

## *On A Scroll*

### Dead Sea Scrolls Prophecy Project

April 2024

Script of Video – **Translator version: 13min 13 sec**

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#### **Setting:**

*UK café. Some background customers/waitress. Drinks only, no food.*

#### **Characters:**

**Abby:** young, twenties, White British; office dress, well-ordered but not severe; takes leadership, a little officious; Warwick University graduate; religion: sceptic.

**Kenan:** young, twenties, Black British; office dress, smart; confident and approachable; Cambridge University Graduate; religion: Christian.

**Seth:** young, twenties, British Jewish; office dress, smart; knowledgeable, witty, youthful; Oxford University Graduate; religion: Judaism.

Background customers: three/four/five in singles/couples to suit; ordinary dress. (Since action takes place in ~12 minutes, can stay in position – reading/'chatting' as appropriate.)

Café staff: one at counter/busy with tasks

**Final Script:**

*Int. Café. Abby and Seth at table with drinks; drinks partly drunk, evidence that they have been there a little while. Both looking at phones. Customers/staff in background.*

*Kenan enters carrying tablet. Sits down.*

Abby: You're late, Kenan.

Kenan: Sorry, Abs. You know what it's like. When Anthony from Accounts calls, nothing happens quickly.

*(Staff member approaches)* Can I have a flat white, please? Thank you.

Abby: OK, well let's get on with it. Milly Duffy from HR wants an answer by eleven. We've got like 10 minutes and... 37 seconds.

Seth! Can you stop looking at dating sites? And just apply yourself to the problem at hand.

Seth: Give a boy a break, Abby. Love beckons. What's the problem?

Abby: Come on, you got the memo. Look, management want bright ideas for diversity training. Some sort of bonding activity. And we three – being the brightest of bright young things...

*(Staff member approaches with coffee)*

Kenan: Thank you very much.

Abby: ...well, we get coffee and 10 minutes to sort it out! **[Note: 10 minutes quoted here is based on original full-length version**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWJLLmsM2oo>

**Translators can change time quoted to suit their versions.]**

Kenan: Well, they've already got me on the company flyer. And the poster for reception. Now... they want me on the diversity training. I'm gonna need a raise for this one!

Abby: Can we move on?

Kenan: So... diversity. Seth here is a fine-looking, Torah-quoting genius of Jewish heritage. I'm a handsome Bible-loving Christian. What are you, Abs?

Abby: I'm not anything.

Kenan: Look, nobody's not anything. I will put you down as...

Seth: Pagan.

Abby: Now you can call your lawyer, Seth!

Kenan: Easy Seth... Abs, I will put you down as an atheist?

Abby: Sceptic.

Can we crack on? Milly's phoning in like... eight minutes. [Note: 8 minutes quoted here is based on original full-length version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWJLLmsM2oo>

Translators can change approximate time quoted to suit their versions.]

OK, focus. We need a bonding activity. Team stuff.

Seth: Alright, alright. How about rugby sevens? Or American football?

Abby: There's no way that Milly is signing up to charging around a field taking out members of the department.

Seth: I wouldn't mind her taking me out.

Abby: Seth!

Seth: Alright... OK, how about... erm... tag wrestling?

Abby: (sighs) Fine. I'm putting a visit to an ice cream factory. You, Kenan?

Kenan: Caving.

Abby: People! Why on earth would we want to sign up to going down some god-forsaken dark hole in the ground, contorting ourselves into weird shapes, getting dripped on, and then need rescuing because somebody finds themselves on the wrong side of freedom?

Kenan: We could all hold hands in the dark.

Seth: Count me in.

Kenan: I got the idea yesterday evening. I read this article online.

Not just about any old hole-in-the-ground cave. It was actually fascinating research they'd done. Absolutely brilliant!

And you'll like this, Seth. Starter for ten points. What are the oldest copies of the books of the Old Testament – your Hebrew Bible? Think caves.

Seth: Alright, Kenan! Bring it on.

The Dead Sea Scrolls. First discovered winter 1946, maybe early forty-seven, by Bedouin Arab, Muhammed 'the wolf' edh-Dhib.<sup>1</sup> The name gives you where it was found: the Dead Sea Scrolls.

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<sup>1</sup> Pronunciation [https://www.howtopronounce.com/muhammed-edh-dhib?utm\\_content=cmp-true;](https://www.howtopronounce.com/muhammed-edh-dhib?utm_content=cmp-true;)  
<https://catholicproductions.com/blogs/blog/the-dead-sea-scrolls-how-were-they-discovered-and-why-are-they-important> @ 0.48 min

After that, thousands of early documents and fragments were found in twelve different caves... The entire books of the Bible, your Old Testament, except the book of Esther was found. These copies dated 2000, 2300 years old.

Shall I go on?

Abby: Who was Esther? Why did she get left out?

Seth: Ah... Persian queen. 2500 years ago. I don't know, maybe the scribes were sexist. It's a long story.

Kenan: Seth's right. It seems as though the shepherd was out with his friends on the hills above the Dead Sea. They throw a stone into a cave and hear pottery breaking. But the caves are like tiny. It's like cats live there. So, they go away.

Abby: Can we make this quick? Times ticking.

Kenan: Anyway, so this 'wolf' guy comes back, goes into a cave nearby, and finds them. There's a market for these kinds of things. So, he takes them and... well, it's a long story. You can read about it online.

Anyway, Seth. Back in the game! Which is the longest complete Dead Sea Scroll found?

Seth: Ah... longest Bible or longest whatever?

Kenan: Bible.

Seth: The Great Isaiah Scroll. It's length is 7.30 [*seven point thirty*] ... 34 m long. That's the three of us and Milly Duffy lying end to end. Which is a beautiful thought.

Kenan: Look, they've got a video of it online.

Picture that being in the dark for over 2000 years.

It's amazing, isn't it?

Abby: But is this relevant to office bonding activities?

Kenan: No, Abs, but hear me out.

So, this professor, Randall Price, comes along. And he says...

Abby: Why on earth should I be listening to Professor Price?

Kenan: He worked on this. He was a part of the team that discovered the last cave in 2017.

He says that 'The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the greatest literary and archaeological discovery of our time.'

Seth: Him and hundreds of others.

I mean, these are the Dead Sea Scrolls. It was a huge deal. They pushed back known biblical accuracy by a thousand years.

Kenan: So, go on, Seth. When did Isaiah write the original?

Seth: Well, Isaiah lived 2700 years ago. He was a respected prophet, respected by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Kenan: So... 2700 years ago... yes? And the Dead Sea Scrolls were 2100 years ago. Yes? Yes?

Seth: Yes, yes. I'm understanding where you are going with this.

Get ready for an apologetics lesson. Kenan is on a 'scroll'.

Kenan: Ha, ha... No, no, no. You ought come better than that joke. [*You ought to be better than that joke.*]

Abby: I'm not getting anything. What are we talking about?

Kenan: So... if Isaiah was writing scrolls 2700 years ago and we have copies of what he wrote 2100 years ago...

Seth: I know, I know. And if Jesus lived 2000 years ago, and Isaiah wrote about him centuries before, what does that say about Jesus?

Kenan: Yes. You've got it, man.-

So... tell me about Micah. Another of the Dead Sea Scroll Bible books.

Seth: Micah was a book written by another prophet. Coincidentally, named Micah, believe it or not? That was also 2700 years ago.

Kenan: And what did he write about Bethlehem? I'm really testing you on this Seth. Think Micah chapter 5.

Seth: (*sighs*) 'O Bethlehem, you are a small village amongst the people of Judah. Yet from you a ruler of Israel shall come, whose origins are from the distant past.'<sup>2</sup>

Kenan: Huh, impressive, Seth.

And a question for you, Abs. Guess who was born in Bethlehem?

Abby: Jesus, of course. Now, you're just being patronising...

Kenan: But you see what Micah's doing there. He talks about Bethlehem being important 700 years before Jesus was actually born.

What are the odds on that?

Seth: Well, no, look... erm... King David, second ruler of Israel, was also born in Bethlehem.

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<sup>2</sup> Micah 5:2 (NLT); Original NLT: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.

Kenan: Sure... but that was way before Micah wrote his book.

And speaking of David, since you're so good at this, what did he write in Psalms 22 verses 16 to 18?

Seth: 'My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs... erm... a gang of evil closes in on me. They pierced my hands and feet. (*sigh*) I can count all my bones. Er... my enemies stare at me and gloat. They divided my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.'<sup>3</sup>

Kenan: And when did he write that?

Seth: A thousand years before Jesus.

Kenan: See what David did there? Pierced hands and feet. All his bones. Enemies staring. Throwing dice for clothes. Abs?

Abby: Jesus again?

Kenan: And it's all there in the Bible stories. Jesus being nailed to a cross. None of his bones were broken. People who yelled at him and wanted him dead. Soldiers gambling for his clothes.

And there's lots of stuff like this. Bits from the Old Testament from different people at different times predicting what would happen in the life of Jesus. How he lived in Egypt. Riding a donkey into Jerusalem. Being betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Being rejected by his family. Healing the blind. And the deaf. Raising the dead back to life. Coming back to life himself. And the Bible predicts that Jesus will return to the earth again.

I read this other guy. And he reckons that the chances of Jesus fulfilling all the predictions in the Old Testament are like millions and millions to one. It's like picking a single electron out of dozens of universes.

Abby: Hm, you know the Isaiah scroll? The one in the video. Where does that fit in?

Kenan: Well, Isaiah's one of the 'major' prophets. He writes dozens of things that relate to Jesus. Such as Isaiah 53 verses 5 and 6...

Seth?

Seth: Call him off, Abby. Let's talk about the ice cream factory.

Abby: No... come on, it's interesting.

Seth: I thought you were sceptic.

Abby: Yes, but that doesn't mean I'm brain dead. Go on, Isaiah whatever he said.

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<sup>3</sup> Psalm 22:16-18 (NLT): Original NLT: My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat. They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

Kenan: Isaiah chapter 53 verses 5 and 6.

Seth: Alright, alright, your wish and all that.

*(sigh)* 'He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so that we may be whole. He was whipped so that we may be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed. We have left God's paths to follow our own. But the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.'<sup>4</sup>

Abby: I didn't get any of that.

Kenan: This is what it's all about. Isaiah tells us why Jesus got killed.

So we can get back to God. Be forgiven. Start out fresh. And get to heaven when our time's up.

*(Abby's phone rings)*

Abby: Oh... our time is definitely up.

Milly?

Ah, yes... erm, yes, we've got three ideas. Well, two and Seth's.

Hm... yes, Seth wants to do some sport. Rugby was his best suggestion. Tag wrestling was his worst.

*(laughs)* Yes, I told him. It's not going to happen.

Hm... Kenan wants to go caving. Preferably to find some ancient scrolls by the Dead Sea.

And... erm... I suggested an ice cream factory.

*Huh... hum...* *(laughs)* Are you sure?

OK. We'll be back in five.

*(laugh, puzzled sigh)*

Seth: So? Don't keep us waiting.

Abby: Kenan wins. Seems like Milly wants to go caving too.

Kenan: Kenan knows!

Abby: But this is really weird. Like, really, really weird.

Kenan: It's not that weird. Plenty of people do it.

Abby: No, this is really weird. *(laughs)* She said she would be happy to hold Kenan's hand in the dark. *(laughs)*

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<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 53:5,6 (NLT): Original NLT: But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

Seth: No way! Come on.

Abby: Yes.

Kenan: Only one way. Only one...

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