

THE CREATION CHRONICLES

Created by Ted & Lee

Scene: JONAH

Characters: Jonah, God

Scripture text: Book of Jonah

Props: desk, inflatable child's float toy, chair at desk, chair for Jonah, candle, papers on desk, 4 x 8 pieces of cardboard

Length: 10 minutes

(PERFORMANCE/BILLING NOTE: There is often a wonderful surprise for the audience if they don't know in advance that this scene is of Jonah. It can be listed in your bulletin as "I Quit".)

(GOD is at his desk. JONAH gets tossed in, wearing an inflatable elephant or some other child's floaty around his waist/head)

JONAH: Now what?! First the whale and now I'm here.

GOD: Welcome, Jonah.

JONAH: That's it, I'm done. I'm resigning as a prophet.

GOD: But Jonah. You did it. It was well done.

JONAH: Well done?! Well done? It was terrible! Why did I go through all that?

GOD: This is nice. What is it, a parrot?

JONAH: No, it's a turtle. They were on sale and you never know ... Lord, you KNEW they'd repent anyway.

GOD: No, I didn't know. You made that happen, Jonah. You saved them.

JONAH: Oh come on. You didn't need me. I was just some kind of prophetic placebo.

GOD: No, no, no. If that were true why would I have followed you all the way to ... to...?

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JONAH: Tarshish.

GOD: God bless you. Oh, that would be me. (*Laughs*) I always wanted to do that.

JONAH: You used me, God. It isn't fair.

GOD: Jonah, I think that whale rubbed off on you.

JONAH: What do you mean?

GOD: You're blubbering.

JONAH: Oh, come on!

GOD: Sorry Jonah. I guess I'm just a little giddy. I mean, they really did it. They repented, every last one of them in sackcloth and ashes. (*Giggles*)

JONAH: Oh, this is just funny to you. Do you know I still have dreams about that fish? I still have a full body rash from that fish ... and this is FUNNY?

GOD: You're very stressed. Please sit down.

JONAH: No. I want to know why. I want to know why I had to be thrown overboard, gobbled up and then thrown up on the beach, so I could run around Nineveh dripping with whale vomit.

GOD: And then waste three days in Nineveh proclaiming destruction.

JONAH: Yeah.

GOD: Only to have them actually listen to you.

JONAH: Exactly.

GOD: And all 120,000 souls were saved.

JONAH: (*He is caught up short*) Well, when you put it that way...

GOD: You ARE very stressed. Here, sit down. Let's take that off. (*Removes JONAH's floaty*) There. Just small steps. Now, take a deep breath. Then let it out. Again...

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JONAH: What are you doing?

GOD: It's something else I've invented.

JONAH: What?

GOD: Psychiatry.

JONAH: Sounds expensive.

GOD: I haven't decided yet. Here. I would like you to look at these pictures and give me your first impression. *(Hold up card)*

JONAH: My first impression.

GOD: Yes. First this one.

JONAH: That's a whale.

GOD: Mmmhmmm. And this?

JONAH: Whale.

GOD: And this one?

JONAH: That's an artichoke. *(Looks closer)* No, it's a very small whale. *(Hands them back)* So this is psychiatry? Three pictures of whales?

GOD: How would you like to play a game, Jonah?

JONAH: Does it involve casting lots? Because the last time I had to...

GOD: No, it does not involve lots. It's a role play game. That's where you get into someone else's shoes.

JONAH: Yeah? Well, my best pair of shoes are in the rib cage of some big mammal...

GOD: Not literally, Jonah. You just think like the other person thinks.

JONAH: Who do you want me to be?

GOD: You'll be me and I'll be you.

JONAH: What?

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GOD: You're God and I'm Jonah. Pretend you're God.

JONAH: I don't understand you.

GOD: Good. Good.

JONAH: What's this all about? What are you trying to do?

GOD: Oh, that's very good.

JONAH: You know, sometimes you do the strangest things.

GOD: Beautiful!

JONAH: That's it, I'm through. I'm really tired of these stupid games.

GOD: Fantastic, Jonah. Great! For a second there I didn't think you knew what you were doing.

JONAH: Good.

GOD: What? What do you mean?

JONAH: Oh, very nice.

GOD: No, really. Go ahead and tell me what you're thinking. I'd like to know.

JONAH: Bingo!

GOD: Now you're just being ornery. If you have something to say, say it. Don't dodge the issues.

JONAH: So true! Well done! Okay: I'm not dodging the issues. I'm trying to just stay out of the picture. Let you make your own mistakes.

GOD: So you think I make mistakes? The kings. They were a mistake. *(Pause)* Wait a minute. Are you still being me? Or are you being you?

JONAH: Yes. Yes, I'm you. I made you in my image. I'm you and everyone else. This is my grand experiment.

GOD: So you know how I feel down here. You know what I think and what I'm gonna say, even before I say it?

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JONAH: *(Pause)* You are free. But you know I'm there with you, don't you?

GOD: *(Pause)* Sometimes you seem very far away.

JONAH: I do? Wait ... are you YOU now or are you still me? I got mixed up there.

GOD: So did I. *(Laughs, begins to look around the desk for a candle and holder and a particular scrap of paper)*

JONAH: Are we finished? Lord?

GOD: Hmmmmm?

JONAH: Are we done?

GOD: Yes. Yes we are. *(JONAH rises to leave)* Jonah. Thank you.

JONAH: For what?

GOD: Too far away.

JONAH: Who?

GOD: I am ... too far away

JONAH: To me?

GOD: To you ... all of you.

JONAH: How do I get back?

GOD: Just go to the door, close your eyes and step. Or take the boat.

JONAH: *(Looks at GOD, then steps through the door)*

(After writing something on the scrap of paper, GOD looks around a bit more, can't find the candle to fit the holder on the desk, finally exits.)

END

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in printed bulletins or other matter

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***** SCRIPT PREVIEW *****

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**SCRIPT
PREVIEW**

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