

THE PROPHET PROJECT ©2019 JMD Myers

Scripture marked ASV taken from the American Standard Version. Public Domain.

Scripture quotations marked AMP taken from the Amplified<sup>®</sup> Bible, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))

Scripture quotations marked CJB are taken from the Complete Jewish Bible, copyright 1998 by David H. Stern. Published by Jewish New Testament Publications, Inc. [www.messianicjewish.net/jntp](http://www.messianicjewish.net/jntp). Distributed by Messianic Jewish Resources Int'l. [www.messianicjewish.net](http://www.messianicjewish.net). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (CEV) are from the Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by Permission.

Scripture quotations marked ESV are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version<sup>®</sup> (ESV<sup>®</sup>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (GNT) are from the Good News Translation in Today's English Version-Second Edition Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society. Used by Permission. .

Scripture marked GW is taken from GOD'S WORD<sup>®</sup>, © 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

Scripture marked JPS taken from *The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text: A New Translation* © 1917 by The Jewish Publication Society of America. Public Domain.

Scripture marked KJV taken from the King James version. Public Domain.

Scripture quotations marked NASB taken from the New American Standard Bible<sup>®</sup>, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))

Scriptures marked NCV quoted from *The Holy Bible: New Century Version*<sup>®</sup>, copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version<sup>®</sup>, NIV<sup>®</sup>. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.<sup>™</sup> Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.<sup>™</sup>

Scripture marked NJPS Reprinted from the *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures*. Copyright 1985 The Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia.

Scriptures marked NRSV taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*\*Note: this is a cast of flexible size. Therefore, no character names are given for the prophets. Every time a line is designated PROPHET, a different prophet begins speaking. The script is constructed so that no passages are conflated – any time we switch passages, we also switch speakers. If there is no reference in front of a line, it means that it is a passage being continued from before; it will be clear where it is continuing from. If prophets are numbered, this is only to keep track of them in a section where passages overlap, in order to keep a passage continuous – these designations are not meant to represent the same character throughout the play. Slashes indicate where a passage is interrupted by the next line.*

*The two main characters are designated as “GOD” and “GOMER” for ease of reading, but really they would be better designated as “God/Hosea” and “Gomer/Israel/Humanity.”*

## **Scene 1:**

*(GOMER is asleep onstage. GOD enters and whispers to her; MUSIC begins. GOMER stirs. GOD strokes her face, and she awakes fully.)*

OFFSTAGE MALE VOICES: (Song of Solomon 2:10 NJPS) Arise, my darling; my fair one come away! Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!

*(GOMER gives GOD her hand and, smiling, lets him raise her to her feet. During this line he places his hands over her eyes, and then takes them away – her countenance lights up as she sees the stars he has just revealed; she throws her arms around his neck and kisses him.)*

OFFSTAGE PROPHETS: (Jeremiah 2:2b-3a JPS) I remember for thee the affection of thy youth, the love of thine espousals; how thou wentest after Me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown. Israel is HaShem's hallowed portion, His first-fruits of the increase.

*(He takes her hand and continues to show her creation, jubilantly.)*

OFFSTAGE MALE VOICES: (Song of Solomon 2:10-12a, 14b NJPS) Arise, my darling; my fair one come away! Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away! For now the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The blossoms have appeared in the land, the time of singing has come.

*(He throws his shawl around her shoulders. Her eyes get wide as she looks at it; overwhelmed. Tenderly he arranges it around her shoulders)*

Arise, my darling; my fair one come away! Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!

*(Overjoyed and a little shy, she hides her face in her hands; he kneels and reaches for her hands.)*

Let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is comely.

OFFSTAGE FEMALE VOICES: (Song of Solomon 2:16) My beloved is mine and I am his. My beloved is mine and I am his!

*(They start a lively dance together)*

OFFSTAGE MALE VOICES (in counterpoint):	OFFSTAGE FEMALE VOICES (In counterpoint):
Arise, my darling; my fair one come away!	My beloved is mine and I am his.
Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!	My beloved is mine and I am his!
Arise, my darling; my fair one come away!	Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam!
Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!	Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam!
Arise, my darling; my fair one come away!	Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam!
Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!	
Come away!	

*(GOMER breaks off mid-song and mid-dance, staring at an IDOL that has appeared. GOD gets her attention and she returns to the dance)*

OFFSTAGE MALE VOICES (in counterpoint):	OFFSTAGE FEMALE VOICES (In counterpoint):
Arise, my darling; my fair one come away!	My beloved is mine and I am his.
Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!	My beloved is mine and I am his!
Arise, my darling; my fair one come away!	My beloved is mine and I am his.
Arise, my darling; my fair one, come away!	My beloved is mine –

*(GOMER breaks off again, distracted by the IDOL. She stares at it and it reaches out a hand to her. GOD continues to sing.)*

OFFSTAGE MALE VOICES: My fair one! My darling! My fair one come away!

*(The idol reaches out a hand to her – so does GOD)*

My fair one! My darling! My fair one come away!

*(She looks at GOD – and then takes the IDOL's hand. Allows it to caress her. GOD continues to reach out His hand).*

Arise, my darling, my fair one come away!

*(The IDOL puts his hands over her eyes as GOD did – and suddenly she is blind. She reaches*

*her hands out in surprise)*

Arise, my darling, my fair one –

*(The IDOL puts his hands over her ears; the song is abruptly cut off, although GOD's mouth continues to move)*

OFFSTAGE PROPHETS 1: (Hosea 11:1-4 NIV) When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

*(GOD puts his hand on her shoulder, but she shakes it off)*

OFFSTAGE PROPHETS 2: But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to Baals and they burned incense to images.

*(She begins to walk, guided by the IDOL, and stumbles. The IDOL takes no notice but GOD catches her before she falls)*

OFFSTAGE PROPHETS 1: It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms;

*(When she has been righted, she blindly strokes the IDOL's face in thanks)*

ALL OFFSTAGE PROPHETS: but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them.

*(GOMER takes off GOD's shawl and places it on the IDOL; the IDOL gives her a chain in return)*

ONE OFFSTAGE PROPHET: (Jeremiah 18:13b-15a NJPS) Inquire among the nations: who has heard anything like this? Maiden Israel has done a most horrible thing. Does one forsake Lebanon snow from the mountain rocks? Does one abandon cool water flowing from afar? Yet my people have forgotten me: they sacrifice to a delusion.

## **Scene 2:**

PROPHET: *(gets up shakily)* (Isaiah 6:1b ASV) I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up.

PROPHET: *(recognizing that the PROPHET has had the same experience he has had)* (Ezekiel 1:28

NASB) As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

PROPHET: (Ezekiel 2:3-4 NIV) He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD / says.'

PROPHET: (Isaiah 6:8 NASB) Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

*(There is a beat, and the prophets begin walking onto the stage as they speak. It may be that not all of the PROPHETS have gotten up yet, depending on the size of the cast, and more can step out from the audience as they go.)*

PROPHET: (Daniel 10:16a NCV) Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, so I opened my mouth and started to speak.

PROPHET: (Ezekiel 2:9-10 GW) As I looked, I saw a hand stretched out toward me. In it was a scroll. He spread the scroll in front of me. There was writing on the front and back. There were funeral songs, songs of mourning, and horrible things written on it.

PROPHET: (Daniel 8:18b NCV) Then he touched me and lifted me to my feet

TWO PROPHETS: (Ezekiel 3:17 AMP) Son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at My mouth and give them warning from Me.

PROPHET2: (Hosea 4:1b NIV) the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land:

PROPHET3: (Amos 6:12 NIV) You have turned justice into poison and / the fruit of righteousness into bitterness.

PROPHET2: (Hosea 4:1b KJV) There is no truth, nor mercy, no knowledge of God in the land.

PROPHET 4: (Habakkuk 1:2-3a NASB) How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. Why do You make me see iniquity, / and cause me to look on wickedness?

PROPHET: (Hosea 4:2 NIV) There is only cursing, lying / and murder, stealing and adultery; they

break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

PROPHET: (Habakkuk 1:3b-4 NASB) Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises. Therefore the law is ignored, and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore / justice comes out perverted.

TWO PROPHETS: (Ezekiel 3:24a ASV/KJV) Then the Spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet

*(The OFFSTAGE PROPHETS now join the ones on stage)*

ALL PROPHETS: (Amos 3:8 ESV) The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?

PROPHETS 1: (Micah 1:3-5a KJV) For, behold, the Lord cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

PROPHETS 1 & PROPHETS 2: And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.

PROPHETS 1, PROPHETS 2, and PROPHETS 3: For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel.

PROPHETS 4: (Amos 9:5-6 ESV) The Lord God of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn,

PROPHETS 3: and all of it rises like the Nile,

PROPHETS 2: and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;

PROPHETS 4: who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth;

PROPHETS 3 & PROPHETS 4: who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth

ALL PROPHETS: —the Lord is his name.

### Scene 3:

PROPHET: (Isaiah 5:1-7 NIV) I will sing a song for the one I love, a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briars and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it." The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

### Scene 4:

*(GOMER enters and begins to oppress the others onstage – kicking them over, putting chains around their necks that match hers, taking tattered garments from them and putting them on herself. This sort of power is new to her, and she takes a childish delight in it. The first PROPHET looks uncertainly at GOD – does GOMER really not see him standing right there? And what is the PROPHET really supposed to do...?)*

GOD (silently, mouthed): Woe to them –

*(GOMER cannot hear him – he gestures to the PROPHET, who then speaks. This GOMER does hear, although she tries to ignore it.)*

PROPHET: (Micah 2:1-2 KJV) Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

*(GOMER continues to oppress people on stage, enjoying it less as she goes. The PROPHETS are still getting used to their calling, but become less hesitant as their hearts begin to beat with God's.)*

PROPHET: (Micah 2:10 NIV) Get up, go away! For this is not your resting place, because it is defiled, it is ruined, beyond all remedy.

*(GOMER begins to walk upon the people she has been mistreating, trying to let the extra height make her feel strong and free.)*

PROPHET: (Amos 8:4-7 GW) Listen to this, those who trample on the needy and ruin those who are oppressed in the world. You say to yourselves, “When will the New Moon Festival be over so that we can sell more grain? When will the day of worship be over so that we can sell more wheat? We can shrink the size of the bushel baskets, increase the cost, and cheat with dishonest scales. We can buy the poor with money and the needy for a pair of sandals. We can sell the husks mixed in with the wheat.” The Lord has sworn an oath by Jacob’s pride: “I will never forget anything that they have done.”

*(One PROPHET catches at GOMER's hand, trying to get her to pay attention; she stumbles down off of the people but tries to laugh off the PROPHET's words.)*

PROPHET: (Micah 3:1b-3 NRSV) Listen, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Should you not know justice?— you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin off my people, and the flesh off their bones; who eat the flesh of my people, flay their skin off them, break their bones in pieces, and chop them up like meat in a kettle, like flesh in a caldron.

*(The next PROPHET takes GOMER's head between his hands and turns her head towards GOD, who is reaching out to her.)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 2:31-35 CJB) You of this generation, look at the word of Adonai:

*(GOMER looks back at the PROPHET, bemused – what is he looking at?)*

Have I been a desert to Isra’el? or a land of oppressive darkness? Why do my people say, ‘We’re free to roam, we will no longer come to you’? Does a girl forget her jewellery, or a bride her wedding sash?

*(It becomes clear that GOMER cannot see GOD)*

Yet my people have forgotten me, days beyond numbering. You are so clever in your search for love that the worst of women can learn from you! Right there on your clothing is the blood of the innocent poor, although you never caught them breaking and entering.

*(GOMER runs a flirty hand up the PROPHET's arm; taken aback he lightly slaps her hand away)*

Yet concerning all these things, you say, ‘I am innocent; surely he’s no longer angry at me.’

*(GOMER comes at him, more seductively; GOD comes forward --)*

Here, I am passing sentence on you, because you say, ‘I have done nothing wrong.’

*(SLAP! Both GOD and the PROPHET slap [with only the PROPHET making contact]; both GOMER and GOD react in pain.)*

PROPHET: (Hosea 6:4-6 NIV) What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth; my judgments flashed like lightning upon you.

*(GOMER begins to scratch at her own arms, GOD/HOSEA catches her hands from behind her)*

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

*(GOD/HOSEA tries to bring her hands to his face, tenderly, but she snatches them away, looking suspiciously at the “nothing” behind her.)*

*(One PROPHET begins, others join him by ones and twos until all are pleading with GOMER)*

PROPHET 1: (Hosea 6:1-3 NIV) Come, let us return to the LORD.

PROPHETS 1& 2: He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us;

PROPHETS 1,2 &3: he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

PROPHETS 1, 2, 3 &4: After two days he will revive us;

PROPHETS 3, 4, 5 & 6: on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

PROPHETS 1-4: Let us acknowledge the LORD,

PROPHETS 1-6: let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear;

ALL PROPHETS: he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

*(GOMER turns from the PROPHETS – unknowingly walking right past GOD – and to an IDOL.)*

PROPHET: (Hosea 2:2-15a NIV) Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts. Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her bare as on the day she was born; I will make

her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst.

*(More IDOLS appear, and GOMER goes to each of them in delight – not realizing that they are beginning to hem her in.)*

I will not show my love to her children, because they are the children of adultery. Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, “I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.” Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.

*(GOMER begins to realize she is trapped and tries to find a way out of the ring.)*

She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, “I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.” She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold – which they used for Baal.

Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens, and my new wine when it is ready. I will take back my wool and my linen, intended to cover her nakedness. So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers;

*(GOMER is flung on the ground outside of the ring of IDOLS. She picks herself up, looking betrayed – but turns her anger towards the sky, to the GOD she can no longer see ... who is actually behind her, reaching out.)*

no one will take her out of my hands. I will stop all her celebrations: her yearly festivals, her New Moons, her Sabbath days – all her appointed feasts. I will ruin her vines and her fig trees, which she said were pay from her lovers; I will make them a thicket, and wild animals will devour them. I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot declares the LORD.

*(GOMER exits)*

Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor [Trouble] a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth...

OFFSTAGE VOICE: Hallelujah!

PROPHET: (Zephaniah 3:14-17 ESV) Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;

OFFSTAGE VOICE: Hallelujah!

PROPHET: shout, O Israel!

OFFSTAGE VOICE : Hallelujah!

PROPHET (over continued singing): Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

### Scene 5:

*(GOMER begins to fashion an IDOL. Once it is formed, she caresses it)*

PROPHET: (Micah 6:1-4 NJPS) Hear what the LORD is saying: Come, present My case before the mountains, and let the hills hear you pleading. Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD – you firm foundations of the earth! For the Lord has a case against His people, He has a suit against Israel. “My people! What wrong have I done you? What hardship have I caused you? Testify against me. In fact, I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.”

PROPHET: (Isaiah 43:22-26 NIV) Yet you have not called upon me, O Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel. You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings, nor honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with grain offerings nor wearied you with demands for incense. You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me, or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses. I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; state the case for your innocence.

*(GOMER begins to paint her face to look like the IDOL)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 2:5b NRSV) What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 6:16b-17 GNT) “Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the ancient paths and where the best road is. Walk in it, and you will live in peace.” But they said, “No, we will not!” Then the Lord appointed sentries to listen for the trumpet’s warning. But they said, “We will not listen.”

*(GOMER takes the IDOL's hands and puts them over her ears, but cannot shut out the PROPHETS.)*

PROPHET: (Zephaniah 3:1-2 ESV) Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city! She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the Lord; she does not draw near to her God.

*(GOMER begins to get angry – trying harder to block the sound, she gathers several IDOLS or FALSE PROPHETS about herself, pulling them close to “speak” into her ears)*

PROPHET: (Micah 3:11 NASB) Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, her priests instruct for a price and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord saying, “Is not the Lord in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us.”

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 6:13-14 – or 8:10b-11 GNT) Everyone, great and small, tries to make money dishonestly. Even prophets and priests cheat the people. They act as if my people's wounds were only scratches. ‘All is well,’ they say, when all is not well.

*(GOMER pushes forward one of the IDOLS or FALSE PROPHETS)*

FALSE PROPHET: (Micah 2:6b-7a GNT) “Don't preach at us. Don't preach about all that. God is not going to disgrace us. Do you think the people of Israel are under a curse? Has the Lord lost his patience? Would he really do such things?”

*(The attempt to not listen having failed, GOMER starts confronting the PROPHETS, trying to get them to stop)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 5:7 CJB) Why should I forgive you? Your people have abandoned me and sworn by non-gods. When I fed them to the full, they / committed adultery, thronging to the brothels.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 30:9-11 GW) These people are rebellious and deceitful children, children who refuse to listen to the Lord's teachings. They say to the seers, ‘Don't see the future.’ They say to those who have visions, ‘Don't have visions that tell us what is right. Tell us what we want to hear. See illusions. Get out of our way! Stop blocking our path! Get the Holy One of Israel out of our sight.’

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 5:30-31 NCV) A terrible and shocking thing has happened in the land of Judah: The prophets speak lies, and the priests take power into their own hands, and my people love it this way. But what will you do when the end / comes?

PROPHET: (Micah 2:11 NRSV) If someone were to go about uttering empty falsehoods, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink’, such a one would be the preacher for / this people!

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 5:9b ASV/KJV/JPS) Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

*(GOMER punches the PROPHET who was speaking, but before her fist connects, they freeze/blackout.)*

## Scene 6:

*(GOMER is offstage; the PROPHETs try to come to terms with their calling. The PROPHET who was nearly struck speaks first.)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 20:7-9 GW) O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived. You overpowered me and won. I've been made fun of all day long. Everyone mocks me. Each time I speak, I have to cry out and shout, "Violence and destruction!" The word of the Lord has made me the object of insults and contempt all day long. I think to myself, "I can forget the Lord and no longer speak his name." But his word is inside me like a burning fire shut up in my bones. I wear myself out holding it in, but I can't do it any longer.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 50:5-7 NRSV) The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame

PROPHET: (Isaiah 49:4b AMP) I said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in empty futility; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense is with my God.

PROPHET: (Habakkuk 3:17-18 ESV) Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,

ADD one PROPHET: the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

ADD one PROPHET: yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 62:1NIV) For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

PROPHET: (Micah 7:18-19 ESV) Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 64:4-5 NIV) Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 14:20-15:2 CJB) We confess our rebellion, Adonai, also the crimes of our ancestors; yes, we have sinned against you. For your name's sake, do not spurn us; do not dishonor your glorious throne.

*(GOMER creeps onstage; hearing them pleading her cause, she smiles – surely God won't be angry at her anymore)*

Remember your covenant with us; do not break it. Among the nations' idols, can any make it rain? Can the skies, of themselves, send showers? Aren't you the one, Adonai, our God? Don't we look to you? For you do all these things. Then Adonai said to me, "Even if Moshe and Sh'mu'el were standing in front of me, my heart would not turn toward this people!

*(GOMER shrinks back, but with nowhere to go or turn)*

Drive them out of my sight, get them out of here! And when they ask you where they should go, tell them that this is what Adonai says: 'Those destined for death — to death! Those destined for the sword — to the sword! Those destined for famine — to famine! Those destined for captivity — to captivity!'

PROPHET: (Amos 9:7 NCV) The Lord says, "Israel, you are no different to me than the people of Cush."

PROPHET: (Hosea 6:7 GW) Like Adam, you rejected the promise. You were unfaithful / to me.

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 8:4b-5a NIV) This is what the LORD says: "When men fall down, do they not get up? When a man turns away, does he not return? Why then have these people turned away? Why does Jerusalem always turn / away?"

PROPHET: (Isaiah 1:2 CJB) Hear, heaven! Listen, earth! For *Adonai* is speaking. "I raised and brought up children, but they rebelled / against me."

PROPHET: (Hosea 5:12 NRSV) I am like maggots to Ephraim, and like rotteness to the / house of Judah.

PROPHET: (Ezekiel 12:28 NASB) Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “None of My words will be delayed any longer. Whatever word I speak will be performed,”’” declares the Lord God.

*(ALL PROPHETS turn to look at GOMER)*

PROPHET: (Micah 1:7b NIV) Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes, as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used.

*(terrified, GOMER runs to find an IDOL. After she has caressed it for a few moments, though, it begins to walk away from her. She follows, bewildered, trying desperately to seduce it, but it pays her no attention.)*

PROPHET: (Ezekiel 16:32-34 GNT) You are like a woman who commits adultery with strangers instead of loving her husband. A prostitute is paid, but you gave presents to all your lovers and bribed them to come from everywhere to sleep with you. You are a special kind of prostitute. No one forced you to become one. You didn't get paid; you paid them! Yes, you are different.

*(GOD reaches out to GOMER, and the PROPHET does the same – but she turns from them)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 30:15-16 NRSV) For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. But you refused and said, “No! We will flee upon horses”— therefore you shall flee! and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”— therefore your pursuers shall be swift!

*(She continues to chase after the IDOL, in a circle – not realizing it is actually chasing her.)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 28:15-19a GW) You say, “We made a treaty with death and an agreement with the grave. When the overwhelming disaster passes by, it won’t matter to us, because we have taken refuge in our lies, and falsehood is our hiding place.” This is what the Almighty Lord says: I am going to lay a rock in Zion, a rock that has been tested, a precious cornerstone, a solid foundation. Whoever believes in him will not worry. I will make justice a measuring line and righteousness a plumb line. Hail will sweep away your refuge of lies, and floodwaters will wash away your hiding place. Your treaty with death will be wiped away. Your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming disaster passes by, you will be trampled by it.

*(Finally she catches the IDOL. She clings to it, hardly noticing that it has seized her wrists. They remain in tableau)*

Each time it passes by it will take you. It will pass by morning after morning, during the day and during the night.

ONE PROPHET: (Ezekiel 21: 9b-17) (21:14-22JPS) Thus saith HaShem: Say:  
(*singing*) A sword, a sword, it is sharpened, and also furbished:

*(An "army" slowly and menacingly begins to surround and approach GOMER)*

PROPHETS GROUP 1: It is sharpened that it may make a sore slaughter,

PROPHETS GROUP 2: it is furbished that it may glitter

PROPHETS GROUP 1: --or shall we make mirth? (*they laugh maliciously*)

PROPHETS GROUP 2: --against the rod of My son,

ALL: contemning every tree.

PROPHETS GROUP 1: And it is given to be furbished, that it may be handled;

ALL: the sword, it is sharpened, yea, it is furbished, to give it into the hand of the slayer.

PROPHETS GROUP 2: Cry and wail, son of man; for it is upon

ALL: My people,

PROPHETS GROUP 2: it is upon all the princes of Israel;

PROPHETS GROUP 1: they are thrust down to the sword with My people;

ALL: smite therefore upon thy thigh.

PROPHETS GROUP 2: For there is a trial; and what if it contemn even the rod?

ALL: (*spoken in rhythm*) It shall be no more, saith

*(they all place their hands over their mouths)*

*(whispered)* GOD.

ONE PROPHET: Thou therefore, son of man, prophesy,

PROPHETS GROUP 1: and smite thy hands together;

PROPHETS GROUP 2: and let the sword be doubled the third time,

PROPHETS GROUP 1: the sword of those to be slain;

PROPHETS GROUP 2: it is the sword of the great one that is to be slain,

ALL: which compasseth them about.

PROPHETS GROUP 1: I have set the point of the sword against all their gates,

PROPHETS GROUP 2: that their heart may melt,

PROPHETS GROUP 1: and their stumblings be multiplied;

ALL: ah! it is made glittering, it is sharpened for slaughter.

*(GOMER suddenly realizes that she is surrounded; she tries to get up to run, but the IDOL has her wrists, trapping her there.)*

Go thee one way to the right, or direct thyself to the left; whither is thy face set?

I will also smite My hands together, and I will satisfy My fury

ONE PROPHET (*spoken*): I HaShem have spoken it.

*(GOMER desperately tries to load the IDOL onto her back and carry it away, but she cannot)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 46:1-4 NASB) Bel has bowed down, Nebo stoops over; their images are consigned to the beasts and the cattle. The things that you carry are burdensome, a load for the weary beast. They stooped over, they have bowed down together; they could not rescue the burden, but have themselves gone into captivity. "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, you who have been borne by Me from birth and have been carried from the womb; Even to your old age I will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; And I will bear you and I will deliver you.

*(GOMER is violently struck to the ground. The surrounding army closes in around her.)*

PROPHET: (Micah 1:8-9 NIV) Because of this I will weep and wail; I will go about barefoot and naked. I will howl like a jackal and moan like an owl. For her wound is incurable; it has come to Judah. It has reached to the very gate of my people, even to Jerusalem itself.

*(GOMER can be seen in the center of the army, trying to escape, to no avail)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 30:18 NIV) Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

*(GOMER leaps and is caught by the army, and carried away.)*

**Scene 7:** *(This scene will very likely benefit from slow motion)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 14:17-18a ESV) Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people is shattered with a great wound, with a very grievous blow. If I go out into the field, behold, those pierced by the sword! And if I enter the city, behold, the diseases of famine!

PROPHET: (Isaiah 26:19 NIV) But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 30:19b-21a ESV) in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it,"

*(GOMER is dragged in by IDOLS. GOD enters with them, watching over her. Even as she tries to cling to them, they beat her. Although she cannot see GOD, he is there, feeling every blow she feels.)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 13:15-17 ESV) Hear and give ear; be not proud, for the Lord has spoken. Give glory to the Lord your God before he brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight mountains, and while you look for light he turns it into gloom and makes it deep darkness. But if you will not listen, my soul will weep in secret for your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears, because the Lord's flock has been taken captive.

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 7:19 NRSV) Is it I whom they provoke? says the Lord. Is it not themselves, to their own hurt?

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 4:18 NIV) Your own conduct and actions have brought this upon you. This is your punishment. How bitter it is! How it pierces to the heart!

*(GOMER can hardly stand)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 1:5-6 a GW) Why do you still want to be beaten? Why do you continue to rebel? Your whole head is infected. Your whole heart is failing. From the bottom of your feet to the top of your head there is no healthy spot left on your body— only bruises, sores, and fresh wounds.

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 4:30-31 GNT) Why do you dress in scarlet? Why do you put on jewelry and paint your eyes? You are making yourself beautiful for nothing! Your lovers have rejected you and want to kill you. I heard a cry, like a woman in labor, a scream like a woman bearing her first child. It was the cry of Jerusalem gasping for breath, stretching out her hand and saying, “I am doomed! They are coming to kill me!”

*(GOMER is struck down and does not rise)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 NASB) My sorrow is beyond healing, my heart is faint within me! Behold, listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from a distant land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not within her?” “Why have they provoked Me with their graven images, with foreign idols?” “Harvest is past, summer is ended, And we are not saved.” For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken; I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored? Oh that my head were waters and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

*(ALL are still for a moment)*

PROPHET: (Ezekiel 11:17b-20 ASV) Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I will gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh; that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

*(GOD comes forward, and begins to deal with the IDOLS.)*

PROPHET 1: (Jeremiah 31:31-34 NRSV) The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make

a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

PROPHET 2: (Isaiah 12 NRSV) You will say in that day: I will / give thanks to you, O Lord,

PROPHET 1: It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though / I was their husband, says the Lord.

PROPHET 2: for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me.

PROPHET 1: But this is the covenant / that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,

PROPHET 2: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

PROPHET 1: says the Lord:

PROPHET 2: for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

PROPHET 1: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;

PROPHET 2: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

PROPHET 1: and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

PROPHET 2: And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, / call on his name;

PROPHET 1: No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know / the Lord,”

PROPHET 2: make known his deeds among the nations;

PROPHET 1: for they shall all know me, / from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord;

PROPHET 2: proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*(GOD picks up the limp form of GOMER, and carries her across the stage.)*

PROPHET 1: for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 10:20 NASB) In that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

*(GOD gently sets GOMER down, and stays with her)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 52:3 NIV) For this is what the LORD says: “You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.”

### **Scene 8:**

*(GOD strokes GOMER's head as in beginning of play until she awakes – but she still does not realize that he is there.)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 3:19-22 NIV) "I myself said, “ 'How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.'

*(She rises painfully and begins to look about this new “empty” space. GOD begins to weep.)*

I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me. But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel," declares the LORD.

*(GOMER looks at what she has become, and begins to weep as well. Music: A lament begins underneath the prophet speaking.)*

A cry is heard on the barren heights, the weeping and pleading of the people of Israel, because they have perverted their ways and have forgotten the LORD their God.

*(GOD and GOMER are now on opposite sides of the stage. A PROPHET reaches out to her as GOD reaches out to her)*

"Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding."

*(GOMER starts to cross towards GOD and the PROPHET)*

"Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God."

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 3:12b-14a KJV) Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God,

*(It starts to become clear that GOMER is not coming in trust. As she comes, her intentions twist more and more until she is facing directly away from GOD and the PROPHET, even while still offering her hand to GOD.)*

and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you.

*(She is back – now what can she get out of this?)*

### Scene 9:

*(GOMER struts onstage, very pleased with herself. She tries to recreate the dance she danced long ago with GOD)*

PROPHET: (Hosea 8:2-3a NIV) Israel cries out to me, "O our God, we acknowledge you!" But Israel has rejected what is good.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 29:13 NCV) The Lord says: "These people worship me with their mouths, and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is based on nothing but human rules.

PROPHET: (Hosea 7:13b NIV) I long to redeem them, but they speak lies against me.

PROPHET: (Amos 6:5-6 CEV) You sing foolish songs to the music of harps, and you make up new tunes, just as David used to do. You drink all the wine you want and wear expensive perfume, but you don't care about the ruin of your nation.

*(GOMER takes a tattered, bloodstained garment from someone and arranges it around her shoulders the way GOD had arranged his shawl on her in the beginning, and continues trying to dance.)*

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 22:15-16 NIV) "Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not

your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord.

*(GOMER begins to ruthlessly form people into an ALTAR. This should take a while.)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 3:14-15 CJB) Adonai presents the indictment against the leaders and officers of his people: "It is you who devour the vineyard; in your houses is plunder taken from the poor. What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding down the faces of the poor?" says Adonai Elohim-Tzva'ot.

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 11:15a NCV) What is my beloved Judah doing in my Temple when she makes many evil plans? Do you think animal sacrifices will stop your punishment?

*(Interrupted in her work by the PROPHET's words, GOMER takes out a coin and flings it at his feet. When this does not shut him up, she throws another, and another, finally tossing a cascade like the justice he seeks.)*

PROPHET: (Amos 5:21-24 NRSV) I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

PROPHET: (Hosea 8:11 NCV) Although Israel built more altars to remove sin, they have become altars for sinning.

*(GOMER continues to build her altar. She fusses with it, trying to make it perfect. Finally, when it is all finished, she climbs on top of it and busies herself with looking seductive – surely that will please him!)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 58:2-9a GW) They look for me every day and want to know my ways. They act as if they were a nation that has done what is right and as if they haven't disregarded God's judgment on them. They ask me for just decrees. They want God to be near them. Why have we fasted if you are not aware of it? Why have we inflicted pain on ourselves if you don't pay attention? Don't you see that on the days you fast, you do what you want to do? You mistreat all your workers. Don't you see that when you fast, you quarrel and fight and beat your workers? The way you fast today keeps you from being heard in heaven. Is this the kind of fasting I have chosen? Should people humble themselves for only a day? Is fasting just bowing your head like a cattail and making your bed from sackcloth and ashes? Is this what you call fasting? Is this an acceptable day to the Lord? This is the kind of fasting I have chosen: Loosen the chains of wickedness, untie the straps of the yoke, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke. Share your food with the hungry, take the poor and homeless into your house, and cover them with clothes when you see them naked. Don't refuse to help your relatives. Then your light will break through like the dawn, and you will heal quickly. Your righteousness will go ahead of you,

and the glory of the Lord will guard you from behind. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer. You will cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am!"

PROPHET: (Joel 2:12-14a NRSV) Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him?

*(GOMER becomes annoyed that her "offering" is not being received.)*

PROPHET: (Micah 6:6-8 ESV) With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*(GOMER actively ignores the PROPHET's inconvenient words. GOD/HOSEA shakes her pile and pulls one person out, who then declares the following. GOD/HOSEA stands ready to catch her should she fall)*

PROPHET: (Amos 4:6 NRSV) I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

*(GOMER clings more tightly to her pile but does not come down. GOD/HOSEA removes another person and again reaches out to catch her)*

PROPHET: (Amos 4:7-8 NRSV) And I also withheld the rain from you when there were still three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would be rained upon, and the field on which it did not rain withered; so two or three towns wandered to one town to drink water, and were not satisfied; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

*(GOD/HOSEA takes another support away; again she does not fall)*

PROPHET: (Amos 4:9 NRSV) I struck you with blight and mildew; I laid waste your gardens and your vineyards; the locust devoured your fig trees and your olive trees; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

*(another support is removed)*

PROPHET: (Amos 4:10 NRSV) I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your

young men with the sword; I carried away your horses; and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

*(another support removed; now she is on the backs of just one or two people)*

PROPHET: (Amos 4:11-12NRSV) I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a brand snatched from the fire; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

*(GOD/HOSEA approaches her as the line is spoken– she scrambles to be as high as possible on the back of whoever is supporting her. GOMER looks around frantically for where the next blow will come from – GOD reaches out to gently lift her down; she scrambles off and runs away.)*

Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!

#### **Scene 10:**

PROPHET: (Isaiah 1:11-20 NASB) “What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?” says the Lord. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle; and I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you this trampling of My courts? Bring your worthless offerings no longer, incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and Sabbath, the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, they have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword. Truly, the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

*(GOMER mimes throwing a stone at the PROPHET; the PROPHET is struck and falls dead. There is a shocked beat, and then the others begin to prophesy. GOMER throws stones at all of them too, and they fall dead one by one. Depending on the size of the company of prophets, some may be struck mid-line, and have their lines finished by another prophet. The stoning becomes faster and faster as it goes on, and GOD registers the pain of all of them. Only one prophet should be left alive at the end.)*

PROPHET: (Amos 8:11-12 CJB) “The time is coming,” says Adonai Elohim, “when I will send famine over the land, not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Adonai. People will stagger from sea to sea and from north to east, running back and forth, seeking the word of Adonai; but they will not find it.

PROPHET: (Micah 3:4 ESV) Then they will cry to the Lord, but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have made their deeds evil.

PROPHET: (Hosea 5:15 NIV) Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me.

PROPHET: (Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

PROPHET: (Isaiah 31:6 GW) You people of Israel, return to the one whom you have so violently rebelled against.

*(There is one PROPHET left standing. He cries out at the same time that GOD/HOSEA cries out. It startles both the PROPHET and GOMER; the PROPHET is so startled that he stops speaking mid-word and watches.)*

PROPHET and GOD/HOSEA: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem!

GOD/HOSEA: (Matthew 23:37-39 NIV) -- you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”

*(GOD/HOSEA approaches GOMER, arms spread out – ready to embrace but also refusing to protect himself. She holds a stone in her hand defensively, protectively, ready to strike. They look into each other's eyes – the moment of decision - and the lights go out. In the darkness we hear the pounding of stones or nails.)*

## Scene 11:

*(The one PROPHET has remained where he was through all of this and now speaks; the rest of the chorus of PROPHETs now lies dead on the ground.)*

PROPHET: (Ezekiel 37:1-14 GW) The power of the Lord came over me. The Lord brought me out by his Spirit and put me down in the middle of a valley. The valley was filled with bones. He led me all around them. I saw that there were very many bones at the bottom of the valley, and they were very dry. Then he asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I answered, “Only you know, Almighty Lord.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones. Tell them, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord. This is what the Almighty Lord says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. I will put ligaments on you, place muscles on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’” So I prophesied as I was commanded.

*(As he speaks the CHORUS begins to move: they rearrange themselves so that their bodies no longer look broken, but they do not get up; they now lie as if they have been embalmed. It should be very anticlimactic; it should look as if something will happen and then nothing does. They stop moving before he says “yet there was no breath”. The PROPHET is crushed)*

While I was prophesying, suddenly there was a rattling noise, and the bones came together, one bone attaching itself to another. As I looked, I saw that ligaments were on them, muscles were on them, and skin covered them. Yet, there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, “Prophecy to the breath! Prophecy, son of man. Tell the breath, ‘This is what the Almighty Lord says: Come from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these people who were killed so that they will live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me,

*(The CHORUS inhales as one – their ribcages can be seen expanding – before they do anything else. That should be its own moment. Then they stand together – at first they look blank – in some ways they believe they are still dead.)*

and the breath entered them. Then they came to life and stood on their feet. There were enough of them to form a very large army. The Lord also said to me, “Son of man, all the people of Israel are like these bones. The people say, ‘Our bones are dry, and our hope has vanished. We are completely destroyed.’ So prophesy. Tell them, ‘This is what the Almighty Lord says:

*(As he says “open your graves”, the CHORUS once again takes a collective, visible breath, and now they become animated, real people – not creepy soulless zombie warriors like in the movies – they have hope now that they can indeed live.)*

My people, I will open your graves and take you out of them. I will bring you to Israel. Then, my people, you will know that I am the Lord, because I will open your graves and bring you out of your graves. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”

**Scene 12:**

*(GOD/HOSEA reappears. As he speaks, the PROPHETS join him by ones and twos.)*

GOD/HOSEA: (John 7:37b-38 NASB) If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

PROPHET: (Isaiah 55:1 NCV) All you who are thirsty, come and drink. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

*(GOMER enters. Slowly, shyly, she returns...)*

PROPHET: (Isaiah 40:9 NASB) Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

*(...and immediately GOD/HOSEA wraps her in his arms. She weeps against his chest – although actually, out of sight of the audience she's busily wiping the stage makeup off of her face so that when she finally looks up, she is clean. As she weeps, GOD, removes the chains and other crud that she had been wearing and throws them away. This can take a while – it's OK, it's been a long time coming.)*

PROPHET 1: (Isaiah 25:7-8 NCV) On this mountain God will destroy the veil that covers all nations, the veil that stretches over all peoples; he will destroy death forever.

PROPHET 2: (Isaiah 60:1 ESV/NASB) Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

PROPHET 1: The Lord God will wipe away every tear from every face. He will take away the shame of his people from the earth. / The Lord has spoken.

PROPHET 3:(Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV) Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

PROPHET 4: (Joel 2:21-23a NASB) Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, for the Lord has done / great things.

PROPHET 3: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

PROPHET 4: Do not fear, beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, for the tree has borne its fruit, the fig tree and the vine have yielded in full. So rejoice, O sons of Zion, and be glad in the Lord your God; for He has given you the early rain / for your vindication.

PROPHET 5: (Isaiah 45:8 CJB) Heavens above, rain down justice; let the clouds pour it down. Let the earth open, so that salvation springs up, and justice sprouts with it. I, Adonai, / have created it.

PROPHET 6: (Isaiah 44:21b-22 NASB) I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

*(Finally, gently, he replaces the shawl around her shoulders. She looks up at him in surprise – and then realizes her face is clean.)*

PROPHET: (Joel 3:21 NIV) “Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, I will pardon.” / The LORD dwells in Zion!

*(She throws her arms around his neck, and as the PROPHETs dance, they kiss.)*

PROPHET A: (Joel 2:26-32a NRSV) You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord/ your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

PROPHET B: (Hosea 2:23 NIV) I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called “Not my loved one.” I will say to those called “Not my people,” “You are / my people”;

PROPHET A: And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, / and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

PROPHET B: and they will say, “You are my God.”

PROPHET A: And my people shall never again be put to shame.

PROPHET A and ANOTHER: Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

ADD 1 or 2 PROPHETS: Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

ADD 1 or 2 PROPHETS: I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

ADD 1 or 2 PROPHETS: The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

ALL PROPHETS: Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

GOMER: (Isaiah 61:1-3 NASB) The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

*(She breaks off, surprised at the words coming out of her mouth. GOD smiles encouragingly and joins her)*

GOMER and GOD: because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted;

ADD 2 PROPHETS: He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

ADD PROPHETS: to proclaim liberty to captives

ADD PROPHETS: and freedom to prisoners;

FULL COMPANY: to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.