

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

INTRO: A call centre somewhere near Jerusalem.

ZEPHANIA: ...so you saw your husband outside dancing in his underpants from your bedroom window? Well he is King David. I think he can do what he likes, don't you Michael? And I suggest you keep your opinions to yourself.  
(PAUSE)  
You want to talk to my supervisor? Please hold.  
(HUMS SOME MUZAK THEN HANGS UP)  
Oops. Cut her off. Accidentally.



F/X: TELEPHONE RINGS **{.war}**

BILDAD: Good afternoon, you've reached The Biblical Marriage Guidance Centre. Press 1 for if you are having problems with your only wife, press 2 if you're having problems with one or more of your various wives, press 16,384 if you're King Solomon, press 0 to speak to an operator or please hang up and wait for Germaine Greer to be born if you're a wife having a problem with your husband.  
(PAUSE)  
Thank you for pressing 2. Transferring you now...

ZEPHANIA: You're through to Zephania. How may I help you?  
(PAUSE)  
Your father-in-law tricked you into working for seven years

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for his daughter's hand in marriage and then he gave you the wrong daughter?

(Cups hand over mouthpiece)

*(Whispers) Bildad! We've got another one!*

No, it's more common than you might think Mr...

(PAUSE)

Jacob. OK Mr. Jacob, and that's fine if that's your real name. We're very discreet here at Biblical Marriage Guidance, no one will ever know. Is she good looking?

(PAUSE)

No? Oh, then I'm afraid all I can suggest is that you work another seven years to get her sister's hand in marriage too.

No, I don't think suing him would help much, although if I were you I'd help myself to some of his sheep. Take all the speckled ones when he's not looking.

(PAUSE) Goodbye.



**{.war}**

**F/X: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE RINGS**

**BILDAD:**

Good afternoon, you've reached The Biblical Marriage Guidance Centre. Press 1 if your only wife is giving you problems, press 2 if more than one of your wives is giving you problems, press 32,767 if you're King Solomon, press 0 to speak to the operator (PAUSE) and if you're a woman phoning about a problematic husband have you tried sending your maidservant to him and hiding under the bed? (PAUSE)

Thank you for pressing 1. Transferring you now...

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HEPZIBAH:

You're through to Hepzibah. How may I help you?

(PAUSE)

Your wife's really angry with you? How angry?

(PAUSE)

There was no tea on the table when you got in, she made you sleep in the tool-shed last night and she's sold your boat? She does sound angry! Is it possible you've done something to provoke her, unlikely as that may be! What exactly is she angry about?

(PAUSE)

You popped out to hear a visiting preacher and when you got back she'd suddenly become utterly unreasonable?

How long were you out for?

(PAUSE)

Three years.

(PAUSE)

So after you'd got back from following the Messiah around Mr. Peter didn't you think it would a good idea to bring her some flowers?

(PAUSE)

Well I understand you brought the Messiah to heal her mother when she was sick, but *you* personally didn't bring her anything from your travels far and wide now did you?

(PAUSE)

Well if that's your attitude perhaps you'd better cook her a decent fish supper, grovel your apologies and hope she's going to follow your new religion; then she'll have to forgive you. Goodbye!

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F/X: TELEPHONE RINGS (.war)

BILDAD: Good afternoon, you've reached The Biblical Marriage Guidance Centre. Press 1 if you're such a loser you only have one wife, press 2 if all those wives are making you look wistfully back to happier bachelor days out tending the sheep, press 65,536 if you're King Solomon and you're absolutely knackered, press 0 to speak to the operator and if you're a wife having problems with her husband then take a few minutes to thank heaven you're not Mrs. Noah. You think you've got problems, try mucking out for two of every animal!

(PAUSE)

Thank you for pressing 0. How may I help you?

(PAUSE)

You're not married? Well I don't think we can help you then love.

(PAUSE)

You're engaged and should be getting married soon and you think you may be pregnant?

ALL TOGETHER: Ooooooo!  
(ZEPHANIA and HEPZIBAH pick up their phones to listen in)

BILDAD: What do you mean it's not like that? I fail to see how it could be any other way...

(PAUSE)

An angel turned up suddenly, told you not be afraid and that the Holy Spirit's going to ensure you have a baby?

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- ALL TOGETHER: Pull the other one it's got bells on!
- BILDAD: If you don't mind me asking, how do you know it was an angel?  
(PAUSE)  
He was seven feet tall, he had wings and he glowed so bright he turned the night into day?
- ZEPHANIA: Sounds like your typical angelic visitation to me, Bildad.
- HEPZIBAH: Ask her if he suddenly vanished without a trace?
- BILDAD: Did he suddenly vanish without a trace?  
(PAUSE)  
He did? And all the door and windows were securely locked!  
Wow!  
(PAUSE)  
Well what I advise you to do is take him seriously. Marry your boyfriend and don't worry about it.  
(PAUSE)  
No! God'll put him right if he gets any funny ideas.  
(PAUSE)  
OK then you take care of yourself. Oh, have you thought of any names yet?  
(PAUSE)  
What if it's a girl?  
(PAUSE)  
Oh, it's definitely a boy then. Well I think Jesus sounds like an excellent name.  
Goodbye Mary.

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F/X:

TELEPHONE RINGS (.wav)

HEPZIBAH:

Good afternoon, you've reached The Biblical Marriage Guidance Centre. Press 1 if...

(PAUSE)

Oh not you again Solomon!!! No I really don't want to be your 65,537th wife and I'd really like you to stop calling.

(PAUSE – cover's mouthpiece with her hand)

Bildad! He's on *again*, I'm transferring 'Captain Wisdom' to you, he just thinks he's right *all the time*...