

ISAIAH COURTROOM

by Ted Swartz

Characters: Narrator, Bailiff, 5 Elders, Jehovah

Scripture text: Isaiah 3

Props: desk, gavel, 4-5 chairs

Length: 5 minutes

NARR: It has been pointed out that prophetic genre can be seen as a courtroom scene complete with the attending council...

BAILIFF: *(Begins after "complete.")* All rise! This court is now in session—honorable judge Jehovah presiding. You may be seated ... Kingdom of God vs *(Checks his notes.)* ... the elders and leaders of his people. *(Glances at the others.)* That would be you'all.

ELDER 1: Can he do that?

ELDER 3: I think he just did.

JEHOVAH: Thank you, bailiff. Read the charges.

ELDER 4: Hang on. Didn't you say leaders?

BAILIFF: And elders, yes.

ELDER 4: Well, then I must protest.

BAILIFF: You're not a leader?

ELDER 4: Well, I had hoped to get an 85% vote, and I believe it came in at 73, so ... technically...

BAILIFF: You signed up for the retirement plan?

ELDER 4: Well...

JEHOVAH: Sit.

ELDER 4: Sitting.

JEHOVAH: Read the charges!

BAILIFF: The people of Jerusalem and Judah are hereby charged with violence against God and his people.

Purchasing this script grants performance

1

“Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done. Youth oppress my people, women rule over them. O my people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path” ... How do you plead?

ELDER 4: Seems a little vague, don't you think?

ELDER 3: So much gray area ... I mean the path ... which path? ... So many paths...

ELDER 5: Who's to say they didn't choose that path on their own.

ELDER 3: Who?

ELDER 5: The people.

ELDER 3: Right, the people.

ELDER 4: Once again, if we would have gotten the 85%.

ALL: So ... I think not guilty, yes, not guilty—so I guess we're done here.

JEHOVAH: "It is you who have ruined my vineyard!

The plunder from the poor is in your houses."

ELDER 1: Whoa—I was never in your vineyard...

BAILIFF: Quiet! It's a metaphor.

ELDER 1: Ahhh. (*To the others.*) It's a metaphor.

JEHOVAH: "What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor? The women of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, tripping along with mincing steps, with ornaments jingling on their ankles."

ELDER 2: I think he's talking about you.

ELDER 3: Oh, I don't think so.

ELDER 2: Sounds like you.

ELDER 3: I don't have anything around my ankles.

ELDER 2: The flirting?

ELDER 3: OK—

ELDER 2: (*Whispers.*) It's a metaphor.

JEHOVAH: (*Pauses since they have interrupted.*) Do you have something to say?

ELDER 2: No, no ... sorry.

JEHOVAH: “Therefore the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of Zion; the LORD will make their scalps bald.”

ELDER 3: Ouch.

ELDER 2: That doesn’t sound like a metaphor.

ELDER 3: Bald women.

ELDER 2: With scabs.

ELDER 3: Yahhh.

JEHOVAH: “In that day I will snatch away your finery, your” ... here, finish this ... I’m too angry.

BAILIFF: Where?

JEHOVAH: The snatching ... the snatching away.

BAILIFF: Ah (*Finding his place.*) ... “will snatch away the bangles and headbands and the crescent necklaces, the earrings and bracelets and veils, the headdresses and ankle chains and sashes, the perfume bottles and charms...

JEHOVAH: (*Retakes the charges.*)... the signet rings and nose rings, the fine robes and the capes and cloaks, the purses and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls. Instead of fragrance there will be” ...

BAILIFF: A stench, sir?

JEHOVAH: A stench! That’s good ... a stench!

BAILIFF: You want me to continue?

JEHOVAH: I got it ... instead of a sash, a rope; instead of well-dressed hair, baldness...

ELDER 3 : Again with the balding.

JEHOVAH: Instead of fine clothing, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding ... oh, it’s too much...

(*Gestures to bailiff to take over.*)

BAILIFF: ...“Your men will fall by the sword, your warriors in battle. The gates of Zion will lament and mourn; destitute...

JEHOVAH: Destitute, she will sit on the ground.”

Guilty. The court is adjourned.

***** SCRIPT PREVIEW *****

****PURCHASE REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCE AND DUPLICATION****

THE END

**Please make the following notation in printed bulletins or other
print pieces related to your performance of this script:**

© ___ Ted & Company TheaterWorks
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

TED & COMPANY THEATERWORKS
PO Box 33, Harrisonburg, VA 22803
866-276-2345
www.tedandcompany.com

SCRIPT
PREVIEW

Purchasing this script grants performance

4

© ___ Ted & Company TheaterWorks. All rights reserved.
PO Box 33, Harrisonburg VA 22803. 866-276-2345
www.tedandcompany.com

Check out a full selection of downloadable videos and scripts at tedandcompany.com