

ON HOLD

A Chapel Drama for Four or Fewer Participants
(Approximately 10 minutes)

This drama can be done different ways: have only Reader1 visible, & the others as off-stage voices; have all visible but no memorization—read from scripts on music stands. Speaker parts 3 & 4 could be combined, or use one speaker for 1, 3, 4 and All. If you choose the latter, using variation in speaking might help distinguish the different “departments” for the listener.

Sound effects (telephone “click” made with tongue) is done by the participants

The only prop necessary is a cordless phone for Speaker1. (A cell phone is not used, because they already display the time.)

“All” refers to all but the caller, Speaker 2

In the “Present Status” section (beginning in the middle of p. 2), you may update False Prophets, Wars, and Natural Disasters with current events

(Speaker2 punches in a phone number and puts the phone to his/her ear)

Speaker 1: Brrring! Brrring! *(Click)* Good Morning. You have reached the End of Time Industrial Complex. How may I direct your call?

Speaker 2: Sorry- I must have misdialed. I just wanted to know the correct time. My alarm clock broke and I need to know if I'll be late for work.

Speaker 1: That would be our Prophecy Department. One moment, please, and I'll connect you. *(Click)*

All: We're sorry, but all our operators are busy. Thank you for holding. You are a valued customer, and your concerns are important to us. While you are holding, please use this opportunity to learn more about End of Time Industries.

Speaker 4: We're proud of our Prophecy Department here at End of Time Industries. The purpose of this department is to acquaint you with events that precede Judgment Day. Our resource is the Holy Bible, which has a 100% accuracy rating. Our motto is: WE TOLD YOU SO! *(Click)*

Speaker 3: Thank you for holding. If you have touch tone, please press one for Prophecies on Religious Deception.

All: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ', and will deceive many. False prophets will appear and perform great signs to deceive even the elect- if that were possible."

Speaker 3: Press two, for Prophecies on War.

All: "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."

Speaker 3: Press three, for Prophecies on Natural Disasters.

All: "There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

Speaker 3: Press four, for Prophecies on Religious Persecution.

All: "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."

Speaker 3: Press five, for Prophecies on Social Deterioration.

All: "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold."

Speaker 3: If you do not have touch tone or require other information, please hold and an operator will assist you. (*Click*)

Speaker 1: Good morning—End of Time Industries, General Information. How may I direct your call?

Speaker 2: Look, I just want to know what time it is- NOW!

Speaker I: That would be our Present Status Department. One moment, please, and I'll connect you. (*Click*)

All: We're sorry, but all our operators are busy. Thank you for holding. You are a valued customer and your concerns are important to us. While you are holding, please use this opportunity to learn more about End of Time Industries.

Speaker 4: The purpose of our Present Status Department is to make our customers aware that the end of time is imminent. We use worldwide mass media resources. Any discrepancy in the data simply reflects the imperfection of mankind. Our motto is: WE DON'T MAKE THE NEWS, WE JUST REPORT IT. (*Click*)

Speaker 3: Thank you for holding. If you have touch tone, please press one for Present Status on False Prophets.

All: In her best-selling book, Embraced by the Light, author Betty Eadie says: "all religions upon earth are necessary... as an individual raises his understanding about God... he might feel discontented with his present church and seek a different philosophy or religion to fill that void."

Speaker 3: Press two, for Present Status on Wars.

All: Bosnia- a truce has been called for peace talks. If these fail, Europe could be plunged into a wider war, requiring American military intervention.

Speaker 3: Press three, for Present Status on Natural Catastrophes.

All: Tropical storm Zack whipped through the Philippines, killing at least 68 people and leaving thousands homeless before heading into the South China Sea.

Speaker 3: Press four, for Present Status on Religious Persecution.

All: According to Christianity Today, more people have been persecuted and killed because of their Christian faith in the last 60 years, than have been persecuted and killed since the death of Jesus.

Speaker 3: Press five, for Present Status on Social Deterioration.

All: In an extensive survey by the American Bible Society, 26% of those polled feel the best rule for life is "to look out for number one."

Speaker 3: If you do not have touch tone or require other information, please hold and one of our operators will assist you. *(Click)*

Speaker 1: Good morning—End of Time Industries, General Information. How may I help you?

Speaker 2: Look, I'm running late and I desperately need someone to tell me if I have enough time.

Speaker 4: That would be our Blessed Assurance Department. One moment, please, and I'll connect you. *(Click)*

All: We're sorry, but all our operators are busy. Thank you for holding. You are a valued customer and your concerns are important to us. While you are holding, please use this opportunity to learn more about End of Time Industries.

Speaker 4: The Blessed Assurance Department was developed to personally give you the promises of God as related through Holy Scripture. Our motto is: **YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD, ONLY TOO LATE.** *(Click)*

Speaker 3: Thank you for holding. If you have touch tone, please press one for Primary Principals of Blessed Assurance.

All: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Speaker 3: Press two, for Blessed Assurance in Trying Times.

All: "But he who stands firm till the end will be saved."

Speaker 3: Press three, for Blessed Assurance of Abiding Love.

All: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Speaker 3: If you would like to have these, and many more promises in written form, get in touch with your nearest Bible. If you require other information, please hold and an operator will assist you. (*Click*)

Speaker 1: Good morning—End of Time Industries, General Information. How may I help you?

Speaker 2: I'm not sure. I've been given prophesies, lessons in current events and a bunch of promises. What's going on?

Speaker 1: Life is going on, but not much longer—at least as *you* know it.

Speaker 2: What are you trying to do—scare me to death?

Speaker 1: Oh, we don't want to do that; we want you to live! Would you like to speak to the Department of Blessed Assurance again?

Speaker 2: I'd like to speak to your boss. Who's in charge?

Speaker 1: That would be God. But you'll have to go through his son, Jesus.

ALL: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all."

Speaker 2: I can talk with Jesus?

Speaker 1: You can dial him direct- he has a prayer line to get each valued customer through his or her time of grace. However, he will soon be arriving in person.

All: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Speaker 2: But what about the time?

All: "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

Speaker 2: That's not what I meant. Can you connect me with the correct time, or not?

Speaker 1: I'm sorry, but that connection has been terminated. End of Time Industries is in the process of merging with Eternity and Associates.

Speaker 2: I just... need... time.

All: We're sorry, but your time is up. *(Click)*

Speaker 3: "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky...

Speaker 4: And all the nations of the earth will mourn.

Speaker 2: *(No phone to ear)* They will see the Son of Man coming on the great clouds of the sky...

Speaker 1: With power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call...

All: And they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." *(Click)*

END

Mary Dorn Lippert, November, 1995