Drama: Know Your Bible (Based on Luke 1: 39-59)
by Frank Ramirez

Cast:

Elizabeth
Mary
Angel Quiz Show Host
Augustus Caesar, ruler of the known Western World.
King Herod, Great builder. Hasn't actually built.
Stage Hands holding Applause Sign!

MARY
(Mary and Elizabeth enter, looking just a little intimidated)
Are you sure we're in the right place, Cousin Elizabeth? It looks pretty fancy for a small town girl like me.

ELIZABETH
(trying to sound confident)
Mary, you're the Lord's chosen. You're going to give birth to the Savior of the World. I think you belong just about anywhere you choose to be.

MARY
I don't know why I'm even here. What's a Quiz Show anyway?

ELIZABETH
I'm not sure, but it's called "Do You Know Your Bible?" and Mary, you know your Bible.

MARY
But I'm just a young teenager from a Galilean village, not some Bible Scholar from Jerusalem.

ELIZABETH
Just be Strong and Courageous. You'll do --

MARY
(brightens)
Strong and Courageous. Joshua, Chapter One!

ELIZABETH
See! Just what I --

(Suddenly interrupted by a loud trumpet. They both cover their ears. Enter, stomping on, Herod the Great)

HEROD THE GREAT

Make way! Make way! It's me, Herod the Great! That's "Herod the Great!" Builder of Great Buildings! Creator of Fancy Gardens! King of the Holy Land! Savior of the Olympics! Undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World. There's a reason they call me great! It's because I'm great!

(Another interruption -- another trumpet. Women stop their ears again. Herod asks annoyed)
Now who could that be, and why do they get a trumpetic introduction just like me?

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

(Stomping on with even more arrogance)
(Walks past Mary and Elizabeth, doesn't even notice them. Stops short at Herod).
And who are you?

HEROD THE GREAT

Herod. The. Great.

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

Great? What an odd last name? Where does the Great family come from? I'd introduce myself but everyone knows me. Ruler of the Known World. Descended from a God.

HEROD THE GREAT

Which one?

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

What's that?

HEROD THE GREAT

Which God? Are you descended from?

AUGUSTUS CAESAR
Athena, I think. Through my great, great, great, great, great, etc., etc., grandfather, Aeneid. And of course Athena was born right out of Zeus's head. God of lightning and all that.

HEROD THE GREAT

A bit of a pain, don't you think? Being born out of someone's head.

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

All kids are a bit of pain don't you think?

HEROD THE GREAT

Not mine. I had them executed so they couldn't revolt against me.

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

Well, now, there's an idea.

(Sudden blaring of theme song by Band.

ANGEL

(Theme Music by Band. Stage Hands hold up Applause Signs)
Welcome everybody to "Do You Know Your Bible?", the show that asks the question -- 
(Stage Hands hold up Signs Reading "Do," "You," "Know," "Your," and "Bible!" encouraging youth to read aloud.)

YOUTH

Do! You! Know! Your! Bible!
(Applause signs go up)

ANGEL

(Stage Hands lead the three contestants into their separate chairs. Elizabeth stands behind Mary)
And it's time to meet our contestants. First, ruler of the known world, Prince of Peace, Son of a god, Savior of the World, and Emperor of Rome, Augustus Caesar!
(Applause signs. Augustus gives a little wave.)
And, continuing our royal theme, Ruler of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea, Savior of the Olympics, Builder of Great Buildings, Oppressor of His People, and Suspicious of just about everybody, King Herod!
(Applause signs. Herod looks a little annoyed at the description.
And finally, from Nazareth in Galilee, winner of a synagogue perfect attendance button, touched by an angel, the one, the only, Mary of Nazareth.)
(Applause signs. Herod and Augustus look puzzled. Mary sinks into her chair just a little bit.)
Well, I'm sure our studio audience wants to know, "How Well Do You Know Your Bible?" So let me ask each one of you in turn, "How. Well. Do. You. Know. Your. Bible?" Caesar Augustus?

CAESAR AUGUSTUS

What's a Bible? And why do I have to know all about it? Besides I have people who know things for me.

ANGEL

Very good. Herod the Great? How well do you know your Bible?

HEROD THE BIBLE

I know what the Bible is, but I have great biblical scholars who read it and get it right and they tell me what I need to know. Or else!

ANGEL

Mary?

MARY

Well, I try to listen during Synagogue Service.

ELIZABETH

Mary has a perfect attendance pin. And she listens very carefully.

ANGEL

This should be exciting. Very well. Here's your task, contestants. Make up a poem that with twenty quotes from scripture taken from at least nine different books of the Bible. On your mark, get set, go!

(Sound of a clock ticking, while Augustus Caesar looks at Herod the Great with a puzzled expression. Suddenly there is a "Ding!")

Time's Up! Emperor of the Known World?

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

Well, after Aeneid left the ruins of Troy the winds flung his ships.

ELIZABETH

That's not scripture. That's just some poem designed to make him look good.
MARY

(laughing)
That would have to be *some* poem.

ANGEL

I'm sorry that's not scripture. Maybe next round. Herod the Great?

HEROD THE GREAT

Um. Uh. In the beginning..... Ah, You know, this is why I keep the Scholars scared, so they're always ready to answer for me.

ANGEL

Way wrong answer! You'll have to answer for yourself on the Judgment Day!

HEROD THE GREAT

(To Augustus Caesar, who shrugs)
Judgment Day? What's that?

ANGEL

It's in the Bible. You'll find out. Okay, Mary?

MARY

(Takes a deep breath)
Okay, let's try this.

(Elizabeth will call out scriptures as she recites the poem)

MARY

My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For God has looked with favor on me,
the lowly servant.
Count on it, all generations will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things
For me, and Holy is God’s name!
God’s mercy is for all who fear and honor God
For all the ages!
God strength is seen, God’s arm of might
Has scattered all who love themselves.
The ones enthroned, tough powerful
Are brought down low. The low are raised

ELIZABETH

Oh, I know! I know!
Good one! Good one!
You rock, Mary!
The hungry fed, the rich are hungry. That’s us! We’re lowly!
The people are God’s servant
And are helped because we have remembered
All God’s mercy, promised to those here before us,
And to us who follow after,
For forever and forever! For forever and forever!

HEROD THE GREAT

What was that?

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

Who was that?

ELIZABETH

Well, for those keeping score -- Here are the scriptures Mary worked into her poem!
1 Samuel 1:11, 2:1, 2:5, & 2:6
Habakkuk 3:18
Malachi 3:12
Genesis 17:7, 19
Exodus 20:6
Isaiah 40:10; 51:9; 52:10;
Job 5:11;
Jeremiah 31:3,20
And if that weren’t enough, she gets the Book of Psalms.

HEROD THE GREAT

Really? I didn’t notice any---

ELIZABETH

(Bells and lights go off!)

ANGEL

Winner, winner, chicken dinner! Mary knows her Bible!

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

Now what’s this Bible thingy again?

MARY
I don’t know if anyone notices me, but I notice everything in worship.

ANGEL

That was magnificent!

MARY

(a little shyly)
That’s what I call it. The Magnificat!

ANGEL

Well, that makes Mary the winner and you two --

(he points to Augustus Caesar and Herod the Great as loser sounds intrude)

-- The Big Losers! That’s all the time we have for today. Tune in tomorrow for our next episode of

(The stagehands hold up the Cue Cards reading “HOW,” “WELL,” “DO,” “YOU,” “KNOW,” “YOUR,” “BIBLE.”)

MARY

Just pay attention in worship. You’d be surprised what you hear?

YOUTH

How! Well! Do! You! Know! Your! Bible!

(Game Show Theme Music as Mary Walks off in triumph with Elizabeth)