



~ ELIJAH ~

Elijah was a prophet of Israel in the 9th century B.C.E. On the throne of Israel was King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, worshipers of Baal. Elijah's work and prophetic ministry was to establish the God of Israel as the one true God to be worshiped.

SCENE I

Elijah pronounces a curse on the land of Israel.

ELIJAH: As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. (I Kings 17:1)

SCENE 2

The predicted drought ravages the land. The rivers begin to dry up, and the people are in increasing tumult and in frantic need of water and food.

Overture

THE PEOPLE Help, Lord! Wilt Thou quite destroy us! The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone, and yet no power cometh to help us! The deeps afford no water! And the rivers are exhausted! The tongue of the infant now cleaves the the roof of its mouth for thirst! The hungry children beg for bread! And there is no one here with bread to feed them (I Kings 17:7; Lamentations 4:4b)

OBADIAH: Ye people, rend your hearts, rend your hearts and not your garments, for your transgressions the prophet Elijah has sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to you, forsake your idols, return to God: for he is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious. He forgives the people of all evil. (Joel 2:12, 13)

"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me." Thus saith our God. Oh! that I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence.(Deuteronomy 4:29i Job 23:3)

THE PEOPLE: Yet doth the Lord see it not. He mocketh at us! His curse hath fallen down upon us! His wrath will pursue us till he destroy us! (Deuteronomy 28:22)

SCENE 3

The drought continues Elijah secludes himself in the city of Zarephath. His true calling as a prophet is verified in the healing of the son of a poor widow.

AN ANGEL: The angry people seek your life. Elijah, arise and depart. Go forward to Zarephath, there now abide; for the Lord has commanded a widow woman there to sustain you. Do as I say. God will be with you; be on your way. (I Kings 17:9)

THE WIDOW: Help me, man of God! My son is sick! And his sickness is so sore that there is no breath left in him! I go mourning all the day long. I lie down and weep at night. See my affliction. Be now the orphan's helper! (I Kings 17:17)

ELIJAH: Lord, my God, let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

THE WIDOW: Come, show wonders to the dead. There is no breath in him.

ELIJAH: Lord, my God, let the spirit of this child return that he again may live!

THE WIDOW: Lord, may he arise and praise you.

ELIJAH: Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

THE WIDOW: The Lord has heard my prayer. The soul of my son is revived. My son is alive!

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW: Thou shalt love the Lord with all thy soul, with all thy might. O, blest are they who fear him. (I Kings 17:21-2q)

CHORUS: Blest are those who trust in the Lord; they ever walk in the ways of peace. (Psalm128:1)

SCENE 4

After three years in Zarephath, Elijah is told by God to return to Samaria and confront King Ahab and that the rain would be sent. Elijah challenges King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and the worshipers of Baal. God's power is dramatically demonstrated at Mount Carmel.

AHAB: Are you Elijah? Are you he that troubles Israel?

ELIJAH: I never troubled Israel's peace. It is you, Ahab, and all of your father's house. You have forsaken God's commands: and you have followed Baalim! Now send, and gather to me the whole of Israel unto Mount Carmel. There summon the prophets of Baal, and also the prophets of the groves who are feasted at Jezebel's table. Then we shall see whose God is the Lord. Rise then, you priest of Baal; invoke your forest gods, your mountain deities. (I Kings 18:17-19)

PRIESTS OF BAAL: Baal, we cry to thee; hear and answer us: Heed the sacrifice we offer! Baal, O hear us and answer us! (I Kings 18:26)

ELIJAH: Call him louder! for he is a god. He talketh; or, he is pursuing; or, he is on a journey; or, maybe now he sleepeth; so awaken him. Call him louder! Call him louder! (I Kings18:27)



PRIESTS OF BAAL: Baal! Hear and answer! (I Kings 18:26)

ELIJAH: Draw near, all ye people, come to me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; this day let it be known that thou art God, and I am your servant! And show this people that thou art God; and let their hearts again be turned. Lord, and let their hearts again be turned! (I Kings 18:30, 36, 37)

CHORUS: Cast your burden upon the Lord; and he shall sustain you: he never will suffer the righteous to fall; he is at your right hand. Your mercy, Lord, is great, and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon you! (Psalm 55:22; Psalm 16:8; Psalm 108:4; Psalm 25:3)

SCENE 5

A child announces that a rain storm is approaching. The drought is over.

ELIJAH: Go up, now child, and look toward the sea. Has my prayer been heard by the Lord?

A CHILD: There is nothing. The heavens are bright. The skies are clear above me.

ELIJAH: Go, look again, and still look toward the sea!

A CHILD: There is nothing. The earth is dry beneath my feet.

ELIJAH: Hear you now no sound of rain? Do you see clouds arising from the deep?

A CHILD: No, there is nothing.

ELIJAH: O Lord, hear my cry. Lord, my rock, let the clouds burst forth. Send down the rain. O Lord, now hear my prayer.

A CHILD: Behold, a little cloud arises now from the waters. It is like a hand! The heavens are black with clouds and with Wind! The storm rushes louder and louder!

ELIJAH: Thanks be to God! For he is gracious and his mercy endureth forevermore. (I Kings 18:43-45; Psalm 136:2)

THE PEOPLE: Thanks be to God, he waters the thirsty land. The waters gather, they rush along! They are lifting their voices. (Psalm 93:3-4)

SCENE 6

A word of comfort and strength is extended to Elijah just before the threat of Jezebel's mob who is out to kill him.

NARRATOR: Hear ye, Israel! Hear what the Lord speaketh: "Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments!" Who hath believed our report? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?(Isaiah 48:1, 18) Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to those oppressed by tyrants. Thus says the Lord: "I am he that comforteth. Be not afraid, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee. (Isaiah 41:10)

Jezebel: Have you not heard he has prophesied against all Israel? Has he not prophesied also against the king of Israel? So now go forth and seize Elijah, for he is worthy to die. Slaughter him! Do to him as he has done. (Jeremiah 26:9a, 11)

JEZEBEL'S MOB: Woe to him! He shall perish, he closed the heavens; and why has he spoken in the name of the Lord? He has spoken falsely against our land, and us, as we have heard with our own ears. So go ye forth! Seize on him! He shall die! (Ecclesiasticus 48:3b)

SCENE 7

Elijah flees from Jezebel's mob into the wilderness. He grieves for Israel's having forsaken God's covenant as angels keep watch over him.

AN ANGEL: Man of God. Arise now, arise, and hasten for your life! Be on your way. The Lord thy God doth go before you. He will not fail you; he will not forsake you. Now begone, journey on to the wilderness (I Kings 19:3)

ELIJAH: It is enough, O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers; now let me die. Lord, take away my life! (I Kings 19:4b; Tob 7:16)

NARRATOR: See, now he sleeps beneath a juniper tree in the Wilderness! And there the angels of the Lord encamp round about all them that fear him. (I Kings 19:5; Psalm 34:7)

CHORUS: Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said: "Thy foot shall not be moved. Thy keeper will never slumber." (Psalm 121:1-3)

CHORUS: He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, he will quicken thee. (Psalm 121:4; Psalm 138:7)

SCENE 8

Elijah journeys through the desert to Mount Horeb (Sinai) where, through wind, earthquake and fire, he hears the voice of God.

AN ANGEL: Arise, Elijah, for you have a long journey before you, forty days and forty nights shall you go to Horeb, the mount of God. (I Kings 19:7, 8)

ELIJAH: I have labored in vain. The people have hardened their hearts, and they do not fear the Lord. O that I now might die! (I Kings 19:10)

NARRATOR: O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him, and he shall give you your heart's desires. Commit your way unto him, and trust in him, and fret not yourself because of evil doers. (Psalm 37:1,4, 7)

ELIJAH: The journey's o'er; I stand on the mount before the Lord, and here God's glory shall appear. A light shines forth. My face is veiled, the Lord draws near. (I Kings 19:11)

CHORUS: Behold, God the Lord passed by. And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, broke in pieces the rocks, broke them before the Lord, and the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken. Then came a voice of peace, God's own voice of peace. (I Kings 19:11, 12)

NARRATOR: Above him stood the Seraphim: and one cried to another: (Isaiah 6:2)

CHORUS: Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord, the Lord Sabaoth. Now his glory hath shone through all the earth. (Isaiah 6:3)



SCENE 9

Elijah returns to the wilderness near Damascus and anoints Elisha as the prophet to succeed him. In a mighty whirlwind Elijah is taken to heaven by a chariot of fire. In conclusion, Elijah's role as a prophet is reviewed followed by "Lord our Creator, how excellent thy name is in all the nations! Heaven and earth tell of your glory."



ELIJAH: I go on my way in the strength of the Lord. For you are my God; and I will suffer and die for your sake. My heart is therefore glad, my heart rejoices; and my flesh shall also rest in peace. (Psalm 73:26; Psalm 16:9)

CHORUS: And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, there came a fiery chariot; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven. (II Kings 2:11)

NARRATOR: Behold, God sent Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. He turned the hearts of the people to the children, and the hearts of the children to all the people. Praise the God of Elijah, the God of Israel. Holy is his name. (Malachi 4:5, 6)

THE PEOPLE: Lord, our Creator, how excellent thy name is in all the nations! Heaven and earth tell thy glory. Amen. (Psalm 8:1)