

Messiahmas

written by

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MESSIAHMAS

A Musical

Book, Lyrics and Original Songs by Dan Olds

Additional Traditional Christmas Carols Used by Permission or Public Domain

SYNOPSIS

Sarah is a young Jewish woman who does not believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

As Christmas approaches, strange encounters begin to disrupt her ordinary life. A mysterious messenger repeatedly appears, pointing her toward ancient prophecies about the coming Messiah. Each night Sarah is visited by one of Israel's prophets—Micah, Jeremiah, and Isaiah—who reveal what God has shown them about the Messiah's birth, identity, mission, and ultimate purpose.

As the evidence mounts, Sarah finds herself confronted with a question she can no longer ignore:

Could Jesus truly be the promised Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world?

Through prophecy, music, and a journey of faith, Sarah must decide for herself what she believes before Christmas morning arrives.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SARAH

A young Jewish woman searching for truth about the Messiah.

KATHERINE

Sarah's Christian friend. Patient, encouraging, and deeply committed to her faith in Jesus.

THE MESSENGER

A mysterious figure who repeatedly appears to Sarah, providing clues about the Messiah.

MICAH

The prophet Micah.

JEREMIAH

The prophet Jeremiah.

ISAIAH

The prophet Isaiah.

ANGEL

A messenger of God who appears near the conclusion of the story.

KATHERINE'S FATHER

SHEPHERDS

CAROLERS

CHOIR

ENSEMBLE

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Messiah
(Katherine)

I'm a Prophet
(Micah)

O Bethlehem
(Choir)

My Messiah
(Katherine)

Mighty Warrior
(Jeremiah)

King Messiah
(Choir)

ACT TWO

Path of Life
(Katherine)

In My Dreams
(Sarah)

Isaiah 53
(Isaiah and Choir)

Immanuel
(Choir)

Bring Me Hope
(Sarah)

The Savior of the World
(Shepherds and Choir)

Now That I Am Saved
(Sarah, Katherine, Choir and Company)

Additional Traditional Christmas Carols

How Far Is It To Bethlehem
(Carolers)

While Shepherds Watched
(Carolers)

Silent Night
(Carolers)

Hallelujah Chorus
(Choir)

SETTING

Present Day

The story moves between modern locations and dreamlike encounters with the prophets of Israel.

Locations include:

- A Shopping Mall at Christmas
- A Restaurant
- Sarah's Bedroom
- The Fields Near Bethlehem
- The Manger in Bethlehem

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

A SHOPPING MALL AT CHRISTMAS

SARAH and KATHERINE, two young women in their late 20's, shop at a mall. The mall is decorated for Christmas. They carry bags in their hands. Many people scurry around them as

they do their shopping.

KATHERINE
Christmas is in 4 days!

SARAH
I can't believe how many people are
doing last minute shopping.

KATHERINE
People think that Christmas is all
about shopping and presents. But
it's really all about the birth of
Jesus.

SARAH
I know. Jesus is important to you,
but I'm Jewish and I've never
believed He is the Messiah.

KATHERINE
I know. But I believe that Jesus is
the Jewish Messiah and the Savior
of the world.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"MESSIAH"

(Katherine)

A MAN suddenly comes up behind Sarah.

MAN
The Messiah will be born in
Bethlehem.

The man suddenly leaves. Sarah spins around and sees that
nobody is there.

SARAH
Did you hear that?

KATHERINE
Hear what?

SARAH
A man came up behind me and said
that the Messiah would be born in
Bethlehem.

KATHERINE
I should hope so. That's where He
was born.

SARAH
Who was born?

KATHERINE
The Messiah. Jesus!

SARAH
No. I don't believe that Jesus is
the Messiah.

A group of CAROLERS enters.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM"

(Carolers)

KATHERINE
What a lovely song. Isn't that
funny. It's about coming to
Bethlehem to adore the Messiah who
was born there.

SARAH
That man must have known that they
were going to sing that song.

KATHERINE
Hey look at the time. I've got to
go. Do you want to meet tomorrow
for lunch?

SARAH
Sure.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWO

SARAH'S BEDROOM

Night.

Sarah sleeps soundly in her bed.

MICAH enters.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Get out of my room. Who are you?
I'm calling the police!

MICAH

Not so fast young lady. We need to talk.

SARAH

Is this a dream? Or is it real?

MICAH

I believe that I have been invited into your dream.

SARAH

Wow! It seems so real.

Wait a minute! Invited? Who invited you?

MICAH

The Most High God Himself!

SARAH

God invited you into my dream? Why?

MICAH

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Micah. I am a prophet of the Most High God.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"I'M A PROPHET"

(Micah)

SARAH

Well you might be who you say you are. But I have never heard of you.

MICAH

Young lady. If you read your Bible you would know who I am. Even though I'm considered to be a minor prophet it doesn't make my message any less important.

SARAH

What is your important message?

MICAH

Here is what I came to tell you.
But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though
you are small among the clans of
Judah, out of you will come for Me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from
ancient times.

SARAH

What does that mean?

MICAH

It means that the Messiah will be
born in Bethlehem.

SARAH

In the future?

MICAH

Yes. In my future.

SARAH

Is Jesus the Messiah? He was born
in Bethlehem.

MICAH

I do not know who the Messiah is. I
only know what God has told me to
write. He will be born in
Bethlehem. And then there is that
other thing.

SARAH

What other thing?

MICAH

The part that says His origins are
from of old, from ancient times.

SARAH

Does that mean that He somehow
existed before He was born? That
doesn't make sense.

MICAH

It doesn't make sense to me either.
I've thought about it many times. A
man is born. A man dies. But this
ruler already exists before He
comes. Only God can say that.

SARAH

So God Himself would somehow be born as the Messiah? Wow! What a concept!

MICAH

I've delivered the message. What you do with it is up to you. Sweet dreams.

Micah exits.

The CHOIR enters.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"O BETHLEHEM"

(Choir)

BLACKOUT.

SCENE THREE

A RESTAURANT

The next day.

SARAH and KATHERINE sit together at a restaurant eating lunch.

KATHERINE

So how did you sleep?

SARAH

Not very well. I had the strangest dream last night.

KATHERINE

Really?

SARAH

I dreamed that a prophet named Micah appeared in my bedroom.

KATHERINE

Micah?

SARAH

Yes. And he told me that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

KATHERINE

That's what the man at the mall
said.

SARAH

Exactly. Then Micah told me
something else. He said that the
Messiah somehow already existed
before He was born.

KATHERINE

Interesting.

SARAH

He thought that it meant the
Messiah would somehow be God
Himself.

KATHERINE

Sarah, that's exactly what
Christians believe. We believe that
Jesus is God who became a man.

SARAH

I know. That's what makes this so
strange. Then I looked up the
passage in my Bible this morning.
It was actually there. Word for
word.

KATHERINE

So what do you think?

SARAH

I think either God is trying to get
my attention... or I'm losing my
mind.

KATHERINE

I know which one I'd pick.

SARAH

Of course you do.

KATHERINE

I'm serious.

SARAH

And I'm Jewish.

KATHERINE

Fair enough.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"MY MESSIAH"

(Katherine)

A MAN suddenly appears behind Sarah.

MAN

The Messiah will come from the House of David.

The man quickly disappears.

SARAH

There he is again!

KATHERINE

Who?

SARAH

The man! The one who keeps appearing! He said that the Messiah will come from the House of David.

KATHERINE

Sarah, there is nobody there.

SARAH

You really can't see him?

KATHERINE

No.

SARAH

Great. Now I really am going crazy.

A group of CAROLERS enters.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED"

(Carolers)

KATHERINE

Another beautiful song.

SARAH

Don't tell me. Let me guess. The Messiah is connected to David.

KATHERINE

Actually yes. Jesus was a descendant of David.

SARAH
Of course He was.

Why wouldn't He be?

KATHERINE
Are you okay?

SARAH
No. I had a prophet in my bedroom last night. A mysterious man keeps appearing. And now Christmas carolers are helping them. I think I'm being ambushed.

KATHERINE
Or maybe you're exactly where God wants you to be.

SARAH
We'll see. If another prophet shows up tonight, I'll let you know.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE FOUR

SARAH'S BEDROOM

Night.

Sarah sleeps soundly in her bed.

JEREMIAH enters the room and Sarah suddenly wakes up.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Oh no! Another strange dream. Are you a Prophet from God?

JEREMIAH
Yes. I am a Prophet of the Most High God.

SARAH
And what is your name?

JEREMIAH
My name is Jeremiah.

SARAH
Now you I have heard of. You must be a wonderful, loved Prophet.

JEREMIAH

Wonderful? Loved? Do you have any idea what you are talking about?

SARAH

Well, I just assumed that since I have heard of you, and you are a Prophet, that you must just be wonderful.

JEREMIAH

Maybe God thinks I am wonderful, but nobody else does. I have been insulted, spat on, flogged, beaten, arrested and imprisoned. And that was just yesterday!

SARAH

What did you do to deserve that?

JEREMIAH

I proclaim the word of the Lord. I tell the people to repent or Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed. But nobody ever listens to me!

SARAH

Don't you ever get discouraged that nobody ever listens to you?

JEREMIAH

Yes I do sometimes. But I'm still fairly new at this.

SARAH

How long have you been doing this?

JEREMIAH

About 40 years!

MUSICAL NUMBER

"MIGHTY WARRIOR"

(Jeremiah)

The chorus assists.

Jeremiah starts to cry.

SARAH

Why are you crying?

JEREMIAH

I am weeping over the sins of my people. I am afraid that they are so far from God that they won't even recognize the Messiah when He comes.

SARAH

Do you know who the Messiah is?

JEREMIAH

No I don't. But I know some things about the Messiah.

SARAH

Tell me what you know about Him.

JEREMIAH

The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.

SARAH

So He will be a descendent of David. Just like the words of the carol.

JEREMIAH

Carol? Who is Carol?

SARAH

It's a song. Never mind.

JEREMIAH

Then yes. The Messiah will come from David's line. But there is something else.

SARAH

What other thing?

JEREMIAH

The name. The Lord Our Righteousness.

SARAH

What does that mean?

JEREMIAH

I've wondered about that myself.
There is only one Lord. Yet somehow
this coming King shares His name. I
don't pretend to understand it. I
only know what the Lord told me to
write.

SARAH

Hey! I've heard that one before.
What else do you know about the
Messiah?

JEREMIAH

The time is coming, declares the
Lord, when I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah. This
is the covenant I will make with
the house of Israel after that
time, declares the Lord. I will put
my law in their minds and write it
on their hearts.

SARAH

Wow! How is this possible?

JEREMIAH

I don't know exactly. But somehow
God Himself will change people from
the inside. And somehow it will
happen through the Messiah. I have
said what I needed to say. Sweet
dreams!

Jeremiah leaves.

Sarah lies down in bed.

The CHOIR enters.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"KING MESSIAH"

(Choir)

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

SHOPPING MALL

Day.

Sarah and Katherine walk through the mall.

SARAH

Thanks for meeting me Katherine.

I have so much to tell you.

KATHERINE

Did you have another dream?

SARAH

Yes I did. It was Jeremiah this time. He told me that the Messiah would come from the house of David. And get this. He said that somehow the Messiah would be God Himself.

KATHERINE

Well yes. Jesus is from the house of David and He is God Himself.

SARAH

That's exactly what Micah said.

KATHERINE

What?

SARAH

Not the David part. The God part. Both of them said it.

KATHERINE

That's interesting.

SARAH

Interesting? Katherine, these men lived hundreds of years apart. And they're saying the same thing.

KATHERINE

Maybe that's because it came from the same God.

SARAH

Maybe. Then Jeremiah told me something else. He said that God would someday make a new covenant with the Jewish people.

KATHERINE

That happened through Jesus. When we place our faith in Him, God puts His Spirit into us and guides our lives.

SARAH

That sounds exactly like what Jeremiah said.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"PATH OF LIFE"

(Katherine)

At this moment, a man comes up behind Sarah.

MAN

The Messiah will be born from a Virgin.

The man quickly disappears.

SARAH

Oh! I knew he was coming and I still missed him!

KATHERINE

Missed who?

SARAH

The man. The one who keeps appearing. He said the Messiah will be born from a virgin.

KATHERINE

Sarah...

SARAH

I know. Nobody's there.

A group of CAROLERS enters.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"SILENT NIGHT"

(Carolers)

SARAH (CONT'D)

Virgin mother and child.

There it is again.

KATHERINE

What?

SARAH

The clue. The virgin. Jesus was born from a virgin.

KATHERINE

Yes He was. Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born.

SARAH

Which prophet said that?

KATHERINE

Isaiah.

SARAH

Good. Because tonight I'm reading Isaiah. And if he shows up... I'm going to be ready for him.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWO

SARAH'S BEDROOM

Night.

Sarah sits in bed holding a Bible.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I'm going to stay up all night reading the book of Isaiah.

She turns pages.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Okay. Here it is. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." This can't be Jesus. The Messiah's name is supposed to be Immanuel. I think I'd better keep reading.

She turns more pages.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Sixty-six chapters? This guy sure wrote a lot. I'm looking forward to meeting him.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"IN MY DREAMS"

(Sarah)

As the song ends, Sarah falls asleep.

A moment later she awakens.

ISAIAH stands in the room.

SARAH (CONT'D)

You must be Isaiah.

ISAIAH

Yes. I am a prophet of the Most High God.

SARAH

Well, I'm ready for you. I read your book. Well... part of it. I only have fifty-nine chapters left.

ISAIAH

Then you must know why I am here.

SARAH

To tell me the Messiah would be born from a virgin.

ISAIAH

That is correct.

SARAH

But your book says His name will be Immanuel.

ISAIAH

No. I said He would be called Immanuel. God with us.

SARAH

Which means?

ISAIAH

Which means you've discovered the same mystery Micah and Jeremiah discovered.

SARAH
That the Messiah is somehow God?

ISAIAH
Exactly.

SARAH
I've heard that before.

ISAIAH
Then perhaps you should start
paying attention.

SARAH
That's what Katherine keeps saying.

ISAIAH
She sounds like a wise woman.

SARAH
She's going to love hearing that.

ISAIAH
I imagine she will.

SARAH
Okay. I have another question. Is
this real? Or am I dreaming? This
is the third night in a row.

ISAIAH
I have stood in the throne room of
God. After that, you stop worrying
so much about what is real.

SARAH
That's not very helpful.

ISAIAH
Perhaps not. But it is true.

SARAH
What else do you know about the
Messiah?

ISAIAH
What else? Sarah... I wrote an
entire book about Him. I hardly
know where to begin. Read chapter
fifty-three. If you want to
understand why the Messiah came,
start there.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"ISAIAH 53"

(Isaiah and Choir)

SARAH

Wow. That is Isaiah fifty-three? I don't think I've ever heard that before. What does it mean that He will see the light of life after He dies?

ISAIAH

It means the Messiah will die. And it means death will not keep Him.

SARAH

You mean God will raise Him from the dead?

ISAIAH

Yes.

SARAH

That is incredible. Tell me something else about the Messiah.

ISAIAH

Only one thing?

SARAH

Let's start there.

ISAIAH

He will bring light to the nations. He will heal the broken. He will come from David's line. The Spirit of God will rest upon Him. And somehow... through Him... God will reach the whole world.

SARAH

That's a lot to put on one person.

ISAIAH

Then perhaps He is more than just a person.

SARAH

You prophets really like mysteries, don't you?

ISAIAH

We write them. You solve them.

SARAH

My friend Katherine says Jesus is
the Jewish Messiah.

ISAIAH

If He is, then He must fulfill what
I wrote. And what Micah wrote. And
what Jeremiah wrote. And what the
other prophets wrote.

SARAH

So you're not going to tell me.

ISAIAH

No. You must decide for yourself.

A beat.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Sweet dreams.

Isaiah exits.

The CHOIR enters.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"IMMANUEL"

(Choir)

BLACKOUT.

SCENE THREE

RESTAURANT

The next day.

SARAH and KATHERINE sit together eating lunch.

SARAH

Katherine, I met Isaiah last
night.

KATHERINE

And?

SARAH

And now everything is worse.

KATHERINE

Worse?

SARAH

Micah pointed me to Bethlehem.
Jeremiah pointed me to David.
Isaiah pointed me to a virgin. And
then Isaiah fifty-three...

A beat.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What if you're right?

KATHERINE

About Jesus?

SARAH

What if He really is the Messiah?

KATHERINE

What do you think?

SARAH

I think the evidence is piling up.

KATHERINE

Then what's stopping you?

SARAH

Because if it's true... everything
changes.

Katherine studies her.

KATHERINE

Did you know Jesus fulfilled
hundreds of prophecies from the Old
Testament?

SARAH

Isaiah said something like that.

KATHERINE

Then maybe it's time to stop asking
what everyone else thinks. And
decide what you think.

A beat.

SARAH

Where is that man?

KATHERINE

What man?

SARAH

The one who keeps showing up. I actually want to talk to him now.

KATHERINE

Maybe you've already been given everything you need.

That lands.

SARAH

Maybe.

KATHERINE

It's Christmas Eve. I need to get home. I'll see you after Christmas.

Katherine stands.

SARAH

Katherine?

KATHERINE

Yeah?

SARAH

Thanks.

Katherine smiles.

Then leaves.

Sarah remains seated.

Thinking.

Alone.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE FOUR

SARAH'S BEDROOM

Night.

Sarah sits alone on her bed.

The room feels quieter than usual.

SARAH (CONT'D)

No prophet tonight. No mysterious man. No carolers.

A beat.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I guess it's just me.

Silence.

SARAH (CONT'D)
And You. She looks upward.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Dear God... I don't know what to do
anymore. Three days ago I was sure
Jesus wasn't the Messiah. Now I'm
not so sure.

A beat.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I know I'm stubborn. Katherine says
so. Micah probably says so.
Jeremiah definitely says so.

A small smile.

Then serious again.

SARAH (CONT'D)
But if Jesus really is the Jewish
Messiah... I want to know. Please
show me.

Sarah sings:

MUSICAL NUMBER

"BRING ME HOPE"

(Sarah)

At the conclusion of the song she
lies down.

Slowly closes her eyes.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE FIVE

THE FIELDS NEAR BETHLEHEM

Night.

While Sarah is sleeping, several SHEPHERDS enter her room.

Sarah is startled awake.

Her bed is moved out of the room and she finds herself in a field with the shepherds.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Where am I? Who are you?

A SHEPHERD
We are shepherds watching over our flocks.

An ANGEL suddenly appears.

ANGEL
Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"HALLELUJAH CHORUS"

(Choir)

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

A SHEPHERD
Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

Sarah follows the Shepherds to the manger where Mary and Joseph are holding the baby Jesus.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD"

(Shepherds)

SARAH
Oh my gosh! It's all true. Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and the Savior of the world. What do I need to do now?

The ANGEL smiles but does not answer.

A voice speaks behind her.

MESSENGER (O.S.)
You already know.

Sarah turns.

The Messenger stands nearby.

The same man she has seen throughout the story.

SARAH
It's you! I recognize your voice.
You're the man who kept telling me
about the Messiah.

MESSENGER
And now you know who He is.

SARAH
Who are you?

The Messenger simply smiles.

MESSENGER
Someone who wanted you to find the
truth.

Sarah looks back toward the manger.

When she turns again, the Messenger is gone.

Her bed is returned to her room.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE SIX

SARAH'S BEDROOM

Christmas Morning.

Sarah suddenly sits upright in bed.

She looks around the room.

Silence.

Then--

SARAH
It's all true.

A beat.

SARAH (CONT'D)

It's all true. Jesus is the Jewish
Messiah. The Savior of the world.

She sits quietly for a moment.

Overwhelmed.

Tears forming.

SARAH (CONT'D)

All this time... You were trying to
show me.

She bows her head.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Dear God, I believe that Jesus is
Lord. I believe that He died for my
sins and that You raised Him from
the dead. I repent of my sins.
Please forgive me. Please change my
life. I place my faith in Jesus.
Amen.

A long moment.

Then a smile slowly spreads across her face.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Katherine!

She jumps out of bed.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I have to tell Katherine!

BLACKOUT.

KATHERINE'S PARENTS' HOUSE

Christmas Morning.

Katherine and her family are eating breakfast.

The doorbell rings.

Katherine answers the door.

Sarah rushes inside.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Katherine!

KATHERINE
Sarah?

SARAH
You were right!

KATHERINE
About what?

SARAH
About everything! Jesus really is
the Messiah! I gave my life to Him
this morning!

Katherine immediately embraces her.

KATHERINE
Merry Messiahmas.

SARAH
Merry Messiahmas!

KATHERINE'S FATHER
I have never quite heard it said
like that before. But Merry
Messiahmas!

Everyone laughs.

SARAH
I finally understand. Jesus is the
Jewish Messiah and the Savior of
the world!

MUSICAL NUMBER

"NOW THAT I AM SAVED"

(Sarah)

At the conclusion of the song:

FULL COMPANY
Merry Messiahmas!

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT TWO

END OF SHOW