

“Away in a Manger: Isaiah”

by
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What In the middle of the night, Isaiah has a conversation with God about what God is calling him to tell the Israelites. He questions God’s plan for a baby to lead them out of exile, but trusts what he’s being asked to do, understanding that this baby will bring light and hope into the world.

Themes: Christmas, Prophecy, Messiah, Light, Hope, Emmanuel

Who Isaiah

When Old Testament Bible Times

Wear (Props) Small eating area in Isaiah’s home- simple table and chairs or stools, scrolls, oil lamp, candles

Why Isaiah 40:3-5, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 61:1, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Isaiah 60:2-3, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Matthew 1:20-25

How Isaiah’s conversation with the Lord has a “Tevya/Fiddler on the Roof” feel to it. If you cannot do a decent accent, then speak with your own accent. It’s better not to distract with a bad accent.

Half of this script is listening, so do it well. Be careful not to simply pause, but believe that you are hearing someone else speak, whether it be your wife or the Lord Himself. For ideas on how to perform this script, watch the video at SkitGuys.com.

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Advent Theme: Hope

Time Approximately 2 minutes

Lights up as Isaiah enters. It is the middle of the night, but he cannot sleep. He lights a lamp. What had he seen? What has he heard? A vision? A message from the Lord? Wishful thinking?

Isaiah: So...this is what you want me to tell them? The people, your people who have been in dark exile now for so many years, with their backs up against some Babylonian wall?

Beat.

It was one thing when you had me tell the king that a virgin will give birth.

Hears his wife calling from the bed.

Go back to sleep, my dear. I'm just talking to God.

Hears her question.

How should I know if He's listening?!

Hears her again.

What do you mean, "am I listening to Him?"

Returns his attention to God.

You see what I mean, Lord? Even my own wife questions me.

Settling down to business.

Now... You are God Almighty. You do things how you do things. But...you want me to tell them that Messiah is going to be just a plain fellow, like one of us? Who suffers and dies? Why not a Moses to lead us out of exile...or a King David, the might warrior...not a little baby—

LIGHT CUE: lights fade as the lamp sputters out and Isaiah immediately quits talking. He calls out to his wife in frustration.

Where is the oil for the lamp?

Continues his conversation with God, in the dark, as he searches for the oil.

You see, Lord? This is what I'm talking about. We are a people in darkness, stumbling around, stubbing our toes on the sin of the world. We need a rescuer! A mighty Savior. We need—

Interrupts himself by finding the oil.

Ah! There it is.

LIGHT CUE: He lights the lamp and suddenly shuts his mouth as the small room fills with light.

Such a small flame, yet the room is filled with light.

After a beat.

I am a man of unclean lips. Have mercy on me, Lord.

With a wistful acceptance.

I will tell them everything you have shown me...even if I don't understand it. I will trust you, Good Lord, in your own time, I know you will send Emmanuel. You will bring us light. You will bring us hope.

Light and hope.

(to his wife offstage) I'm coming back to bed.

He exits as light fades on the lit oil lamp.