

REVELATIONS

By Cory Barnett

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Clouds swirl and the Heavens open up, shining a halo of light around JESUS.

As he descends from the mountaintop, Jesus holds aloft two stone tablets.

EXT. NEAR BASE OF MOUNTAIN - DAY

Hundreds of young upturned faces eagerly await the Word of God.

Jesus steps to the edge of a cliff to address the masses.

JESUS

Thou shalt not murder. Thou shalt  
not steal. Thou shalt stay in  
school.

A CROWD of teenagers, dressed in graduation garb, throw up their mortarboards and CHEER.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I can't do this anymore.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

The small mountaintop sits surrounded by smoke machines and lights. PEOPLE in modern dress rush everywhere.

A DIRECTOR, leaps from his chair.

DIRECTOR 1

Cut. Peter, what was that? We  
almost had it.

PETER THOMSON, AKA Jesus, takes off his long-haired wig and walks over to the director.

PETER

I just can't do this. Jesus didn't bring the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai, Moses did.

DIRECTOR 1

No, we're pretty sure it's Jesus. We had our fact checker look into it.

They approach a squirrely-looking, young FACT CHECKER with a headset and laptop computer.

DIRECTOR 1 (CONT'D)

You did the fact check on the Jesus thing, right?

FACT CHECKER

Yep.

DIRECTOR 1

And you found that it was, in fact, Jesus and not Moses who brought down the Ten Commandments?

FACT CHECKER

Absolutely...well, based on the new evidence from the Not-A-Jew Foundation.

PETER

Where on Earth did you get that?

The fact checker proudly holds up his laptop.

FACT CHECKER

The internet.

SAM NEWMAN, 30s, an awkwardly cool African-American dressed as Jesus, joins them.

DIRECTOR 1

Don't look at me. I'm a dyed in the wool Muslim.

PETER

If only there were some kind of book where all that information would be available to everyone, even the less computer savvy.

He gestures at the director.

PETER (CONT'D)

Or Muslim.

Sam holds his hand out - stop.

SAM

Oh wait, give me a second, I've heard of it, it's... The Bible.

PETER

Ugh.

The fact checker looks up, confused.

Sam pats him on the head.

SAM

Don't worry about it, kid.

DIRECTOR 1

( to Peter)

Look, I know we could have been a little more thorough on the whole "Moses Thing." But really, is it that important, who said what?

PETER

Well, yeah.

DIRECTOR 1

When you think about it, though, Jesus really has a lot better press than that Moses guy anyway.

SAM

He's right you know. It is pretty hard to beat "Son of God" on the old resume.

DIRECTOR 1

Really, what's Moses done that was so great?

PETER

The Ten Commandments, for one.

SAM

He's got you there.

DIRECTOR 1

Come on, we're talking star power here. Kids want Jesus, they know Jesus, more importantly, they recognize Jesus.

Sam does Jesus-like poses behind the director.

DIRECTOR 1 (CONT'D)

In a forty second spot, we just don't have the time to say "oh, by the way, this dude is Moses, you may or may not have heard of him."

PETER

He parted the Red Sea.

The director claps Peter on the back and leads him out of the darkish studio to bright sunlight.

DIRECTOR 1

Look, you're obviously having a rough time, why don't we call it a day? We'll try again tomorrow.

Sam follows.

EXT. STUDIO - DAY

JESUS IS EVERYWHERE, literally. He's coming out of doors to sets. He's eating from the Craft Service cart. He's walking with MARY to another studio and mingling with BUDDHA.

PETER

Aren't you at all bothered by what we're doing?

SAM

What?

Peter gestures to the Jesus-esque garments and long hair.

PETER

You know, using Jesus to hawk GAP kids, public service messages, soap?

SAM

Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

PETER

Never mind.

SAM

No, I hear you, but it's all about marketing. God sells, for now at least.

A sexy MARY runs up to Sam, holding a plastic Baby Jesus. She gives him a very unholy kiss.

MARY

Hey, Sam. You're wanted on three.

Sam does his best pouty teenager impersonation.

SAM

Again? I was going to have another beer. You said I was done for the day.

MARY

They want to reshoot the Ark scene.

Sam rolls his eyes.

SAM

Great. Look, Peter, we'll go to Rapture tonight before heading over to Hindu House and figure this out.

He runs off before Peter can answer. Sam turns around, running backwards with his arms stretched up to the sky.

SAM (CONT'D)

Come on, Judgment Day is near. Go out with a smile.

Mary spirals the Baby Jesus out to Sam. He spikes it to the ground while doing an end-zone dance.

INT. RAPTURE - NIGHT

Though a nice place for burgers, the restaurant doesn't really live up to its name. Muzak versions of Sunday school songs play in the background. Sam and Peter look over their hotdogs and chili burgers.

SAM

So, you're really willing to give it all up? Man, we're making a mint.

PETER

But, it doesn't seem right. I mean, what about the repercussions?

Two twenty-something female FANS tentatively approach their table. Peter holds out his hand and one of them puts a piece of paper and a pen in it.

FAN #1

Oh, wow. It really is you. I just loved you in "Res-Election."

Fan #2 elbows Fan #1.

PETER

Oh, thanks but that wasn't me.

FAN #2

Are you sure?

PETER

Well, yeah. It was Matthew Broderick reprising his role in...

Blank stares.

They turn to Sam.

FAN #2

You were so great in "What Would Jesus Do II."

FAN #1

Yeah, I was almost born again, again.

Sam signs their papers.

SAM

Thanks, it was nice meeting you.

They run off giggling.

PETER

You see what I mean?

SAM

What? About repercussions? I really don't think they were all that bad. The brunette was kind of cute. Dumb though.

PETER

Think bigger.

Sam jokingly gestures largely.

SAM

Okay I hear you, the big picture,  
right?

PETER

Right.

SAM

Don't worry, you're covered.

Sam takes a french fry and wiggles it in Peter's face.

SAM (CONT'D)

Look, you're Catholic. All you have  
to do is apologize and you're in.  
No big deal.

PETER

That's not the way it works. I  
haven't been to church in twelve  
years.

SAM

Not even after The Sign?

Peter shakes his head.

SAM (CONT'D)

Wow, that's ballzy. But, no big  
deal, just apologize for that too.  
You Catholics have a great scam  
going on. Don't get me wrong,  
you'll probably have to do about a  
thousand Hail Mary's.

PETER

And you?

SAM

Oh, I'm screwed. There won't be  
much room for a God-fearing Atheist  
after the Resurrection. I'm looking  
at an eternity of hellfire.

PETER

And that doesn't worry you?

SAM

There's really nothing I can do about it. I simply can't believe. I've tried, but it doesn't add up. When I go to meet my maker, BLAM, straight to the Devil.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Sam and Peter walk past a movie theater. Sam stops in front of a poster.

INSERT movie poster: Jackie Chan as Jesus Christ in "Twelve Angry Mennonites."

SAM

I can't believe he got the part.

PETER

His roundhouse kick is better than yours.

SAM

There wasn't any kicking in the original, besides Jesus wasn't Chinese. He's black.

He looks over to Peter.

SAM (CONT'D)

Or white.

PETER

Oh, so now you're worried about accuracy?

SAM

Well, no, it's just for once I wanted to star in a serious drama.  
(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)

I wanted to look earnestly at the camera while I loosen my tie just before delivering a killer line.

PETER

Jesus didn't wear ties.

SAM

Man, shut up.

INT. HINDU HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hordes of hungry HOMELESS PEOPLE sit at folding tables and stand in line. Sam and Peter spoon out a heavily curried vegetarian meal.

DAWN walks between them and replenishes their supply of food. She gives Sam a peck on the cheek as she heads back to the kitchen.

Peter watches a television across the room from them. A very colorfully dressed REVEREND ELIJAH delivers his sermon.