

THE PROPHECY OF JOSIAH

A Play based on 1 Kings 13

Characters: Narrator
Man of God
Jeroboam, the king
Old Prophet

Optional: use robes or large T-shirts as costumes. King Jeroboam could wear a crown. Props could include incense for the king to burn, a high table for the altar of Bethel, and a low table with bread and water.

Scene: The action of this play happens in three different locations. Scene I takes place at the altar of Bethel. Scene II takes place on the road away from Bethel and then in the Old Prophet's house. Scene III takes place on the road again. One way to stage this would be to have a higher table at one side of the room to represent the altar of Bethel and a low table at the other side of the room to represent a table in the Old Prophet's house. The space in between then becomes the roadway outside Bethel.

Scene 1

The Narrator stands at one side of the stage. As the scene opens, King Jeroboam is standing at the altar burning incense. The Man of God enters.

Narrator: And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of Yehowah, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

Man of God: O altar, altar! Thus says Yehowah: "Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you." This is the sign which Yehowah has spoken: "Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

Hearing the Man of God, King Jeroboam stretches out a hand toward him and calls to someone off stage.

Jeroboam: Arrest him!

Narrator: Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of Yehowah.

Jeroboam reacts to the destruction of the altar and to his withered hand, trying unsuccessfully to pull it back to his body. Then he turns to the Man of God.

Jeroboam: Please entreat the favor of Yehowah your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.

The Man of God prays, and the King is able to move his hand again.

Narrator: So the man of God entreated Yehowah, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as it was before.

Jeroboam: Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.

Man of God: If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. For so it was commanded me by the word of Yehowah, saying, "You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came."

Jeroboam exits and the Man of God crosses to the middle of the stage and sits down. The Old Prophet comes on stage and stands in his house—that is, by the low table.

Scene 2

Narrator: So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king.

The Old Prophet crosses the stage to where the Man of God is sitting.

Narrator: So the Old Prophet went out to meet the Man of God and found him sitting under an oak tree.

Prophet: Are you the man of God who came from Judah?

Man of God: I am.

Prophet: Come home with me and eat bread.

Man of God: I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. For I have been told by the word of Yehowah, "You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came."

Prophet: I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of Yehowah, saying, "Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water."

Narrator: The Old Prophet was lying to the Man of God, but the Man of God believed him and went with him to his house and ate bread and drank water.

While the Narrator is speaking, the Old Prophet leads the Man of God to his house, and they sit down together at the table.

Narrator: Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of Yehowah came to the Old Prophet and he cried out to the Man of God.

Prophet: Thus says Yehowah: "Because you have disobeyed the word of Yehowah, and have not kept the commandment which Yehowah your God commanded you, but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in this place...your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers."

Man of God reacts with horror. Then gets up and crossed the stage to exit. The Old Prophet remains sitting at his table..

Scene 3

Narrator: When the Man of God had gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road.

The Man of God enters and lies down, sprawled out as if attacked, in the center of the stage.

Narrator: And the story was told in the city where the old prophet lived.

The Old Prophet stands up from the table and speaks as if he had just heard the news.

Prophet: It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of Yehowah. Therefore Yehowah has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of Yehowah which He spoke to him.

Narrator: Then he went and found his corpse on the road.

The Old Prophet crosses to the Man of God and mourns over him, straightening his limbs.

Narrator: The Prophet took up the corpse and carried it back to the city to mourn and to bury the Man of God.

The Old Prophet and the Man of God move back to the area near the altar. The Man of God lies down peacefully, and the Old Prophet stands over him.

Prophet: When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. For the saying which he cried out by the word of Yehowah against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass.

The End