

## Faithful Prophets Warn and Console God's People

About 8 minutes, from portions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Baruch (Pronounced *bar-ook*)

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Prompter Shout a brief line and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Baruch My name is Baruch. I am the prophet Jeremiah's secretary.  
Come with me back hundreds of years before Christ.  
Dark clouds of oppression are gathering in the East.  
Babylonia, Syria and Moab all threaten Israel and Judah.  
Meet a few of the many Hebrew prophets.

Prompter & Echoes Old Testament men of God!

Baruch Here is the prophet Isaiah.  
Let's see how God appoints Isaiah to warn and console Judah's people.  
Listen to him.

Isaiah Oh look! I see the Lord high and exalted on a throne!  
The train of His robe fills the temple. Winged seraphim praise him:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts! The earth is full of his glory."

Prompter & Echoes Holy, holy, holy!

Isaiah The foundations tremble, the temple fills with smoke, and I cry out.

Prompter & Echoes Woe is me!

Isaiah I'm a man of unclean lips. I'm ruined, for I've seen the Lord of hosts!

Prompter & Echoes Isaiah is doomed!

Isaiah But one of the seraphim flies to me and touches my lips  
with a burning coal. He says, "Your iniquity is taken away  
and your sin is forgiven."

Prompter & Echoes Pardoned!

Isaiah The Lord asks "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"  
I reply, "Here am I."

Prompter & Echoes Send me!

Isaiah The Lord sends me to warn Judah and the pagan nations around her.  
He will severely punish their wickedness and idolatry!

Baruch How fearful!

Isaiah There is also a bright side.  
The God of the whole earth will send a Messiah,  
a descendent of David, born of a virgin.  
The word Messiah, or *Christ*, means an anointed King.

Prompter & Echoes King of Kings!

- Isaiah He will be called Immanuel: *God with us*.  
He will come and establish God's kingdom.
- Baruch What else do you prophesy about the Messiah, Isaiah?
- Isaiah He will bear our griefs and our sorrows;  
He will be pierced for our crimes,  
and our punishment will fall upon him.  
By his suffering we are healed!
- Prompter & Echoes Forgiveness and healing!
- Isaiah All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
but the Lord lays the iniquity of us all upon him.  
Like a lamb led to slaughter, and a sheep  
that is silent before its shearers,  
he does not open his mouth."
- Prompter & Echoes Lamb of God!
- Baruch Isaiah, God has shown you remarkable things in the future.
- Isaiah Yes. Hear what God is revealing now. He says,  
"Look, I create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things will not be remembered."
- Baruch Wonderful! Now, let us move on in time.  
Those dark clouds of oppression are nearer;  
God's prophets keep warning people to repent or be punished.  
Here is another of these holy seers.
- Jeremiah I'm Jeremiah. The Holy One tells me, "I put my words in your mouth."  
His words are harsh; he condemns Judah for sin and unbelief.
- Prompter & Echoes Jeremiah weeps!
- Baruch I have recorded your prophecies in this scroll, Jeremiah.  
You warn that the Babylonians will capture Judah.  
Our King Jehoiakim has demanded a copy of your scroll.
- Jeremiah The royal scribe reads a few lines, and the king cuts them with a knife,  
and throws them into the fire, until it consumes the whole scroll.
- Prompter & Echoes Oh no!
- Jeremiah God tells me to repeat those prophecies, Baruch.  
I write them again, and add more.
- Baruch Jeremiah suffers many abuses.  
Adversaries throw him into a pit of miry clay, but he escapes.
- Prompter & Echoes He's a brave man!
- Baruch Those clouds of oppression are getting still darker and closer.
- Jeremiah Proud King Nebuchadnezzar will soon capture our land of Judah  
and carry us Jews away to Babylon.
- Baruch Everyone is selling their land for whatever they can get for it,  
because it will soon be taken by the invaders.

Jeremiah                    God will one day bring his people back, so while everyone is selling,  
I buy a field for 17 shekels of silver, and keep its deed in an earthen jar.

Prompter & Echoes    Why, Jeremiah?

Jeremiah                    God will bring his people back to this land.  
My descendants will own this field.

Baruch                      The prophet Ezekiel also warns and consoles.  
He sees God's shining glory leave the temple,  
rise over Jerusalem, and finally, sadly, go out of sight.  
Ezekiel also sees a valley of dry bones;  
they come together, take on flesh and live.

Prompter & Echoes    Resurrection!

Baruch                      Ezekiel sees the Messiah entering the New Jerusalem,  
but those clouds of oppression now sweep over the land of Judah.  
Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians! What a tragedy!  
The pagan invaders march us 1000 miles away in chains;  
children die along the way.

Prompter & Echoes    Painfully sad!

Baruch                      The pagan soldiers make us sing for their entertainment.  
They don't know what we sing in Hebrew,  
or they'd run us through with their swords!  
We sing about bashing their children against the rocks!

Prompter & Echoes    Not exactly a hymn!

Baruch                      Shame on us! Yes, we are a vengeful and sinful people.  
So we Jews are captives in a pagan land for 70 years.  
Then God brings his repentant, transformed people back.  
They have had more than their fill of idolatry,  
and never again worship idols.

Prompter & Echoes    Never!

Baruch                      But things are not yet perfect; there still are wars and oppression.

Prompter & Echoes    Come, blessed Messiah!