

My God is Yah

Scenes from Elijah's life

Act I

Characters: Elijah Courtiers
 Ahab Ravens
 Jezebel Widow
 Son

Props: thrones crown & sceptre for Ahab
 tree bread
 meat gate
 well (same as altar, Act II)
 sticks cup
 bin jar
 stairs bed

Scene 1: Drought Proclaimed

[Curtain opens to show Ahab and Jezebel on thrones with courtiers. Elijah strides in from stage left.]

And Elijah the Tishbite...said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

Scene 2:

[Elijah steps onto apron, stage left as curtain closes.]

Then the word of the Lord came to him saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went [Elijah moves stage right] and stayed by the Brook Cherith.... [Ravens enter stage left and fly to him, and exit left.] The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath.

Scene 3:

[Curtain opens partway, to represent a city gate. A woman is just coming into view.]

And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

Then she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'The bin of flour shall not be used~up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'"

So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

[Curtain.] The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.

Scene 4:

Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman...became sick.

[Curtain opens on the interior of a house, with steps leading upstairs to a table for an upper room. Woman is attending son on bed on floor stage left]

And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. (She calls to Elijah, who walks in from stage right.) So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."

Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth." [Curtain.]

Act II

Characters: Elijah Courtiers
 Obadiah Prophets of Baal
 Ahab Children of Israel
 Servant

Props: poster board image of Baal on litter
 2 posters of altars wrapped on desks
 rocks 2 Bullocks
 knives shovels
 buckets chariot
 crown & sceptre for Ahab

Scene 1:

[Curtain opens on Elijah, still at the woman's house.]

Now it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria....

[Elijah is exiting stage left at the rear of the stage as curtain closes.]

Scene 2:

[Obadiah enters the apron, stage right.]

And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land. . .perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive...."

[He proceeds toward left as Elijah enters apron, stage left] Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "is that you, my lord Elijah?"

And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'"

Then he said, "How have I sinned that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you. . . .And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me.... Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now you say, 'Go tell your master, "Elijah is here!"' and he will kill me."

Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today."

[Obadiah exits stage right]

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.
[Obadiah enters with Ahab from stage right on apron.]

Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?”

And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Cannel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

[Ahab exits stage right behind the curtains, and then curtains begin opening] So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

Scene 3:

[Mountain, with rocks for altars, bullocks for offerings, and a litter held by priests of Baal, on which sits an image of Baal.]

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” But the people answered him not a word. Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.”

So all the people answered and said, “It is well spoken.”

Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.”

Prophets move desk with mural of stones around it forward, set an offering on it, and begin supplicating their idol, lifting hands to heaven, leaping, dancing, limping around the altar etc. Meanwhile, some of the children of Israel discretely fold back in a backstage direction some of the curtain, and pin some flame to it for use later.

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, “O Baal, hear us!” But there was no voice; no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.” So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. ...They prophesied until the...offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

[Elijah moves forward a second desk with a mural of a broken altar on it to a spot just backstage of the center of the curtains. He tapes on a mural of a whole altar of 12 stones. As this is going on, curious on—lookers move onto the apron of the stage, outside the curtain. Two prophets of Baal stay behind the curtains.]

And he made a trench around the altar.... And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water....

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said. "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

[Curtain with fire on it closes rapidly. When curtain is closed, altar of the Lord is removed by two of the prophets of Baal.]

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! the Lord, He is God!" [Curtain opens.]

And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escaped!" So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there. [Executions take place at back of stage. Elijah then speaks to Ahab in mid stage.]

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and drink.

[Ahab moves back right as Elijah and servant steps onto right apron, as the curtain closes.]

And Elijah went up to the top of Cannel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, [Stage left and return] and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again." [Stage left, return. stage left, return].

Then it came to pass the seventh time that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" [Servant goes back stage]

Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. [Curtain opens on Ahab in chariot].... Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. [Curtain.]

Act IV

Characters: Naboth Ahab
 Courtiers Jezebel
 Jezebel's Messenger Elders & Nobles
 2 Scoundrels Elders' Messengers
 Elijah

Props: Crown & sceptre for Ahab
Vine Palace steps
 Bag of money Plate of food
 Writing table Writing implement
 Scroll Seal
 Sackcloth Stones (paper! foam)
 Spread for feast (Cardboard banquet)

Scene 1: Outside Ahab's palace

[Outside the curtain are some steps, stage left, and a vine, stage right. Naboth steps out to tend his vine, and Ahab appears at the top of the steps to survey the land.]

...Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

[Ahab approaches Naboth]

So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." And Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!" So Ahab went into his house, sullen and displeased....

[Ahab goes up steps and backstage, and curtain opens. Jezebel's messenger comes from stage left and sets food by Ahab and stands by Jezebel who is sitting at her writing table, stage right.]

And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" So he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority of Israel! Arise and eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." [Jezebel moves to writing table]

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, [Messenger takes letter off stage left] and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.... [Curtain closes]

[Naboth, elders and nobles, and scoundrels assemble from stage left where messenger went out, and sit on apron with scoundrels opposite Naboth.]

So the men of his city, the elders and nobles... proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honour among the people. And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against... Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth both has blasphemed God and the king!"

[They seize him and escort him off stage left. Two of them escorting him to the doorway, "tying" him, and then those on stage "stoning" him, so he falls outside the doorway.]

Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.

[A messenger is dispatched to center stage as the nobles depart, and the curtain opens on Jezebel, at her desk, and Ahab (who is sitting, moping, on his bed.)]

Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

...When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead...Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." [Ahab rises and goes via center stage to the apron stage right with Jezebel to the vineyard as the curtain closes]

...When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead...Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

[Elijah steps onto apron, stage left, looking up to heaven.]

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. [Elijah looks at Ahab, and then walks over to Ahab.]

"You shall speak to him, saying, 'thus says the Lord: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?".... Thus says the Lord: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours."

Then Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.'

"And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

[Elilab moves to the left of the apron and sits down, while Ahab goes gravely into his house as the curtain opens.]

But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. And he behaved very abominably in following idols....

[Ahab puts on sack cloth and prostrates himself.] So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.

And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, He rises. saying, “See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days; but in the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house. [Curtain.]

Act V

Characters: Ahaziah Courtiers
 Messengers
 Captains & fifties
 1st Captain 1st Fifty
 2nd Captain 2nd Fifty
 3rd Captain 3rd Fifty
 Angel of the Lord Elijah

Props: Bed Broken lattice
 Flame Hill
 Swords Helmets
 Crown & sceptre for Ahaziah

Scene 1: Ahaziah’s house

[Curtain opens on Ahaziah, lying in bed with the remains of a broken lattice in the background. Courtiers and messengers attend him.]

Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, “Go inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury.”

[Messengers depart, stage left.]

Optional Scene 2 A: Elijah by the road

[The curtain closes on Scene 1 as Elijah enters apron stage right, and the angel of the Lord steps out from behind the curtain to speak with him.]

But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?’ “Now therefore, thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not

come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.” So Elijah departed.

[The angel disappears and Elijah walks to meet the messengers at center stage who are entering the apron, stage left. They pause upon meeting.]

[Then Elijah mounts the hill (steps), stage left, as the curtain opens.]

Scene 2 B: Ahaziah’s bedroom

[Messengers return from stage left/center.]

And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, “Why have you come back?” So they said to him, “A man came up to meet us, and said to us, ‘Go, return to the king who sent you, and say to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’””” Then he said to them, “What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?” So they answered him, “He was a hairy man, and wore a leather belt around his loins.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

[Curtain.]

Scene 3: Elijah sitting on a hill

[Elijah is sitting on a hill (steps) stage left, outside curtains, and the 1st Captain and his fifty enter the apron from stage right, but never advancing beyond center stage. Flame is held up by two actors behind center of curtain.]

Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: “Man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’” So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

[They fold open the curtain to show the flame as the captain and his fifty step through the center of the curtain and disappear. A second captain and his fifty enter the apron, from stage right, but never advancing beyond center stage.]

Then the king sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him:

“Man of God, thus has the king said, ‘Come down quickly!’” So Elijah answered and said to them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

[They fold open the curtain to show the flame as the captain and his fifty step through the center of the curtain and disappear. A third captain and his fifty enter the apron, from stage right, and reaching center stage, bow down. Meanwhile, flame is being removed.]

Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him: “Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. “Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight.”

[Angel of the Lord steps out from behind curtain, stage left, and Elijah turns to him.]

And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.”[Angel disappears again, and Elijah goes, as curtain opens on the bedroom scene.]

So he arose and went down with him to the king.

Scene 4: Ahaziah’s bedroom

Then he said to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’”[Curtain]

So Ahaziah died according to the word of the Lord, which Elijah had spoken.

Act VI

Characters: Elijah Elisha
 Sons of the prophets at Bethel
 Sons of the prophets at Jericho
 Horses of fire

Props: Horse & Chariot of Fire
 Mantle Steps

Scene 1: Various locations on the way to the Jordan

And it came to pass, when the Lord was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

[Elijah, followed by Elisha, step out onto the apron at center stage]

Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel.” And Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they went down to Bethel. [They go stage right together, to the top steps. The sons of the prophets at Bethel step out from behind the curtain as Elisha passes.]

And the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent!” [The prophets step back.]

Then Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Jericho.” And he said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they came to Jericho. [The prophets watch them go down the stairs and head for stage left in front of the stage. The prophets return inside the curtains, and others step out at the doors, stage left, as Elisha passes.] And the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?” So he answered, “Yes, I know; keep silent!” [The prophets step back.]

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to the Jordan.” And he said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So the two of them went on. [The prophets watch them go up the stairs and head for center stage on the apron. The prophets follow to the top step, and watch.]

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

[Curtain opens. Elijah & Elisha go toward back stage left. A set of stairs is a few feet back, right—center stage.]

And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” And Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.”

[Elijah & Elisha head in front of steps with Elijah closest to steps.] Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them;

[A chariot of fire divides them, and Elisha steps outside of the curtains, stage right, and Elijah spins over to the steps and spins up them, dropping his mantle outside the curtains,]

And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. [Curtain closes. Steps get removed].

Now Elisha saw it, and he cried out, “My father my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle...and struck the water, and said, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”

[Curtain opens, and Elisha walks in and out in and toward the prophets at stage left, whereupon the curtain closes again.]

And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, “The spirit of

Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him. Then they said to him, “Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send anyone.” But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, “Send them out.”

[Prophets disappear through the center curtains and reemerge. Elisha sits down when they leave.]

Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him. And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”

[They exit through the curtains. Curtain opens for curtain call.]