

The Word Became Flesh

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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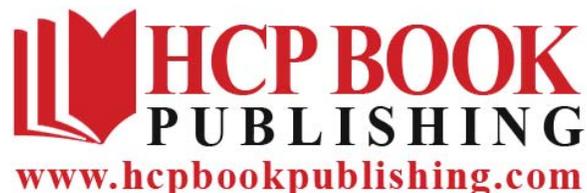


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Characters

MALES

Voice of God

Jesus

Isaiah

Micah

Zachariah

Priest I

Priest II

Gabriel

Joseph

Plump Man

Innkeeper

Mark

Paul

Raymond

King Herod

Adviser

Balthasar

Caspar

Scribe

Simeon

FEMALES

Nevia

Micah's Wife

Elizabeth

Anna – Mary's mother

Mary

Maurine

Anna - Prophetess

EXTRAS NEEDED

Setting

ACT I

SCENE 1 - Home setting (include table and stool)

SCENE 2 – Same as Scene 1 (Add bed)

SCENE 3 – Street Side

SCENE 4 – Temple Setting

SCENE 5 – Outdoor

SCENE 6 – Indoor

SCENE 7 – Same as Scene 6

ACT II

SCENE 1 – Outdoor (include doors Stage Left & Stage Right)

SCENE 2 – Same as Scene 1

SCENE 3 – Outdoor (exclude doors)

SCENE 4 – Kings Palace

SCENE 5 – Stable

SCENE 6 – Temple

SCENE 7 – Same as Scene 4

The Story

The play begins with a conversation between Jesus and the Voice of God in which Jesus pleads for the souls of humanity and negotiates a plan to die in their place - to become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of man.

We are then transported 700 years before the birth of Christ to hear the Prophet Isaiah speak God's Word to the people of Israel about a coming Savior, and the Prophet Micah tell exactly where the Savior would be born.

Moving forward several hundred years, Mary is pregnant with Jesus, visits her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist. They share of the miracles in their lives propelling us through the days and events leading up to our Savior's birth.

Play Details

Length: 60-90 Minutes

Cast: 20 Males, 7 Females, Plus Extras

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Biblical Drama

THE SCRIPT



Act I

The Choice

SCENE 1

SPOTLIGHT COME UP ON JESUS

VOICE OF GOD: My Son!

Jesus stares out into the audience.

JESUS: You can't just destroy them, Father.

VOICE OF GOD: They have sinned. The price for sin is death, You know that.

JESUS: There must be another way. I know You love them as much as I do.

VOICE OF GOD: My Son, We created them in our own image. We gave them everything. They could eat from every single tree, except one. Only one. They have disobeyed.

JESUS: Look at them, Father, look how sorry they are. Walking around moping and repenting.

VOICE OF GOD: They must reap what they sow.

JESUS: I know the rules, Father. But rules can be broken.

VOICE OF GOD: At what costs?

A beat.

VOICE OF GOD: You are not responsible for the choice they have made, and there can be no atonement for sin without the shedding of blood.

JESUS: My Father, you hold the keys to all doors. Everything that is, or ever will be is Yours, and I have asked You for very little. But this one thing, I must ask.

VOICE OF GOD: Make Your request, My Son.

A beat.

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JESUS: If You love them, as much as I do, let Me die in their place.

VOICE OF GOD: You are My only Son.

JESUS: Would You sacrifice Your only Son to save the world of man?

Pause.

VOICE OF GOD: Give me some time to prepare the altar.

A beat.

FADE SPOTLIGHT

Isaiah's Prophecy

ISAIAH, the prophet, enters wearing pajamas and carrying a torch lamp.

He puts the lamp above a table and sits around the table. On it are many scrolls along with a pen in ink. He takes the pen and dips it in ink as he rolls out an empty scroll to write.

NEVIA (Isaiah's wife) enters, also wearing her nightgown.

NEVIA: Its two o clock in the morning, Isaiah. Please come back to bed.

ISAIAH: I have had enough sleep.

NEVIA: You had another dream, didn't you?

ISAIAH: Yes.

NEVIA: The same one?

ISAIAH: Yes, and more.

NEVIA: Is that cause enough to deny yourself some well-deserved sleep?

ISAIAH: I must write the things that I have seen, and heard.

NEVIA: Haven't you written enough?

Isaiah chooses not to comment.

Nevia takes up one of the scrolls. She glances at it.

NEVIA: When did you write this?

ISAIAH: Last night.

Nevia reads from the scroll.

NEVIA: Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as men rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

ISAIAH: I still love to hear you read.

NEVIA: Your hand is shaking.

ISAIAH: I am burdened, dear wife, with the knowledge God has entrusted me with. I am yet to get used to the idea of being worthy to be counted as one of His scribes.

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NEVIA takes the pen from Isaiah's hand.

NEVIA: I will be your scribe tonight.

Isaiah gets up from the table, and Neviah takes his place.

NEVIA: What did you hear, and see this night?

Neviah writes, as Isaiah dictates.

ISAIAH: For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

NEVIA: Do you know what this means?

A beat.

ISAIAH: It means GOD will leave Heaven and come to Earth as He promised our ancestors He would.

NEVIA: Do you think this will happen in our lifetime?

ISAIAH: We can only hope, my love. We can only hope.

Neviah rolls up the new scroll and adds it to the collection. They take the lamp and exit.

SPOTLIGHT COME UP ON JESUS

VOICE OF GOD: My Son, a way has been made; the time and place decided.

JESUS: Where?

VOICE OF GOD: Jerusalem. Home of my chosen people. The center of the earth. If You are ready, I will make the announcement.

A beat.

JESUS: I am ready, Father.

FADE SPOTLIGHT

Micah's Prophecy

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Micah jumps up out of his sleep. His wife is awoken by his sudden movement.

MICHAS WIFE: What is it, Micah?

Micah goes to a nearby table and rummages through the scrolls there.

He finds a specific one and rolls it out. He reads silently, taking it all in, his expression slowly lights up.

MICAH: It's starting to make sense now.

MICHAS WIFE: Micah, what is it?

Micah hands her the scroll.

MICAH: Read this!

MICHAS WIFE: Its three o clock in the morning. My eyes are still sleeping.

MICAH: How can you be thinking about sleep at a time like this? We are participants in one of the greatest events this world will be witness to.

MICHAS WIFE: You know, Micah, I never quite understand what you are talking about.

Micah takes back the scroll and reads.

MICAH: 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.

MICHAS WIFE: A ruler? Out of Bethlehem? Nothing good has ever come out of Bethlehem, Micah.

MICAH: Until now. Isaiah saw the event, but I have seen the place. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.

A beat.

MICHAS WIFE: I'm going back to bed.

She lies down in the bed.

MICAH: We will not know the true value of these Prophecies until we see it with our own eyes. My God, I count myself among the lesser of your prophets and yet you have counted me among the greatest by showing me these things. May Your perfect will be done here on earth, as it is done in Heaven. Even so, come Emmanuel.

LIGHTS OUT