presents piled up. There is a table prominently displaying  
unwrapped items the stores are highlighting this Christmas.  
These are re-use designs only - A Holo-9 (existing model  
episode #102) - A Blender (existing model episode #101) - A  
Guitar (existing model episode #106) - A Stuffed Lion (reduce  
a real lion existing model episode #101) - A Skateboard,  
Helmet and Safety Pads (existing models episode #107) - A  
water rifle (Reuse existing model from episdoe #103)

The little BOY is pressed to the glass, excitedly pointing  
from one item to the next.

BOY

Mom, look at all the cool stuff...  
I wanna get the guitar for Toby...  
and oh...oh... oh... and I wanna  
get the blender for Aunt Darcy, and  
that skateboard for ...

MOM

(cutting him off)  
Jeffie!... Jeffie, I don't know...

CLOSE ON MOM - looking down at her son with soft eyes.

MOM (CONT'D)  
... it's... I think it might just  
have to be a smaller Christmas this  
year. Those things are very  
expensive.

CLOSE ON THE BOY - The boy's face visibly drops.

MOM (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, honey.

He lets his mother's hand go. (Body language needs to  
indicate his disappointment with showing disrespect.)

CLOSE ON CHRIS AT THE DOOR

He is watching the boy closely. He furrows his brow - ever  
so slightly in thought --- suddenly <WHAP> a snowball  
explodes off the back of his head.

CHRIS  
Heeeyyyy...

He wipes off the snow, hanging onto the door handle with his  
other hand.

FAVOR JOY AND GIZMO APPROACHING behind Chris

JOY  
Who's the blizzard burp now?  
(Giggle)

Chris starts to whip the doors open.

INT. MEGA MALL SHOPPING MALL - MAIN COURT - NIGHT

ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO - as they stare O.C. In awe.

CHRIS/JOY/GIZMO  
Ohhh... amazing... incredible

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Attention all you Mega Mall  
Christmas Shoppers!

SWISH PAN TO A STAGE - where an ANNOUNCER, with a mic, stands  
beside a large clear plastic SNOWMAN; its bottom globe  
contains a hundreds of TICKET STUBS.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
If Icicle The Snow man chooses your  
lucky number...

SWISH PAN TO A MASSIVE "MOUNTAIN" - painted to look like rock candy. PAN UP.... UP... UP.... As....

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
... you'll get a chance to climb  
Prize Peak! If you make it to the  
top before the Candy Cane Stop  
Watch strikes zero...

CLOSE ON THE ANNOUNCER

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
.... you'll win every one of the  
fabulous Christmas gifts inside the  
Golden Christmas Cart.

<COMICAL ANGEL CHORUS SINGS> - At the top is an oversized, gold-painted SHOPPING CART overflowing with GIFTWRAPPED PRESENTS. Next to the cart are two ELVES waving down to the crowd below.

CHRIS JOY AND GIZMO - scurry closer. They position themselves between two large fir trees with other Christmas decorations behind them. (NOTE: THE POSITION IS IMPORTANT SO THAT THEY ARE A BIT HIDDEN - SO WHEN SUPERBOOK APPEARS AND WHISKS THEM OFF, NO ONE ELSE AROUND THEM WILL SEE THIS ACTION OR REACT.)

BACK ON THE ANNOUNCER - He flips a switch on the see-through snowman. A FAN at the bottom <WHIRS>. The TICKETS SWIRL around inside.

CLOSER ON SNOWMAN - A TICKET feeds out of its mouth, like it's sticking out its tongue. The Announcer plucks it and reads:

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
And the winning ticket is -- two,  
three, four...

ON CHRIS - his eyes go wide as he hears:

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
...Six, three!

Chris stares at the ticket he holds in his hand.

CHRIS  
I won! Joy! Gizmo! All those  
gifts are mine! - Ha-haaa! Ahh..  
*this* is what Christmas is all  
about!

Just then, SUPERBOOK rises from the pocket of his jacket.

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CHRIS/JOY/GIZMO  
SUPERBOOK!

Chris looks at his winning ticket. It is suddenly whisked from his hand and send flying out behind a stand of Christmas trees.

CHRIS (O.C.)  
My winning ticket!

The kids race behind the trees.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Superbook, I can't go now! I gotta climb Prize Peak!

SUPER BOOK EFFECT as they are pulled in...

CHRIS/JOY/GIZMO  
Whoaaaaa.... (Gizmo says) Merry Christmas!

CUT TO:

INT. SUPERBOOK VORTEX - CONTINUOUS

Chris, Gizmo and Joy spiral backward through Time.

SUPERBOOK (V.O.)  
I am taking you to witness the most important *gift* the world has ever received.

SUPERBOOK FADE  
OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

## **ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

EXT. KING HEROD'S CASTLE - ESTABLISHING - DAY (CHECK HISTORICAL REFERENCE TO ASSURE HERODIAN STYLE)

INT. HEROD'S CASTLE - KITCHEN PANTRY AREA - CONTINUOUS

CHRIS and JOY APPEAR FALLING INTO a pantry area. There is an arch that looks out into the kitchen. (From time to time we should see SERVANTS passing with platters and pitchers, etc.



The kids land hard in a corner by some sacks of grain and shelves lined with folded linens, pitchers and serving bowls, etc.

CHRIS/JOY/GIZMO  
Whoa... aghhh...(gasp in Ouch!)

Chris and Joy help Gizmo to his feet as their heads turn left and right, looking around, speaking in hushed tones.

CHRIS  
Giz, where are we?

Gizmo rubs his backside.

GIZMO  
(breathing) In the land of very  
hard floors.

Chris notes one of the servants pass the door, so he turns and grabs linens from the shelf.

CHRIS  
Better try to blend in until we  
know what's what.

ON GIZMO - as Chris tosses a tablecloth over his head.

GIZMO  
Blend in with *what*, the buffet  
table?

ANGLE ON THE DOOR OPENING - THE KING'S COOK passes and sees them in the panty.

COOK  
You! Servants! Bring the dinner  
platters into King Herod. Hurry!

BACK ON THE KIDS AND GIZMO - They hurry out of the pantry room with their table cloths draped around them as clothing-cover. The Cook follows.

CUT TO:

INT. HEROD'S GREAT HALL - DAY (MATTHEW 2:1-8)

KING HEROD sits at a table with TWO PRIESTS; a ROMAN GENERAL stands at rear. On the other side of the table are the THREE WISE MEN.

WISE MAN #1  
You honor us with your hospitality,  
King Herod.

KING HEROD (O.S.)  
And you honor me with your  
presence.

The kids ENTER FRAME and place the platters on the table  
as...

CLOSE ON HEROD

KING HEROD (CONT'D)  
Three Kings traveling together over  
such a great distance...  
Remarkable.  
(sipping his chalice -  
eyeing them a bit  
suspiciously)  
What do you seek here in Jerusalem?

ON WISE MEN

WISE MAN #1  
Where is He who has been born King  
of the Jews?

WISE MAN #2  
For we have seen His star in the  
East.

WISE MAN #3  
And have come to worship Him!

REVERSE - Herod turns and scowls at the Priests -- this is  
news to him.

KING HEROD  
Perhaps my priests can assist you.

CLOSE ON PRIESTS

PRIEST #1  
(fumbling)  
Yes. ah... There is a prophesy. A  
ruler arising -- in Bethlehem.

ANGLE ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO as they exit back through the  
draped kitchen entry. They stop on the other side of the  
curtain to eavesdrop.

Gizmo's video visor DISPLAYS a MAP of Ancient Israel; an  
ANIMATED LINE extends from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

GIZMO  
Bethlehem is a town approximately  
ten kilometers southwest of here.

THE KIDS' POV - The Wise Men nod, pleased.

KING HEROD  
Bethlehem? How... interesting.  
(to Wise Men - rising)  
My friends, you are certain to be  
weary from your journey. Ah-but  
once you have rested and have  
enjoyed a savory meal --

ADJUST TO UP ANGLE ON HEROD - as he leans forward hands on  
table.

KING HEROD (CONT'D)  
-- go search for the young child.  
And when you've found Him, bring  
back word to me, that I may also  
come and worship him.

TRACKING SHOT - The Priests rise and exit with Herod, along  
with the General. They speak low - on the move.

KING HEROD (CONT'D)  
(under - on the move)  
A 'King of the Jews?' Never!

TRACKING SHOT SLOWS - Herod and his men stop in proximity to  
where the kids are hiding behind the kitchen curtain - but  
Herod's eyes avert to check that they are far enough from the  
guests back at the dining table, in order to speak candidly.

KING HEROD (CONT'D)  
(sotto to General)  
If they don't find this infant,  
I'll have my men search for him.  
Even if it means...

ZOOM INTO A CLOSE-UP OF HEROD

KING HEROD (CONT'D)  
-- rounding up every boy child born  
within the last two years. No  
infant born in my realm shall grow  
up to challenge *my* reign!

ANGLE IN THE KITCHEN - The kids are leaning, listening at the  
drape. They can hear Herod and his men move off. <FOOTSTEPS  
RECEDE> Chris, Joy and Gizmo gasp at what they've overheard.

JOY  
What are we going to do?

CHRIS  
What can we do, Joy?

Suddenly, the SUPERBOOK EFFECT SHIMMERS.

GIZMO

It looks like Superbook has an idea  
of his own. Whoaaa....

They DISAPPEAR into the shimmering light.

SUPERBOOK WIPE  
TO:

EXT. ROAD TO BETHLEHEM - DAY

CHRIS AND JOY LAND DOWN WITHIN SUPERBOOK'S SIGNATURE GLOW.  
They arrive in a ditch with their backs to a road.

CHRIS/JOY/GIZMO

Whoaaa...

They sit up and look around.

JOY

Where are we now, Giz?

Gizmo flips open his chronometer and eyes it. Suddenly  
<CRASH> THUNDER AND LIGHTNING EXPLODE - They all look  
upwards and rain begins to fall. They suddenly hear busy  
crowd wallah...

CROWD (O.S.)

(General walla) Find some cover.  
Over this way.... Over by those  
trees, etc...)

They whirl and see a group of people running off the road -  
straight towards them. These are ISRAELITE TRAVELERS. Some  
carry belongings. Some walk with staffs.

The crowd passes O.C. and then a bearded man (JOSEPH) leads a  
DONKEY carrying his very pregnant young wife (MARY).  
(STORYBOARD NOTE: Please try to follow the upcoming shot cuts  
in order to eliminate a lot of unnecessary animation with the  
donkey. Keep the Donkey's head in frame as you shoot Joseph  
but try to do individual "tracking single shots" on the  
others until they all reach the cave.)

JOSEPH

(urgent)

Excuse me, could you please assist  
us? My wife is with child.

<CRASH> THUNDER and LIGHTNING - CLOSER ON MARY - very  
pregnant on the donkey.

JOSEPH (CONT'D) (O.S.)  
We must find shelter from this  
storm.

BACK ON GROUP - FAVORING GIZMO - His back is to Mary and Joseph so they can't see his faceplate scanning with an RED LINE RUNNING BACK AND FORTH.

GIZMO  
My geo-sensors indicate there is a  
small cave just beyond that rock  
formation. I shall lead the way.

He starts off. The others follow. Joseph leads the Donkey with its rope.

JOY  
I'm Joy. This is Chris.

CHRIS  
And our fearless leader up ahead is  
Gizmo.

CLOSE ON GIZMO - he suddenly freaks looking down

GIZMO  
SNAAAAAAAAAKE!  
(then looks closer)  
No. Stick. Just a stick. False  
alarm. Press on.

TRACKING BACK CHRIS, JOY, MARY JOSEPH - Joseph chuckles

JOSEPH  
(chuckling) Gizmo is a curious one.

TRACKING CLOSE ON MARY - looking down at the kids walking beside her.

CHRIS  
Where are all these people  
traveling?

FAVOR JOSEPH

JOSEPH  
Did you not hear? All have been  
called to return to the places of  
their birth.

FAVOR MARY

MARY

Caesar Augustus, the leader of Rome, has decreed that all the world should be registered.

CLOSE ON JOY

JOY

What do you mean, 'registered?'

JOSEPH

He has called for a "census" -- so that they know who everyone is and where their families come from.

CLOSE ON MARY

MARY

(small pain)

Oh...

Joseph tugs the donkey's rope and moves ahead, towards Gizmo, as Chris and Joy slow down to speak privately.

CHRIS

Do you think.. I don't know... that they could be the ones who are having the baby King Herod was talking about?!

MUSIC KEYS THE POINT as they share a surprised look and then turn to -

CAMERA ANGLES to show Gizmo has found them shelter in a low "cave." Mary is now off the donkey. Joseph is putting a shawl over her shoulders.

JOY (O.S.)

(slow - with meaning)

Mary... Joseph... and the baby, Jesus.

BACK ON CHRIS AND JOY

CHRIS

(quick - putting it together)

Oh... The *real* ones... the ones, you know, from the nativity scene my mom wanted me to set up back home.

BACK TO THEIR POV - THE CAVE - CLOSE ON MARY AND JOSEPH -  
Mary sits and Joseph kneels beside her holding her hand - all  
will be okay.

CHRIS (CONT'D) (O.S.)  
I can't believe it's them.

JOY (O.S.)  
Chris, do you think they have any  
idea people remember them more than  
2000 years from now?

PUSH IN SLOWLY on Mary with Joseph standing, tending her.

SLOW DISSOLVE  
TO:

EXT. THE CAVE - CAMPFIRE - THAT NIGHT

CLOSE ON A <CRACKLING> FIRE. PULL OUT TO REVEAL our travelers  
seated beside the parents-to-be. Joseph breaks off a PIECE OF  
BREAD for Mary and then hands some to Chris.

JOSEPH  
We should reach Bethlehem tomorrow.

GIZMO - seated on the far side of Joy, holds up a thumb. It  
rotates and makes a Medical Tricorder sound <WEEWHEEWEEWHEE>  
with a glowing LIGHT. His VISOR DISPLAYS Mary's BIOMETRIC  
DATA.

GIZMO  
That would be most advisable. My  
medi-scan indicates Mary is almost  
ready to have her baby.

Chris puts her hand over Gizmo's to hide the thumb. His  
faceplate stops registering.

CHRIS  
(weak chuckle - like a dad  
to a kid)  
Eee...Put away your toy, Gizmo.  
(quickly, to Mary)  
So, Mary, you must have been pretty  
excited when you found out you  
were... well... you know... gonna  
be a mom?

TWO SHOT - Joseph and Mary share a smile.

MARY  
(sigh-OH) -The most joyous news I  
could have ever imagined was first  
told to me by an angel.

BACK ON OUR THREE

CHRIS/JOY/GIZMO  
An ANGEL?

CLOSE ON MARY -

MARY  
I was at my parents' home. And  
there came a light, brighter than  
any I had ever seen. Brighter than  
the sun...

The scene blasts with a BRILLIANT LIGHT

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARY'S HOME - NAZARETH (FLASHBACK) (LUKE 1:26-33)

Mary recoils as an ANGEL appears.

ANGEL  
*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you  
have found favor with God.*

CLOSE ON MARY

ANGEL (CONT'D)  
*And behold, you will conceive in  
your womb and bring forth a Son,  
and shall call His name Jesus.*

UP ANGLE ON ANGEL - AGLOW and smiling benevolently.

ANGEL (CONT'D)  
*He will be great, and will be  
called the Son of the Highest; and  
the Lord God will give Him the  
throne of His father David.*

DOWN ANGLE ON MARY - rising to her knees, gazes upward, awed.

ANGEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*And He will reign over the house of  
Jacob forever, and of His kingdom  
there will be no end.*



MARY

*How can this happen? For I am a  
virgin.*

UP ANGLE - The Angel smiles at her, hand raised in blessing.

ANGEL

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Highest will  
overshadow you;*

DOWN ANGLE ON MARY - as she smiles beatifically in the GLOW.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

*Therefore, also, that Holy One who  
is to be born will be called the  
Son of God.*

DISSOLVE BACK  
TO:

EXT. CAMPFIRE - RESUME ACTION - NIGHT

Chris, Joy and Gizmo listen, slack-jawed. Gizmo asides:

GIZMO

*That's something you don't hear  
every day.*

Chris pokes Gizmo in the side <THUD> -- then rubs his elbow.

JOSEPH

*At first, I was... upset to learn  
Mary was pregnant, because we were  
not yet married. But an Angel came  
to me in a dream and reassured me.  
(taking Mary's hand and  
holding it to his chest)  
I knew then, for certain, that God  
wanted us to be husband and wife!*

ON KIDS AND GIZMO - Chris, however, suddenly becomes  
concerned. He stands.

CHRIS

*Um... Would you excuse us for a  
minute?*

Chris pulls Joy and Gizmo into a huddle in F.G. The  
campfire, Joseph and Mary are in B.G. All whisper:

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Joy, it's definitely *them*! And  
they're gonna be toast if Herod's  
men find us!

JOY  
How is King Herod going to track  
down one little baby in a country  
this big?

CHRIS  
What, do I have to do all the  
thinking around here, Joy? It's  
the census! His soldiers will know  
who everyone is... who's having  
babies... or *had* a baby in the last  
two years!

CLOSE ON CHRIS

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Mary and Joseph will be on that  
list... along with the baby!

Chris looks off, startles, and points.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Oh no! They already know we're  
here!

Joy and Gizmo whirl to look at:

POV - A NEARBY HILLSIDE - several SILHOUETTED FIGURES stand  
along the top of a hill.

RESUME KIDS AND GIZMO - all tense. Chris whispers to Gizmo:

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Gizmo! Initiate a trans-structural  
thermal scan and find out how many  
more are behind that hill!

Gizmo's VISOR GOES RED as he follows Chris's command.

GIZMO  
Data indicates there are  
hundreds...

CHRIS (INTERRUPTING)  
HUNDREDS!!! See, Joy?! HUNDREDS!

GIZMO'S POV - An INFRARED SCAN of the SILHOUETTED FIGURES  
RESOLVES into... SHEPHERDS standing beside several SHEEP.  
The shortest Shepherd is a BOY, about Chris's age.

GIZMO (O.S.)  
Yes, Chris. HUNDREDS!... of sheep  
behind that hill. And... those are  
shepherds up top as well.

RESUME ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO - as his VISOR'S GLOW FADES.

JOY  
Shepherds. (giggle) Most dangerous  
men alive. (giggling) - Now will  
you give it a rest, Chris

CHRIS  
Hey, they could've been soldiers!  
We gotta be ready.

PUSH IN ON CHRIS as he eyes Mary and Joseph.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Superbook said we were going to  
witness the greatest gift the world  
has ever received... and he was  
talking about her baby.

ANGLE ON MARY AND JOSEPH...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

EXT. BETHLEHEM STREET - LATE DAY

A CROWD OF TRAVELERS stands along the road into town, craning  
their necks and muttering.

AHEAD - A ROMAN SOLDIER #1 stands at a CROSSROADS,  
questioning the MAN at the head of the line.

\*

SOLDIER #1  
If you do not have family in  
Bethlehem, move along. There's no  
place to stay here.

\*

IN THE LINE - Joy stands beside Mary on the Donkey, looking  
up at her, concerned. Mary holds her stomach, wincing, then  
looks down at Joy and smiles.

CROWD  
(disgruntled walla)

PAN AHEAD TO Gizmo, Chris and Joseph, who holds the Donkey's reins.

Joy looks up at Mary.

MARY  
(grunt of discomfort)

She holds her belly in slight pain. Then looks down at Joy with a smile.

ANGLE ON JOSEPH AND CHRIS

CHRIS  
Joseph, aren't you worried -- you know, about Mary and the baby, with all that's going on?

Joseph ruffles Chris' hair as if to say, "Don't worry."

JOSEPH  
God has a plan, Chris.

Chris leans out of the line and eyes the Guard who's checking everyone at the front of the line.

SOLDIER #1 (O.C.)  
Move along. I told you there's no place to stay.

\*

CHRIS  
(sotto)  
Maybe so.

SOLDIER #1 (O.C.)  
Move along.

\*

CHRIS  
But it's Herod's plan that still worries me.

JOSEPH  
I beg your pardon?

CHRIS  
Uh... Sorry, nothing.  
(beat, frustrated -  
looking around, then  
sotto to Joseph)  
Joseph? What if you're wrong?  
(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I mean, what if God doesn't come through?

Joseph kneels and puts a fatherly hand on Chris' shoulder and smiles at the boy.

JOSEPH

Chris, you heard, He told Mary His son would reign over the house of Jacob forever. And of His kingdom there will be no end.

Joseph moves forward with Mary and the donkey. Gizmo steps up beside Chris.

CHRIS

If they're not going to listen to us, what's the point of even trying?

JOY

Chris?! Would you stop being so paranoid and just *think* for a minute?

CHRIS

Think?? About what?

JOY

About how incredible this is! You want to talk about a gift? Look at us! Superbook is giving us front row seats for the very First Christmas ever! This is what started the whole celebration.

Chris throws up his arms, indicating around.

CHRIS

Please! You call *this* a Christmas?

GIZMO

Yes! Where are the parties?

CHRIS

Where's the Christmas tree and all the decorations?

GIZMO

Yes. And where is Santa Claus?

CHRIS

Old Stonecypher across the street,  
he has more Christmas spirit with  
all those decorations on his front  
lawn then anything I'm feeling  
around here.

CLOSE ON JOY - she throws her arms up in the air in  
frustration and walks off.

JOY

Guys, I think you're missing the  
point.

PUSH IN ON Gizmo and Chris as they react - a couple of guys.

GIZMO

But... I love Santa.

CHRIS

Yeah... And Rudolph.

GIZMO

Yes. What has put her Christmas  
all in a crunch?

CHRIS

Exactly.

WIPE TO:

EXT. STREET - TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - NEAR A WELL - DUSK

Chris, Joy, Gizmo, Mary, Joseph and the donkey walk along  
with a few other travelers from the "road"

ANGLE - WELL - Chris passes in the F.G. And looks off to one  
side, where SOLDIER #2 and Soldier #3 stand by the well,  
watching the crowd go by. One of them meets Chris' gaze --  
and starts toward them! \*

BACK ON OUR GROUP - Chris looks around for an escape route.

CHRIS

Uh-oh -- here comes trouble!

ON MARY, THE DONKEY AND JOSEPH - as the Soldier steps over,  
eyeing Joseph and Mary.

SOLDIER #2 \*

Is this your wife?

Chris squeezes between Mary and Soldier #2, trying to block  
his view of her bulging belly. \*

CHRIS

Ah, no problem here. We're fine.  
All fine.

\*  
\*

THE SOLDIER - scowls at Chris, then turns to Joseph.

SOLDIER

When is she due to have the child?

REVERSE - Joseph replies calmly. At rear, Chris winces.

JOSEPH

Soon.

THE SOLDIER - points O.S.

SOLDIER #2

Try the last tent down the road. I  
hear they have room. Perhaps you  
can stay the night.

\*

JOSEPH

Thank you.

He exits. Joseph leads the Donkey carrying Mary O.S. HOLD ON  
Chris as he turns and whispers to Joy, despairing:

CHRIS

See! Now the Romans know where she  
is!

JOY

Chris, for the last time. God is  
not going to let anything bad  
happen at the birth of His son.

Shaking her head, Joy moves off.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN TENT - NIGHT

MAN #1 is an unkempt, heavy-set fellow. He stands in the door  
of his large tent and shakes his head at Joseph, Chris and  
Joy. Gizmo stands several yards away holding the donkey's  
rope. Mary still sits atop the donkey.

MAN #1

How many times do I have to say it?  
(impatient)  
My room is taken.

Joseph looks dismayed. He SIGHS to the kids...

JOSEPH  
I shall inform Mary.

...and moves O.S. Joy stands up to the Man.

JOY  
Oh, you! How can you send them  
away? They're going to have a  
baby! TONIGHT!

CLOSE ON Man #1 - he may be surly, but he's not cruel.

MAN #1  
Please... I do not mean to be  
harsh. But, with all the travelers  
there's nowhere left to stay. - All  
I have is a stable out back for  
oxen.

JOY  
A STABLE???

He points off behind the tent city.

MAN #1  
By that cliff. You and your family  
can stay there.

JOY  
You want the savior of the world to  
be born in a STABLE?

CHRIS  
History's in the making, mister.  
You got a chance to *really* step up  
here but instead, you....

INNKEEPER  
It has walls and a roof. Do you  
want it or not?

Joy points in the direction of Joseph and Mary.

JOY  
Do you know who Mary and Joseph  
are?

CHRIS  
That baby they're going to have is -

MAN #1  
(booming)  
WHAT, AM I SPEAKING A FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE?



Chris and Joy straighten up in fear and blurt out...

JOY/CHRIS  
We'll take it!

Joy grabs Chris by the arm and yanks him O.S.

CUT TO:

INT. STABLES - A MINUTE LATER - NIGHT (LUKE 2:6-7)

Chris, Joy and Gizmo step inside the cave-like stable about six feet deep. They look crestfallen.

THEIR POV - WATER DRIPS from above; the floor is muddy with wet straw. A MANGER sits at rear. A SHEEP eating some hay there looks up from, chewing and offers a plaintive <BLEATING SFX>

CLOSE ON CHRIS - recognizing the scene. Now it hits home.

CHRIS  
This is where the Son of God is  
going to be born?

JOSEPH (O.C.)  
Joy! Chris!

The kids whirl.

Joseph approaches, helping Mary inside as she catches her breath...

MARY  
(pained)  
Oh! The baby -- He's coming! Oh...

ANGLE ON KIDS AND GIZMO - as they trade anxious looks...

JOSEPH  
There are blankets on the back of  
the donkey. We'll need some clean  
water.

PUSH IN ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO...

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. BETHLEHEM OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS (LUKE 2:8-14)

Chris stumbles up a HILL behind the town, carrying a bucket and looking about in desperation. Joy, carrying the lamp, and Gizmo follow him.

CHRIS  
(climbing effort)

JOY  
(calling)  
Chris, where are you going?

CLOSER ON CHRIS - as he turns to face the others and throws down his bucket in frustration.

CHRIS  
I don't know! I'm looking for a stream, a lake, anything. I just don't want to go back to town near that well with the soldiers!

He finally throws the bucket down and sits - exhausted.

GIZMO  
What is the matter, Chris?

CHRIS  
Isn't this bothering anyone else but me?

JOY  
What? Trying to find water for Mary and Joseph?

CHRIS  
No! I mean all of this! I want to help, I want to believe, but, if Mary's really giving birth to the Son of God, why isn't God helping us even a little bit, Joy?

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON NIGHT SKY

PAN DOWN

Shepherds herd their sheep. Suddenly a LIGHT encompasses them.

SHEPHERDS  
(oh... wha.... Light... etc.)

They fall to their knees.

WIDE ON HILLSIDE - The SPIRALING LIGHT FX coalesces overhead to REVEAL an ANGEL, hovering with wings spread wide.

LOW ANGLE - The Shepherds prostrate themselves, terrified.

ANGEL  
*Do not be afraid, for behold, I  
bring good tidings of great joy.  
And this will be the sign to you:  
You will find a Babe wrapped in  
swaddling cloths, lying in a  
manger.*

WIDE ON HILLSIDE - with a <THUNDERCLAP>, the Angel's BLINDING-BRIGHT BRETHREN appear beside him. - "And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host."

HOST OF ANGELS (PHASED)  
*Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, goodwill toward men!*

Just as suddenly, the ANGELIC HERALDS arc skyward, <WHOOSH!>

EXT. HILLSIDE - ANGLE ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO

They are walking a distance from where the angels appeared.  
(The following lines from the angels plays over Chris and Joy's lines.)

HOST OF ANGELS (PHASED) (O.C)  
*Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, goodwill toward men!*

CHRIS  
Do you hear that?

JOY  
Yeah, what is it?

CHRIS  
Come on!

They turn around and dash O.C.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - MINUTES LATER - NIGHT

ANGLE ON THE ENTRANCE as Chris, Joy and Gizmo peek in (ahead of the Shepherds). Chris tentatively announces:

CHRIS  
Hi, we're back -- and, um, we have  
company!

REVERSE ANGLE - Joseph smiles PAST CAMERA, overjoyed.

JOSEPH  
(small chuckle) As do we!

HOLD as Joseph steps aside to reveal Mary, cradling the BABY JESUS. As the <HEAVENLY MUSIC SWELLS AGAIN> --

PUSH IN CLOSE ON JESUS...

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN - SIMULTANEOUSLY

PUSH IN ON CITY OF HEAVEN - The ARCHANGEL GABRIEL stands on a mountaintop, arms wide.

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL  
Jesus has been born! Come, let us  
adore him!

He let's out a glorious TRUMPET BLAST that resounds across HEAVEN. SCORES OF ANGELS FLOOD TOWARDS THE CITY OF HEAVEN. The sky is filled with flapping wings and <TRUMPETS>

CUT TO:

IN AN ANGEL'S POV - CAMERA SWOOPS toward the Middle East. As we PUNCH DOWN THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE:

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Shepherds look up and see the angels descending from heaven.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The Shepherds, waiting outside stare in awe as the ANGELIC MULTITUDE arrives. Angels of every color, shape and size swarm overhead.

PUSH IN ON BABY JESUS

ANGLE ON CHRIS, JOY AND GIZMO

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Chris, Joy and Gizmo watch as the ANGELS DESCEND through the ceiling and hover above baby Jesus and his parents.

CAMERA PANS from Gizmo, to Joy, and finally settles on Chris. He asides to Joy:

CHRIS

Joseph was right. God's plan did  
come to be -- not in the way anyone  
expected --

JOY

But just the way God meant for it  
to happen!

WIDER ON SCENE - with Joseph and Mary admiring their newborn,  
Chris, joy and Gizmo disappear in a SUPERBOOK SHIMMER.

The Shepherds tentatively enter, providing a final TABLEAU  
with Joseph, Mary, Jesus, the Angels, the Shepherds, the  
Sheep, the Donkey and the Cow.

SUPERBOOK - (JOHN 4:10)

This is love: not that we loved  
God, but that he loved us and sent  
his Son for all people.

X-DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MEGA MALL - MAIN COURT - RESUME PRESENT - NIGHT

Unnoticed, Chris, Joy and Gizmo reappear in a SUPERBOOK  
SHIMMER. They react as they hear:

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Again, our winning number is two,  
three, four, six, three.

JOY

Well, are you going to try to climb  
prize peak?

CLOSE ON CHRIS - he smiles and shakes his head.

CHRIS

You know what? -- every Christmas  
since I can remember, I wanted to  
win a chance to do this. To me this  
was the ultimate - what Christmas  
was all about...But it's not.

WIDER ANGLE

He looks and sees a the boy and his mom who were looking in the mall window at the beginning. Chris crosses to him and taps his shoulder then hands him the winning ticket.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Merry Christmas.

The Child watches our trio walk away. He then looks down at the ticket. His eyes slowly go wide as he hears:

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
One more time, that's two, three,  
four, six, three. Anybody?

The boy jumps up and down and waves his arms...

BOY  
Me! Me! I have it! I'm climbing  
Prize Peak! Who-hooo!

MOM  
Oh, honey, that's wonderful! What a  
Christmas miracle!

CLOSE ON CHRIS

He zips up his coat with a satisfied smile.

IRIS TO:

INT. QUANTUM HOME - FOYER - NIGHT

CLOSE ON THE NATIVITY SCENE - All but the infant Jesus are already in place: Joseph, Mary, the Donkey, a Shepherd Boy...

WIDEN AND MOVE TO INCLUDE Chris, Joy, Gizmo, Professor and Phoebe.

PHOEBE  
You came back from the mall pretty  
quickly, Chris. Forget something?

CHRIS  
No, more like, remembered  
something, Mom.

Chris leans in towards the Manger set.

CLOSE ON THE MANGER SET

Chris's hand reaches IN and places the Baby Jesus in the manger. His hand exits frame. Hold on Mary, Joseph and the baby. MUSIC SWELLS.

WIDER - Chris' parents put their arms around Chris as they stand facing the Nativity Scene in an impromptu family portrait. Joy and Gizmo, standing behind them, nod and smile.

CAMERA CRANES UP from the ensemble, continuing past the ceiling and through the roof, Citizen Kane style...

When Stonecypher's house is visible with all its lights and decor - the LIGHTS SUDDENLY FRITZ OUT.

STONECYPHER (O.C.)

Oh no! Not my lights again!

...and rising up into the sky high over the neighborhood, where a STAR, like the one we saw above Bethlehem so many years ago,

GLISTENS like a beacon of hope for all who believe. As its LIGHT FILLS FRAME:

FADE OUT.

**END OF EPISODE**