

The Breakfast Show

First performed at Shaftesbury Road Ecclesia, 2008.

Concept:	Talk show hosts in Libya or another neighbouring country, Joshy and Mel, interview people and find out more about the strange goings on in Egypt. Moses and the children of Israel have just crossed the Red Sea safely and reports are filtering through about the plagues in Egypt.
Cast:	Joshy – talk show host Mel – talk show host David - Entertainment reporter Elzar – a magician from Pharaoh’s court Other magicians [non speaking parts] Simon - Sports reporter Nina - Weather reporter Teb – reporter in Egypt [either live or prerecorded video pieces] Farmer 1 Farmer 2 Zub - reporter in Egypt [either live or prerecorded video pieces]
Scenes:	One: On set of the breakfast show and cutting to an interview in Egypt Two: On set of the breakfast show with the weather and sports reports Three: On set of the breakfast show cutting to “pre-recorded” interviews in the locust plague and plague of darkness etc.. (interviews can be performed live) Option: Include ‘television advertisements’ for products between scenes – eg. De-frog spray; Second hand camel sales, Mummy wrapping bandages, Boil cream
Bible reading:	Psalm 136

Scene One:

Scripture: Exodus chapters 6 - 12

On set of *The Breakfast Show*. Two talk show hosts, Joshy and Mel are seated at the desk.

Joshy	<p><i>[Looks to camera]</i> Good morning everyone and welcome to another action packed <i>Breakfast Show</i> program.</p>
Mel	<p><i>[Looks to camera]</i> We have been hearing some very strange reports from our neighbours in Egypt and we have some on-the-spot reports as well as a great line up of guests on today's show.</p>
Joshy	<p><i>[Looks to camera]</i> So Mel, everyone knows that the Egyptian economy has relied on the Hebrew slaves for more than 200 years. No-one knows how the country will recover from this economic disaster.</p> <p>There were about six hundred thousand Hebrew men, besides women and children and many other people who went with them, as well as large droves of livestock, flocks and herds.</p>
Mel	<p><i>[Glances at Joshy]</i> That's an enormous workforce, it's hard to believe Pharaoh let them go. Didn't the great Egyptian army try to stop them?</p>
Joshy	<p><i>[Looks to camera]</i> Yes, but it seems that they suffered a mysterious fate. More about that later, now it's time for the entertainment news with David.</p>

David, the entertainment reporter, and some of the magicians from Pharaoh's court are seated for an interview.

David	<p><i>[Looks to camera]</i> Thanks Joshy, we're coming to you live from a little town in Egypt. After recent events at the palace most of Pharaoh's magicians and wise men have gone into hiding but we have been lucky enough to get an interview with Elzar the wise, formerly the head magician in Pharaoh's court and some of his fellow magicians.</p>
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David	<i>[Looks to magician]</i> So Elzar, you have had a long and very successful career at the court of Pharaoh, what made you leave the civil service?
Elzar	<i>[worriedly glances around to ensure he's not being overheard]</i> I've seen a lot of things in my time at court, and I can keep a secret as well as the next wise man but it's just not right.... The union has rules.
David	What's not right? What union?
Elzar	<i>[sounding outraged]</i> The magicians and wise men's union. Those Hebrews, Moses and Aaron, are not union men. They came into our workplace without a permit. Performing all kinds of magic tricks without permission ... it's no wonder it ended so badly....
David	What kinds of magic tricks? I thought Pharaoh's wise men and magicians were the best of the best, the cream of the crop... surely there aren't any tricks you haven't seen before?
Elzar	<i>[shaking head, puzzled]</i> that's the part I still don't quite understand. Turning a staff into a snake isn't a trick for beginners, it takes years of practice ... milking the snake's venom, training it to stay still and quiet. But it's very rude to let your snake eat up a fellow magician's snake ... very rude indeed! We know Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court but no one knows where his brother Aaron learned to do magic. And then to turn the rivers into blood, that's a level 10 trick and takes extensive training and detailed planning – I've never seen it done so simply. <i>[shakes head]</i> That Moses just raised his staff and struck the water and shazam... blood everywhere. The fish in the Nile died, and the river stank. No-one could drink the water.
David	<i>[sounding impressed]</i> Well that is an amazing story ...
Elzar	<i>[interrupting]</i> But that's not where it ends, no not by a long shot. Then it was the old frogs and toads trick. He was showing off really, so many frogs – I even found some in my bed in the palace [shudders] disgusting!

David	Did the Pharaoh's wise men make frogs appear too?
Elzar	<p>Oh yes, frogs is easy ... but it was when the gnats came that we knew this wasn't any ordinary magician.</p> <p>Only the finger of God could make gnats appear like that – it was as if all the dust in Egypt turned into gnats swarming and biting men and animals. [shudders]</p>
David	Gnats you say, now that's entertainment.
Elzar	<p><i>[interrupting]</i> But the gnats weren't enough for Pharaoh, oh no... next it was flies. throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.</p> <p><i>[shakes head]</i> I'm giving up magic you know, after the things I've seen I'm going to become an accountant or possibly a librarian.</p>
David	Well that's all we've got time for, back to you Joshy and Mel.

Scene two: On set of *The Breakfast Show*

Mel	[shudders] Blood, frogs, gnats, snakes ... it sounds like a horror story. The poor animals.
Joshy	Yes, I don't think the Egyptian people will forget the last few weeks easily either. More about that later, now it's time for the sport and weather reports.

Sports reporter

Simon	<p>In sports news today the Egyptian Football League is in disarray with matches being cancelled due to the swarms of flies on people and in their houses everywhere. Even the football grounds were infested with flies.</p> <p>Ticket sales were already down due to the problems with gnats. The away games will go ahead this week with Egypt strong favourites to defeat the Nubians at Sandy Plains.</p> <p>Coach Tut announced he will take the Egyptian national team into Goshen for training this week to escape any further plagues.</p> <p>There have been cancellations in the camel racing at Memphis this week due to the plague on livestock which affected horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. People are comparing it to the outbreak of horse flu that cost the industry millions last year.</p> <p>And now for the weather report.</p>
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Weather map appears on large screen

Weather reporter	<p><i>[looking bored]</i></p> <p>The weather here in Libya has been sunny and dry with very cold desert nights. The outlook for Monday and Tuesday is sunny and dry with very cold desert nights continuing right through the week and over the weekend with more sunny and dry weather. <i>[yawns]</i></p> <p>In Nubia the dry spell continues to be sunny and hot with very cold desert nights and an outlook of more sunny and dry weather to come.</p>
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	<p><i>[looking more interested]</i> But there have been some very strange reports of unusual weather events from Egypt.</p> <p>There is some suspicion that a cold weather front is responsible for the festering boils that broke out on men and animals throughout Egypt in recent weeks.</p> <p><i>[getting more excited]</i> This was followed by a sudden hailstorm which caused incredible damage across the whole of Egypt. Thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.</p> <p>Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. The only place it didn't hail was the land of Goshen, where the Hebrews were living.</p>
Mel	Thanks for that Nina, it's almost as if the Gods are punishing Egypt with plagues and terrible weather.
Joshy	We have some on-the scene reports from our news reporters based in Egypt.

Scene three

Cut to pre-recorded item (or live)

Teb	<p><i>[swatting the few remaining locusts away]</i> We're here in Egypt in the middle of the devastation left by the locust plague that swept across the land.</p> <p>An east wind blew across the land all day and all night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; they invaded Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before has there been such a plague of locusts. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees.</p> <p>You can see here some local farmers trying to come to terms with the devastation.</p> <p><i>[to farmer 1]</i> What was it like when the swarm of locusts came?</p>
Farmer 1	There were so many we couldn't see the ground. They ate everything.
Farmer 2	I don't know what we're going to do, there is no food left for people or animals.
Teb	<p><i>[to camera]</i> Farming in Egypt is usually a fairly profitable business with the annual floods along the Nile, but this year nothing green remains on any tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.</p>

Mel	Well I don't think Egypt will be a popular holiday destination this year, no food to eat and dead insects everywhere!
Joshy	<p>You're right Mel, and it was such a beautiful place when we broadcast live from beside the pyramids last year.</p> <p>It's difficult to get any news out of Egypt since the most recent disasters but one of our Egyptian contacts, Zub, managed to file this story.</p>

[black screen with a voiceover]

Zub	<p>Are we live? OK</p> <p>The whole of the land of Egypt seems to be in total darkness. We're here in a house close to the palace where no one has been able to leave their homes for three days.</p> <p>Everything is shrouded in darkest night continuously, it's been this way for three days now. No one here can even see anyone else.</p> <p>Reports are filtering through that the Hebrews have light in the region of Goshen where they are living.</p> <p>There is no rational explanation for this phenomenon and Pharaoh continues to refuse to negotiate with the Hebrew rebels who are claiming their God is responsible.</p> <p>This is Zub Khamen reporting from Egypt for The Breakfast Show.</p>
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Mel	<p><i>[to camera]</i></p> <p>In news just to hand it's becoming clear why the Pharaoh allowed the Hebrews to leave Egypt.</p> <p><i>[visibly shaken]</i></p> <p>At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt. There was not a house without someone dead.</p> <p>During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."</p> <p>The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. The Israelites asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.</p>
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<p>Joshy</p>	<p>But Pharaoh had a change of heart and sent the army after the Hebrews. They nearly caught them near Pi Hahiroth but then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Hebrews went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water either side of them.</p> <p>The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.</p> <p>This is an incredible loss of life, and a devastating blow for Egypt.</p>
<p>Mel</p>	<p>Well that's all we have time for today. Tomorrow we have Jamie Oliver talking about his new cooking book and a look at holiday destinations in Canaan.</p>