

## **“Torah: A Musical from the Exile”**

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### SYNOPSIS

A play in one act for at least 6 men and 5 women featuring eight original songs. Length is approximately 50 minutes.

In the sixth century B.C.E. in Jerusalem, a young man named Elazar is looking forward to marrying Elizabeth his betrothed within the week. He is, however, having a hard time understanding his father Baruch who serves as scribe to the prophet Jeremiah. No one in the city pays any attention to the oracles of judgment Jeremiah delivers, but Baruch works to faithfully record them in his scrolls. That night from their rooftop, when Baruch shows Elazar the approaching Babylonian soldiers, it all becomes horribly clear. The oracles are being fulfilled! Within a day the city of Jerusalem will fall, and the people will be exiled to Babylon. Baruch entrusts his son with the task of carrying his scrolls of Jeremiah and other holy writings safely to Babylon to be shared with the exiles there.

Early the next morning Elazar rushes to warn Elizabeth. Together they wonder what will become of their love and all their plans for the future in the face of the impending invasion. Later, as the townspeople gather in the marketplace, Baruch tries one last time to warn them of God’s judgment. The hard-hearted people shout him down. Suddenly the Babylonian army storms the marketplace, and the soldiers take everyone there captive.

On the long road to Babylon the captives lament their fate. “All we had is lost,” they cry. “How long, O Lord, until we see our homes again?” Elazar and Elizabeth are reunited and try to comfort the exiles.

Finally in Babylon the displaced people of Judah try to put the pieces together. Will they be able to maintain their faith and identity so far from their land and their temple? The answer, they find, lies in clinging to the Torah, God’s law, the writings that Elazar and others have brought with them to Babylon. In reading and studying God’s word they realize that God has always been faithful to his covenant people, and they can look forward to a day when God will make a new covenant with them and put his law in their hearts.

### SONGS

“In Jerusalem” (People)

“Torah” (Baruch)

“Can Love Be the Same” (Elazar and Elizabeth)

“Quiet, Old Man” (People)

“Exile!” (Soldiers, People)

“How Long, O Lord” (People, Elazar)

“Here in Babylon” (People)

“Torah—Finale” (Elazar, People)

CHARACTERS

BARUCH	Scribe to the prophet Jeremiah, father to Elazar
ELAZAR	young man who carries on Baruch’s work, engaged to Elizabeth
ELIZABETH	engaged to Elazar, encourages the exiles
JONATHAN	friend to Elazar
HANNAH	mother to Rachel and Aaron
AARON	a child of 10-13
RACHEL	a child of 10-13
BENJAMIN	a man from Jerusalem
ABIGAIL	a woman from Jerusalem
REBEKAH	a woman from Jerusalem
SOLDIERS	Babylonian invaders
PEOPLE	citizens of Jerusalem