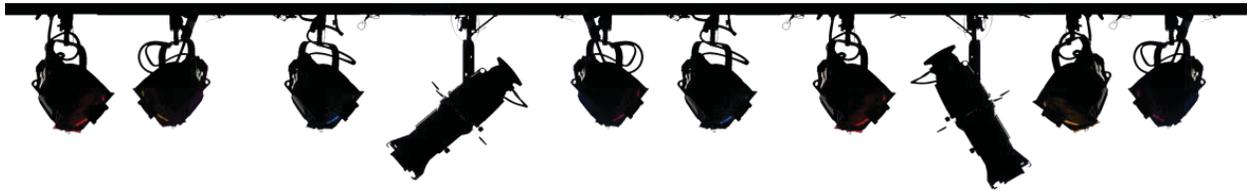


Expectancy

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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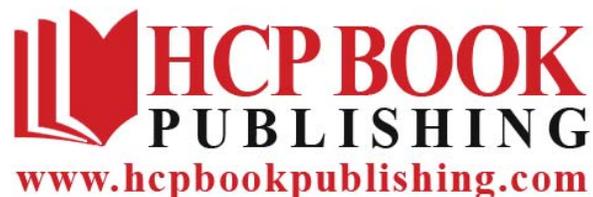


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Characters

Micah Elderly male

Kathy Elderly female

Mary Younger female

Joseph Younger male

Elizabeth Older female

Herod King

Adviser 1

Adviser 2

Setting

The stage is mostly bare to facilitate different scenarios. Some creativity will be needed.

The Story

This play was inspired by the Best Seller, **The Word Became Flesh**. It takes a look at the events surrounding the Birth of Christ from the days of the Prophet Micah to the day Joseph could not find a room for His pregnant wife to give birth.

Christmas is not about Santa Claus, Gifts, and Mistletoes. We have a responsibility every year to remind our loved ones what Christmas is really about. If we fail at this, the next generation that follows us will be worse than now.

Christmas is about celebrating the Birth of Christ, and no one tells the story better than the Scriptures. Expectancy is based on the Scriptural account of this historic event that still has eternal significance.

Play Details

Length: 45-60 Minutes

Cast: 4 Males, 4 Females, Plus Extras

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Biblical Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP

Micah is onstage praying and meditating. He has some open transcripts nearby and he occasionally stops reading and thinking to write something down excitedly.

Kathy enters. Both these characters are well along in years.

KATHY: Micah, do you think maybe you can help me out a little with the things that need to be done around here?

MICAH: Like what?

KATHY: Well, somebody needs to take out the trash.

MICAH: Let the kids do it.

KATHY: We don't have any kids.

Micah pauses for a moment.

MICAH: Are you sure?

KATHY: I think I would remember giving birth.

MICAH: Improvise honey, please, or I will do it later. I am in the middle of something.

KATHY: You are always in the middle of something, and I am always at the end of something.

MICAH: Which is?

KATHY: I am at the end of my rope. Micah, you are always busy, and you don't take time out to even listen to what I have to say. Are we even still married?

MICAH: Can we talk about this later?

KATHY: You know people get divorced for less than this.

MICAH: *(takes a little time out to laugh)* We are too old to get a divorce, honey. The horse is already through the gate.

KATHY: At least you remember how to laugh.

MICAH: Of course. That's why you are my wife for life.

Pause.

MICAH: Can you believe that God choose me as a Prophet. Of all the men, He singled me out to reveal His secrets of coming events.

KATHY: That's nice.

MICAH: It's just so overwhelming at times. I feel honored to be His mouthpiece, you know, like a voice crying in the wilderness. His choice humbles me.

KATHY: Do you even understand some of the things you write down?

MICAH: Of course not. I don't think we are supposed to understand everything. But it's really exciting.

Micah is writing something.

Kathy grabs his pen and writing pad out of frustration.

MICAH: What are you doing?

KATHY: Taking the bull by the horn.

MICAH: I see you have been talking to your mother-in-law again.

KATHY: At least she is always there for me to talk to. But I miss talking to you. I miss the good old days.

MICAH: Why?

KATHY: That's a really stupid question to ask.

MICAH: Sorry. This is important, Kathy. God has been speaking to my heart about things that are yet to happen.

KATHY: He always is. And I am happy that He does, but I don't think He's happy about you neglecting your wife like this.

MICAH: I'm not neglecting my wife. I just wish you would try a little harder to understand what is happening. I am a Prophet. Called and appointed by God Himself. I have a duty to help prepare the way.

KATHY: Prepare the way for what?

Micah points to the writing pad in her hand.

MICAH: Read it for yourself. Exciting stuff I tell you.

KATHY: *(reads)* Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Pause.

KATHY: What does it mean?

MICAH: *(With glee in his eyes)* I have done some cross-references from other writings and can only conclude that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. And we, dear wife, are privileged to that information before it has actually happened.

Pause.

KATHY: Bethlehem is a very small village near Jerusalem. No good thing has ever been spoken of that village. *(quoting scripture)* Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

MICAH: There has to be a reason I am getting this.

KATHY: I'm sure there is. But you dear husband need some vacation. You are putting too much of yourself into this and its starting to destroy your ability to make your wife very happy.

Pause. Micah didn't hear a word.

MICAH: We know from Jeremiah that the Messiah will be a direct descendant of King David.

KATHY: I'm not listening to you right now.

MICAH: David was King over Jerusalem. Wouldn't it make sense that a descendant of him would also come from Jerusalem?

KATHY: Why do you think it's necessary for us to know before time?

MICAH: Some of us have to know. We have to prepare the way and set the foundation for faith. In doing so, when the Messiah comes, we will know that it is He and He is here.

KATHY: You have been at this for years. I feel like I missed out on having a husband.

MICAH: Some of us have a higher calling.

KATHY: You should have said that before I said 'I do.' When they asked at the altar if anyone objects, why didn't you say something?

MICAH: Maybe because I was the one getting married.

Pause.

MICAH: Look, I miss talking to you too. There was a time you would get all warm and excited when I got a prophecy.

KATHY: It was fun then, but as you can see, we are well along in years now. We are not as sharp as we were back then. It hurts to try and figure this stuff out these days.

MICAH: Maybe because we don't do it together anymore.

Pause.

MICAH: Help me with this now, and I will help with the chores later. How does that sound?

KATHY: Like a trick.

Pause.

KATHY: Fine.

MICAH: Good. *(starts shuffling through his papers)* That is what I received recently. I'm trying to put it all together.

KATHY: It doesn't make any sense.

MICAH: You don't believe in the prophecy do you?

KATHY: I'm trying to, but it's hard to put it all together. It's actually very confusing.

MICAH: I don't think we're supposed to understand all of it.

KATHY: Why live with an expectancy of a coming Savior? What difference can someone like that make? The world is already gone to the dogs.

Micah finds other writings.

MICAH: (*reads*) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

KATHY: How long was that written?

MICAH: Long enough.

KATHY: Exactly. It sounds good in theory, but there is no practicality to those claims. What makes you think it hasn't lost its validity?

MICAH: Faith.

KATHY: Faith sometimes gives false hope in things that may never be.

MICAH: Hope, yes. But I believe that the One who sends these words is more than capable to fulfill them.

KATHY: Micah, we are too old for this.

MICAH: Listen to my words, Kathy, years from now, long after we are gone, and forgotten, people will read the words of Micah and say surely he was a prophet because he believed without seeing and they will wonder if I had a wife because you did not believe. It's a choice you have to make, dear, whether to accept these prophecies as fact or fiction.

Pause.

KATHY: I support you as a wife should support her husband. But no one will ever believe the words of an old prophet.

MICAH: Yeah, well, on that note, one of us is wrong.

Micah gets back to his writings.

KATHY: I will get you something to eat.

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MICAH: I love you too Kathy.

Kathy waves him off and exit.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Joseph and Mary greet at center stage.

MARY: Joseph, we need to talk.

JOSEPH: I am happy to see you too, Mary.

MARY: Sorry. *(smiles)* I am glad to see you.

JOSEPH: Why are you so fidgety?

Pause. Mary walks away, her back turned to him.

MARY: Something has come up.

JOSEPH: You changed your mind about us getting married?

MARY: No, it's not quite that.

JOSEPH: Not quite that? What is it then?

Pause.

MARY: I got a visit yesterday.

JOSEPH: An old flame?

MARY: What?

JOSEPH: Ex-boyfriend.

MARY: No Joseph. You know I have only loved one man in my life so far.

JOSEPH: So far? There is someone else?

MARY: No.

JOSEPH: Then what are you trying to say?