

Interview with the Donkeys of Genesis

CHARACTERS: VONTRICE, JACK 1, JACK 2, JENNY 2

PROPS: Microphone

COSTUMES: Rain hat, flowered straw hat

SETTING: TV studio

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1, 2, 6-8, 22

RUN TIME: 8 minutes

VONTRICE: Welcome to Animal World. I'm Vontrice Veterinarian the host of this show. On every show we examine the wonders of God creation in the animal world. Today we'll be interviewing some donkeys from the book of Genesis.

VONTRICE: Welcome to the show, Jack.

JACK 1: Pleased to be here. Did you know Adam named me?

VONTRICE: Did he?

JACK 1: Yes, that was one of the first jobs God gave Adam. God formed all the animals out of the ground birds of the air. He brought us to the man to see what Adam would name us and whatever he called each living creature, that was our name.

VONTRICE: I understand you were the first donkey created out of the dust of the earth. Tell us about that.

JACK 1: On the sixth day, after God had gotten the world ready for us by creating land, the sun and vegetation, that's plants, of all kinds, he created the animals. We donkeys are some of his finest creations.

VONTRICE: Why do you say that?

JACK 1: We have much longer ears than most creatures. That means we are good at listening.

VONTRICE: Yes, listening is a good quality for all creatures. We all know faith comes by hearing...

JACK 1: And hearing by the word of God. Donkeys, and our African cousins the zebras, have long ears and other adaptations that became important after Adam and Eve got kicked out of the garden.

VONTRICE: Like what? And why was that important after the fall?

JACK 1: Everything was perfect in the Garden of Eden before Satan came and deceived Eve. However afterwards, life was much harder for Adam. He had to work hard to get food from the ground. I was there when God spoke to Adam about the consequences of disobedience.

VONTRICE: What happened? What did God say to Adam?

JACK 1: God said: 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

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"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food.

VONTRICE: I remember that.

JACK 1: Unlike horses, donkeys have a very tough digestive system that can break down almost inedible vegetation – that means plants that are hard to eat - and at the same time extract and save as much moisture as possible.

VONTRICE: Explain to our audience what extract moisture means.

JACK 1: It means getting water out of plants. You really need to be able to do that to live in the desert.

VONTRICE: So would you say God created you to be adapted to marginal desert lands and, therefore, easier to keep than a horse?

JACK: Yes. Horses are fast but donkeys were created to survive in more places. We get by on less food than a horse of similar size, and need a lower protein content in their feed. Good grass hay and pasture is usually all a donkey needs.

VONTRICE: Thanks for joining us, Jack.

JACK 1: My pleasure! *(exits)*

OPTION: Before Jack leaves he teaches the audience the following song:

Day 1, day 1, God made night where there was none.

Day 2, day 2, God made skies and seas so blue

Day 3, day 3 God made grass, flowers and trees

Day 4, day 4, God made sun, moon and stars galore

Day 5, day 5, God made birds and fish alive

Sixth day, sixth day, God formed animals and man his way

Day 7, day 7, God rested in his heaven.

VONTRICE: Our next guest will be Jack from Noah's ark. While we wait for him to arrive, who can tell me on what day donkeys were created? *(sixth)*.

JACK 2: *(wears a rain hat)* Hee- Haw Hello!

VONTRICE: Welcome to our show – animal world. Your name is Jack also. Is that a co-incidence?

JACK 2: No, all male donkeys are called Jack.

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VONTRICE: You deliver mail?

JACK 2: No, male M-A-L-E as in boy donkeys.

VONTRICE: Thanks for clarifying. So how did you come to be on the ark?

JACK 2: I was one of the chosen ones. Only two of all the donkeys were chosen. God told us to show up on Noah's doorstep and we did. But it was a little frightening.

VONTRICE: How so?

JACK 2: God also called two of every creature. Now I didn't mind being in close quarters with horses, zebras, even the cows and deer. They are all herbivores. It was the carnivores that scared me.

VONTRICE: Explain to our audience what an herbivore is and what a carnivore is.

JACK 2: God created herbivores to eat plants. Donkeys are herbivores. So are horses, zebras, cows, sheep, deer, goats... you get the idea. But carnivores eat meat. Like lions and tigers.

VONTRICE: And bears. Oh my!

JACK 2: Technically speaking bears are omnivores because they eat plants and animals but yes, the bears scared me too.

VONTRICE: And you were squished all together on the ark.

JACK 2: I wouldn't say squished. The ark was pretty big. It was as long as one and a half football fields, as wide as two basketball courts and as tall as a five story building.

VONTRICE: That is big.

JACK 2: God gave Noah the perfect plans too. There were three floors and the proportions of the boat were perfect for not tipping over.

VONTRICE: What was it like on the ark when the rain came?

JACK 2: It was like being rocked to sleep in a baby's cradle. I love the sound of rain tap-tap-tapping on the roof. Put me right to sleep.

VONTRICE: Did you all hibernate?

JACK 2: Not exactly and I can't give you all the details but you know God created many animals with the ability to hibernate – sleep through the winter or estivate – sleep through tough conditions. God thinks of everything when he creates!

VONTRICE: What happened when the rain stopped after 40 days?

JACK 2: It was months before the water dropped low enough to see the mountain tops. The ark came to rest on the top of Mt. Ararat but we had to wait even longer for the land to dry enough to get out. You should invite the dove and raven to the show because they were very important players in that part.

VONTRICE: So when you finally got to leave, what happened?

JACK 2: It was gloriously beautiful. God put a rainbow in the sky. It was a perfect purple, beautiful blue, gorgeous green, yummy yellow, awesome orange and radically red, absolutely astounding! It was his promise to us He would never flood the earth again.

VONTRICE: Thanks for dropping by our show – animal world.

JACK 2: You're welcome and God bless.

Option: Before JACK 2 leaves he teaches/leads a song about Noah's ark. One suggestion is "Old Man Noah"

Old Man Noah built an ark, e-i-e-i-o

And on his ark he took don-keys e-i-e-i-o

With a hee-haw here and a hee haw there, etc with whatever animals you choose to use.

VONTRICE: Our next guest donkey is on her way. Who can tell me how many days of rain came with Noah and the ark? (40) (may insert other review questions) (Donkey arrives wearing a flowered straw hat) Welcome, Jenny.

JENNY 1: Hee haw hello and glad to be here.

VONTRICE: How did you get the name Jenny?

JENNY 1: All female donkeys are called jennies.

VONTRICE: Where do you appear in the Bible?

JENNY 2: Genesis 22. That's how I got the nickname Genesis Jenny.

VONTRICE: Tell us about what happened.

JENNY 2: God told Abraham to take his son, his only son, Isaac, whom he loved, and go to Mt. Moriah where he would sacrifice as an offering.

VONTRICE: This was the Isaac, the promised child, born to Abraham when he was 100 years old?

JENNY: The very same. His mother Sarah was 90 when she had Isaac. He was their cherished promised child.

VONTRICE: Go on.

JENNY 2: Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled me. He loaded me up with some wood. After three days of travel we arrived. He left me and the two servants and went further with the wood and Isaac.

VONTRICE: So you didn't actually see what happened next?

JENNY 2: But I heard about it all the way home from Abraham and Isaac. Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. As Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, an angel of the LORD stopped him.

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VONTRICE: A last minute rescue. And didn't God bless Abraham because of his faith?

JENNY 2: Yes, without faith it is impossible to please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

VONTRICE: Faith comes by hearing and

JENNY 2: hearing by the word of God. Did Jack tell you we donkeys have excellent hearing because of our big ears?

VONTRICE: He did. Perhaps some of our audience remembers other ways God created donkeys that make them able to survive. *(Call on audience to review previous material, adjusting the questions to the audience's level of understanding. JENNY 2 leaves)*

Thanks for tuning in. Stay tuned for other shows about animals in the Bible!

Interviews with Donkeys – Joseph

CHARACTERS: 3

PROPS: Microphone optional

COSTUMES: Egyptian headpiece, camera or small suitcase or hat that indicates travel.

SETTING: TV or radio show

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 43 - 45

RUN TIME: 5 minutes, or more depending on audience interaction

VONTRICE: Welcome to Animal World. I'm Vontrice Veterinarian the host of this show. On every show we examine the wonders of God creation in the animal world. Today we'll be interviewing some donkeys from the book of Genesis.

JENNY 1 arrives wearing a touristy hat or a camera around her neck or small suitcase or other item to indicate traveling.

VONTRICE: Welcome to our show. What is your name?

JENNY 1: You can call me Jenny.

VONTRICE: I guess that means you're a female or girl donkey?

JENNY 1: That's right.

VONTRICE: Why do you have a suitcase and camera?

JENNY 1: I took a few trips. Donkeys are excellent travelers. We can find food in desert places and God created us to be able to get water from plants when water is scarce. That meant there was more water for Jacob's sons when they made all their trips to Egypt.

VONTRICE: Were they on vacation?

JENNY 1: No, a terrible famine had come across the world. Food was scarce. But in Egypt there was food because God had sent Joseph there to prepare for the seven year famine.

VONTRICE: Was this the Joseph that had a richly decorated robe with many colors?

JENNY 1: The very same. I was the donkey that his full brother Benjamin rode. We traveled between 100 and 150 miles, depending on which route we took. It was long and dry but I was a great choice because it was dangerous.

VONTRICE: What do you mean?

JENNY 1: Horses are flight animals, in times of panic or danger they will run away. Donkeys, however, will simply freeze when frightened. We were plenty afraid when Benjamin was arrested. All those Egyptian soldiers milling around, hauling us back to Egypt. Good thing Ben was riding on a donkey.

VONTRICE: What did Benjamin do to get arrested?

JENNY 1: He didn't do anything wrong. It was a set up. He was framed to teach his brothers a lesson. His brothers had sold him as a slave and it haunted them their whole lives. In fact, when they were invited to a banquet, they thought they were going to be attacked and seized as slaves and us donkeys taken from them.

VONTRICE: What was Joseph like?

JENNY 1: He was a good man. He not only fed his mean brothers, he provided fodder, that's food, for us donkeys. To make a long story short, Joseph had his special silver cup hidden in the bag of grain on Benjamin's donkey.

VONTRICE: So the Egyptians acted like Benjamin was a thief and arrested him. Wasn't he sentenced to become a slave?

JENNY 1: Yes. Judah, one of the brothers, offered to stay in his place. Joseph was so touched by that, he broke down crying and told his brothers who he really was.

VONTRICE: I bet they panicked, thinking he was going to get revenge on them for being mean and selling him as a slave.

JENNY 1: They did. But Joseph told them not be distressed and do not be angry with themselves for selling him. I'll never forget his next words: It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. God sent me ahead of you to save your lives.

VONTRICE: I guess it is very important to get along with your brothers and sisters.

JENNY 1: Absolutely. Even if they have picked on you. I'd like to hear from the audience how they get along with their brothers and sisters. *(Ask audience to share experiences of kindness in their family or examples they know from the Bible.)*

VONTRICE: So what happened next?

JENNY 1: I'll let another donkey who got involved tell you. *(Jenny 2 enters wearing an Egyptian headdress)*

JENNY 2: Joseph gave his brothers some carts, and provisions for their journey. Joseph knew what great travelers donkeys were, what great pack animals we'd be so he picked 20 of us to go pick up Joseph's father and all the nieces and nephews.

JENNY 1: God created donkeys to need less food than horses or cattle so in times of famine, donkeys were very handy.

JENNY: Plus we're good with kids. If they lose their balance and fall off, they don't have as far to fall.

VONTRICE: What kind of provisions did Joseph send?

JENNY 2: The 10 male donkeys were loaded with the best things of Egypt. Clothes, and even 300 coins in case they had expenses.

JENNY 1: The ten female donkeys were loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey.

JENNY 2: It was quite a journey. Jacob was stunned and didn't believe at first but when he saw everything we donkeys were carrying, he praised God for it all and moved to Egypt where Joseph took care of his entire family.

VONTRICE: What do you want our listening audience to remember the most?

JENNY 1: Don't get discouraged when times seem rough – God may be getting ready to use you for great things.

JENNY: And by all means, try to get along with your brothers and sisters. Be willing to forgive them if they are mean to you.

VONTRICE: It was great having such world travelers on our show today. Stay tuned for further adventures from God's great animal world!

Interview with Balaam's Donkey

CHARACTERS: 2

PROPS: None specified

SETTING: TV or radio show

RUN TIME: Approximately 6 minutes

Based on Numbers 22 – 24, 2 Peter 2:15, Jude 1:11, Rev. 2:14

VONTRICE: Welcome to Animal World. I'm Vontrice Veterinarian the host of this show. On every show we examine the wonders of God creation in the animal world. As you know, on my show, animals are able to speak with human voices. But how many of you knew about a donkey who spoke with a human voice in the Bible? We will be interviewing that donkey from Numbers 22-24 today.

VONTRICE: Welcome to the show. What's your name?

JENNY: Jenny. In fact, all female donkeys are called Jennies.

VONTRICE: Where were you and Balaam living?

JENNY: In the desert area around Moab. It was a tough area, but we donkeys were fashioned by God to do quite well in a land with little water or grass.

VONTRICE: That is quite different than ... say, horses.

JENNY: Very different. We are smaller than horses, have a tail that looks more like a cow's tail and our voices carry almost 2 miles.

VONTRICE: Two miles! Why?

JENNY: In the wild, donkeys do not live in close herds as horses and ponies because food is generally scarce. That means there isn't a lot of food. Our HEE-Haw has to carry over great distances so we can keep in contact with one another.

VONTRICE: I guess that's why God created you with such big ears.

JENNY: Precisely. God knew we'd need larger ears also allow us to hear the distant calls of our friends and neighbors. We can communicate in sign language using our ears.

VONTRICE: That is fascinating.

JENNY: Our long ears also help keep us cool in the hot desert heat. We donkeys are some of God's finest creations.

VONTRICE: Tell us about what happened before you spoke like a human the first time.

JENNY: King Balak had seen how God was with Israel. They had heard how he had helped them leave Egypt.

VONTRICE: Yes, Egypt was one of the world powers at that time. Go on.

JENNY: Balak and all the Moabites and Midianites were very afraid. King Balak tried to hire Balaam to come curse them. The first time, my master Balaam, wisely refused because God told him not to go.

VONTRICE: What happened the second time?

JENNY: God told Balaam he could go, but God was angry about it.

VONTRICE: Was that because He loved the Israelites and didn't want anything bad to happen to them?

JENNY: Yes. Balaam was riding on me. Suddenly an angel of the LORD was standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, so I turned off the road into a field. Balaam didn't see the angel and started beating me.

VONTRICE: How awful.

JENNY: Yes. I got back on the road once the angel had moved. Then the angel appeared a second time. He looked like he might use his sharp sword on Balaam so I pressed close to the wall. Unfortunately that crushed Balaam's foot against it.

VONTRICE: Did he see the angel?

JENNY: No. He was too busy hitting me again.

VONTRICE: How mean. People shouldn't hit their animals.

JENNY: I agree. Especially when I was just trying to protect Balaam. We donkeys are very protective, you know.

VONTRICE: I didn't know that.

JENNY: We are. We are often put with sheep or goats because if a fox or dog or coyote comes to hurt one, we'll protect the animals like they are one of our own. If we hear any strange noises with our big ears we will voice a warning to the herd and chase off the predator.

VONTRICE: A predator like a fox or coyote that might try to eat a sheep or goat or calf?

JENNY: Right. Donkeys are slower and less powerful than horses but we are extremely intelligent animals. We have a strong sense of survival.

VONTRICE: Then what happened?

JENNY: We were back on the road to King Balak's when the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place between two vineyards with walls on both sides. There was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left.

VONTRICE: What did you do?

JENNY: What any intelligent creature would. I lay down. If a donkey deems something as dangerous we simply won't do it. In times of panic or danger horses will run away but donkeys will simply freeze.

VONTRICE: Did Balaam finally see the danger?

JENNY: No, he started hitting me again. God then gave me the ability to speak like a person. I said "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" Balaam was so angry he didn't even notice a donkey was talking to him. He says "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

VONTRICE: He was going to kill you?!!!

JENNY: Yes, for saving his life. I said "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you? Then the angel of the Lord spoke to him and asked "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me."

VONTRICE: Did that finally get his attention?

JENNY: Yes. The angel told him that I had turned away these three times and had saved his life. He did add "I would certainly have killed you" meaning Balaam, "by now, but I would have spared her."

VONTRICE: What a close call for Balaam.

JENNY: Unfortunately, my master did not learn his lesson permanently. He did bless the Israelites instead of cursing them after this incident. However, later on, he really messed up.

VONTRICE: I think I remember something in the New Testament about that.

JENNY: The New Testament writers talk not one, not twice, but three times about Balaam. And it isn't good.

VONTRICE: Can you give us an example?

JENNY: Sure. Both Peter and Jude talk about Balaam rushing off to do evil to make a profit. Peter says "wages of wickedness"

VONTRICE: That is too bad.

JENNY: Very much so. How quickly you humans forget God's graciousness.

VONTRICE: I wish God had given humans ears as big as you donkeys have. We need to listen to him better.

JENNY: And big ears sure do help you be quick to listen.

VONTRICE: So what lesson do you think our listeners should take away with them after hearing your story?

JENNY: Besides how important it is to listen to God, they should remember it is always important to protect other by warning them when they are headed for danger. I mean, if God can speak through a donkey, he can speak through human beings made in his image.

VONTRICE: Jenny, thank you so much for being on Animal World today. Stay tuned for further adventures in God's wonderful world of animals.

Check out these interactive Bible games

Genesis 37 & 39: Young Joseph rags to riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/861125.html>

Sons of Jacob

<http://www.quia.com/j/1432632.html>

Abraham challenge board

<http://www.quia.com/cb/808781.html>

Genesis 40-47 challenge board

<http://www.quia.com/cb/789315.html>

Biblical Camels rags to riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/361711.html>

Biblical Donkeys battleship

<http://www.quia.com/ba/194987.html>