

PROPHETS

CHARACTERS: VOG (voice of God), Satan, Samuel, Narrator, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, King

PROPS: crown for KING, sackcloth optional

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 5 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 1, 4, 12; Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 3 & 4, Jonah 1 & 3

At rise: Samuel, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jonah are standing center stage, head bowed until they are called by God.

NARRATOR: The prophets had no easy task, warning people who did not want to hear their messages, people who could have them killed for preaching God's word.

VOG: Samuel, how long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.

SAMUEL: How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.

VOG: I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.

SAMUEL: My life is in your hands, Lord. *(SAMUEL bows and exits)*

NARRATOR: Samuel did what the Lord said.

(If using the NATHAN script – insert here. Do NOT have Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jonah come on stage until AFTER Nathan portion)

VOG: Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?

ISAIAH: Here am I. Send me!

VOG: Isaiah, go to the people of Israel, to reprimand them for their blindness and stupidity, and to warn them their ruin and destruction. *(ISAIAH bows and exits)*

NARRATOR: And Isaiah prophesied to the kings and people, to the good and the evil, in safety and in danger.

VOG: Ezekiel, Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak My words to them. Know that house of Israel will not want to listen to you because they do not want to listen to Me. *(SATAN enters, creeps up to EZEKIEL)*

SATAN: Don't bother. They are hardheaded and hardhearted.

VOG: Don't be afraid of them or discouraged by the look on their face. Tell them what I say whether they listen or not. You are my watchman. When you hear a word from My mouth, give them a warning from Me.

SATAN: This will be a thankless, dangerous task. Let someone else do it.

VOG: If I say to the wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ but you do not warn him—you don’t speak out to warn him about his wicked way in order to save his life—that wicked person will die for his iniquity. Yet I will hold you responsible for his blood.

SATAN: That’s not fair. Why should you be held responsible? Why waste your time with people who won’t listen?

VOG: If you warn a wicked person and he does not turn from his wicked way, he will die for his wickedness, but you will have saved your life.

SATAN: Why should you be responsible for others? Let them take care of themselves.

VOG: Ezekiel, they will put ropes on you and bind you with them. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you will say to them, ‘This is what the Lord God says.’ Let the one who listens, listen, and let the one who refuses, refuse—for they are a rebellious house.

SATAN: Tell God no. Let him find someone else for this unpleasant task.

EZEKIEL: I will go. I will speak your words and be your watchman. (*EZEKIEL exits. SATAN clenches his fists in frustration and marches over to JONAH*)

NARRATOR: Ezekiel spoke God’s words for over 20 years in difficult circumstances.

VOG: Jonah! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.

SATAN: Nineveh is full of the Assyrians, your enemies and God a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love.

JONAH: True. God is a God who relents from sending calamity. I will not go. (*JONAH slinks away and SATAN grins with satisfaction*)

NARRATOR: Jonah had second thoughts after being swallowed by a huge fish for three days. Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:

VOG: Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.

JONAH: I will obey. I will go. (*SATAN exits frustrated, slamming his fist into his palm, KING enters from opposite side of the stage. JONAH moves toward him and stops*)

NARRATOR: When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he took off his royal robes; (*KING does each of these as NARRATOR says them. NARRATOR will need to place his speaking to give KING time to comply*) covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

KING: Issue a proclamation that all people and even the animals are to fast in sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

NARRATOR: When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.