THE WORD BECAME FLESH...

An Original Stage play

By

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SYNOPSIS

Every year presents a challenge in finding new and creative ways to tell the story that everybody knows. This year was no different and no less challenging but in talking to a friend I realize that I have given every possibly version of the Christmas Story except the traditional story itself. That formed the foundation of this play rightly titled “And The Word Became Flesh.” The Bible is the base and my imagination the body of this play as we journey from the lives of the Prophets themselves to the day Jesus was born and a few weeks following that.

This is the reason why we even celebrate Christmas and we will agree that the holiday has been over commercialized to the point where people have forgotten. But if you can find a large cast, here is an opportunity to remember the day the Son of God became Flesh and dwelt among us.

LIST OF CHARACTERS

MALES
Voice of God
Jesus
Isaiah
Micah
Zacharias
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 4 – Temple Setting
SCENE 7 – Same as 6

SCENE 2 – Same as 1 (Add bed)
SCENE 5 – Outdoor
SCENE 6 – Indoor

ACT II
SCENE 1 – Outdoor (include doors SL & SR)
SCENE 4 – Kings Palace
SCENE 7 – Same as 4

SCENE 2 – Same as 1
SCENE 5 – Stable
SCENE 6 – Temple

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THE SCRIPT

Act I
SCENE 1

SPOT-LIGHT 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. 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.

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, 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 night gown.

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 with me. I am yet to get used to the idea of being worthy to be counted as one of His scribes.

NEVIA takes the pen from Isaiah’s hand.

NEVIA: I will be your scribe tonight.

ISAIAH gets up from the table and Nevia takes his place.

NEVIA: What did you hear...and see this night?
Nevia 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.

Nevia rolls up the new scroll and adds it to the collection. They take the lamp and exits.

SPOT LIGHT 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 centre of the earth. If you are ready I will make the announcement.

A beat.

JESUS: I am ready Father.

FADE SPOTLIGHT
SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

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

**MICHAS WIFE:** What is it, Micah?

*Micah goes to a nearby table and rummage 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.

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
SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP

ELIZABETH ENTERS carrying a water pot. She stops to rest her feet.

ZACHARIAH meets her along the way. He takes the water pot from her.

ELIZABETH: You were supposed to meet me along the way.

ZACHARIAH: I thought that’s what I am doing.

ELIZABETH: Our home is right over there. I had to carry this water pot for 3 miles.

ZACHARIAH: I’m sorry Elizabeth. I tried to leave sooner but they were casting lot to see which priest would go to the temple to burn incense.

ELIZABETH: There are 20,000 priests Zachariah. What are the chances of you being chosen?

ZACHARIAH: I was chosen this time.

ELIZABETH: To do what? Clean the altar and prepare it for the fire.

ZACHARIAH: No!

ELIZABETH: Kill the morning sacrifice and sprinkle the altar, the golden candlestick and the altar of incense?

ZACHARIAH: Not that either.

Pause.

ELIZABETH: There is only one thing left.

ZACHARIAH: Then that must be it.

ELIZABETH: You were chosen to burn incense?

Pause.

ZACHARIAH: Yes.
ELIZABETH: I’m not in the mood for your jokes Zachariah.

ZACHARIAH: I am not joking this time.

Elisabeth’s frustration suddenly turns to joy. She hugs him.

ELIZABETH: This is a lifetime opportunity for us...for you. Who knows what God will tell you there or what supernatural experience you will have. God has finally smiled on us. Maybe now He will favour us enough to give us a child.

Zachariah turns away saddened.

ZACHARIAH: We shouldn’t punish ourselves with such hope.

ELIZABETH: Why not?

ZACHARIAH: Look at us Elizabeth. We are old. Old people don’t have kids or can’t have kids for a better choice of words.

ELIZABETH: You are a priest in God’s house. Where is your faith? Don’t you preach that God can do all things?

ZACHARIAH: I have accepted that it is His will that we remain fruitless.

ELIZABETH: You can’t ask me to accept that.

ZACHARIAH: I am not asking you to. But you should.

ELIZABETH: Do you know what it is like for a woman to be barren? To be labelled a mule.

Pause.

ELIZABETH: Promise me you will not give up praying and making a request to God for us to have a child.

Pause.

ELIZABETH: Promise me Zachariah.

ZACHARIAH: I promise.

ELIZABETH: Say the words.

ZACHARIAH: I promise to keep asking God for a child.

ELIZABETH: Thank you.
Pause.

ZACHARIAH: All this talking has made me hungry.

Zachariah takes the water pot.

ZACHARIAH: You should prepare something easy and quick.

ELIZABETH: When will you go to the temple?

ZACHARIAH: The day after tomorrow.

ELIZABETH: Take time to prepare yourself. The presence of the Lord is not something to be taken lightly.

ZACHARIAH: You just want to hear me say I’m going on fasting so you don’t have to cook.

ELIZABETH: I never thought about that…but now that you mention it...

ZACHARIAH: Don’t even think about it!

They exit.

LIGHTS OUT
SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP

Zachariah enters with two priests walking on his left and right. They enter the holy place.

One priest set the burning coals on the altar, while the other priest arranges the incense.

Both priest then leaves and stand outside the temple to wait for Zachariah.

Zachariah bows to pray for a moment.

He takes coal and put on the altar followed by incense. He then bows to pray again.

ZACHARIAH: God please don’t be angry with me for making my request known but my wife still believes you can give us a child. If at all this is possible don’t hesitate to bless us if you see us as worthy in your own eyes.

Gabriel enters and stands at the right side of the altar.

Zachariah opens his eyes and falls back when he sees the angel standing there.

ZACHARIAH: Are you a priest?

GABRIEL: No.

ZACHARIAH: Then how are you able to stand in God’s presence?

GABRIEL: It’s something I am privileged to do daily.

ZACHARIAH: You are not supposed to be in here.

GABRIEL: You don’t need to be afraid Zacharias. Your prayer has been heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.

Pause.

Zachariah no longer shows fear. He starts to laugh. The angel looks away.

GABRIEL: Why do you ask for something if you don’t believe you will receive it?

ZACHARIAH: I asked because I made a promise to my wife.
GABRIEL: Is there anything too hard for God?

ZACHARIAH: I am a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. I am not allowed to doubt what the God of our ancestors can do.

GABRIEL: Do you believe that God can give you a son in your old age?

ZACHARIAH: Me...without a doubt. I am a man. But my wife is way past the age of producing eggs for child bearing.

  Pause.

GABRIEL: God will give you and your wife Elizabeth a son. You will call his name John and you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

ZACHARIAH: Why have you come to punish us with false hope? How will I know that what you have said is true?

GABRIEL: I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God and was sent to speak to you and bring you this good news. Because of your doubt you will be unable to speak until these things come to past.

  Gabriel turns to leave. Zachariah opens his mouth to respond but there are no words...no sounds. He only watches in silence as Gabriel exits.

  Zachariah exits the temple. He meets the other two priests outside.

PRIEST 1: We were getting a little concerned you were in there too long.

  Zachariah again tries to speak but there are no words.

PRIEST 2: What happened to you in there?

  Again Zachariah opens his mouth but nothing.

PRIEST 1: Did you see a vision?

  Zachariah waves them off and exits. Both priest look at each other

  LIGHTS FADE