

A Still Small Voice

written by

Deborah Paulsen

2213 Lone Palm Dr. Wimauma, FL 33598
(813)426-2472
alwaysandforeverproductions@gmail.com and debp73@gmail.com

EXT. A JEWISH CITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. A TIME WHEN A MAN, WHOM SOME CALL A PROPHET, AND OTHERS CALL THE MESSIAH, IS CAUSING HOPE TO SOME AND ANXIETY TO OTHERS HAS BECOMING WELL KNOWN IN 1ST CENTURY MIDDLE EAST. CITY MARKET PLACE AREA. DAY

The town is bustling with people selling in the marketplace. People are calling out to the people passing to come and purchase their food, livestock, birds, and items. There is a place in which a woman is sitting, with multiple children there to listen and learn of the stories of old. The children are intent and eager to hear her stories.

DEBORAH (MIDDLE EASTERN WOMAN, 40)

What do you feel when you are caught in a storm children?

Hands are raised. Deborah points at them all, showing it is hard to choose. When she lands on Ishmael, and points at him.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Oh, it is so hard to choose. You are all my favorite students. But you have not raised your hand in a while Ishmael. What are your thoughts on this, my child?

ISHMAEL (YOUNG BOY, 10)

I'm scared, Deborah. When it storms, I try to be a man. But, that does not change how I feel. I feel scared?

DEBORAH

And who told you, that you are not a man, if you feel scared?

Ishmael shrugs his shoulders and timidly lowers his head.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Do not fear to tell your answer. For this is what happens to even the greatest of men. May I tell you the story, of a man who was afraid of a storm? He is one of the great Prophets of the Torah.

Ismaels eyes brighten up in anticipation and hope. Deborah grins at him, leans in, and begins to tell the story.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

A man named Ahab, arrived at his home, which was a palace.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

He went to his Queen, named Jezebel and told her everything a Prophet had done. Including killing all the prophets of Baal.

INT. A PALACE IN JERUSALEM. AROUND 851 BCE. EVENING

King Ahab (Israelite King in his 40's) and Jezebel (Phoenician Queen, daughter of Priestly King Ethbaal, Queen of a politically arranged marriage to King Ahab), are in their bedchamber quarters. She is very distraught, pulling her hair on yelling in a corner, looking a mess. Makeup of the time, running down her face. She is still in her bedclothes. He is in well adorned Kingly clothing, yelling here and there and then back at her. Pacing the floors.

AHAB

Did you hear me woman? Jezebel, did you not hear me? The Prophet Elijah is responsible for killing your fathers' prophets. The prophets of Baal.

JEZEBEL

Yelling in rage back at Ahab
Yes! Do you think I hear you? My father, the Priest King and ruler of the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon, and my beloved religion have been made a spectacle of! You do not think I heard you?!

AHAB

I am sorry, Ebel, my dear.

JEZEBEL

Now a bit calmer, she is collecting herself. Almost in a bipolar type manner.

I have not heard you call me that name in years, My King, my love.
Ahab.

She gets up, gathers herself, and holds Ahab for a brief moment. She can be seen with a look of getting prepared to seduce him and to use his weakness of leadership, and her manipulation, against him and to her advantage. Jezebel's eyes glint before turning to him, with a convincing and wanting appeal. Which is effective.

JEZEBEL (CONT'D)

You are a King to be reasoned with. My King. Their King. Our King! You have stood against your Kingdom's foolish beliefs, in the one whom they call Yahweh. You did this for my love. For OUR love. And for that you have my heart, my dear. But now my heart is broken. My anger is enraged. Something must be done Ahab! Something must be done! He can't get away with this. He makes a mockery out of us. Out of Baal and the Prophets of Baal. Out of my Father, the High Preist of Baal! My Father Abab! Which also shames You and I!

Jezebel begins to get distraught again and must grab things to hold herself up, so that she doesn't fall to the floor in anxiousness.

I must sit.

AHAB

Then do so, Jezebel. Do what you must. What can I do to help?

She sits on the bed for a moment, with hands in her face. Begins to weep. Then collects herself again. She takes a deep breath. Sits up straight and raises her head with pride. SHE IS THE QUEEN!

JEZEBEL

No! Elijah will not win. I...I am the Queen! And you. You are the King!

Jezebel walks around Ahab, brushing her hair to the side, and his. In a seductive manner, she brushes her hands along his hair, neck, and side, as she walks around him, and over to her vanity chair and table, which holds a clear glass mirror. She grabs a brush, and begins to slowly brush her hair, and remove the manic makeup stains on her face, clearly the way for others to see her immaculate beauty. None that can be compared to of the day. A queen among queens. She now gathers her composure to show her true nature of being strong-willed, stubborn, head-strong, using her luring, seductive appeal.

JEZEBEL (CONT'D)

I am now the keeper of Baal-Melkart, the God of the Land and ruling thereof, as are you. And of Ashtoreth, the Mother Goddess of Fertility.

(MORE)

JEZEBEL (CONT'D)

In which you will bear witness to and of me, my King, my husband. I only ask this of you. Send this message to your Kingdoms prophet. Prophet of Israel's God.

She hands him a letter.

AHAB

What is this?

He reads it, and is shocked. He is conflicted between pleasing his wife, and displeasing the God of Israel and it's people.

AHAB (CONT'D)

Have I not already done enough for you? Shown you my love? This is too far.

JEZEBEL

Is it?

AHAB

The statement you want me to send in this letter is this, "May the God's strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow, I have not killed you just as you killed them." I can not lose you Jezebel, my dear. His God has already struck down all those Prophets of Baal. No second chances. They are dead! What if you are next? Are you not even the slightest bit afraid? You saw what his God did to those Prophets. You could be next! I won't let that happen!

JEZEBEL

I put my life in the God's hands. And so must you. Will you do this one thing for me? I promise, you will have ALL of me. I promise, on my love and faithfulness, in every way, to the Goddess Ashtoreth, and Baal.

AHAB

I do not like it. But I will send it, for you. Justus! Come here!

Various GUARDS (20's to 50's) are standing nearby, with swords at hand.

Ahab stamps the letter with his signet ring to seal it and hands the letter to a guard, JUSTUS (A soldier between his 30's and 50's).

Justus, you are my most trusted soldier. I need you to find the Prophet named Elijah and send this letter, sealed with the Kings seal and let me know immediately, when it has been delivered! Go, now! Time is of the essence, before he causes any more problems.

JUSTUS

Of course, my King. May I ask for freedom to speak?

Jezebel and Ahab look at each other and she nods permission "yes". Ahab hands the guard the letter, shakes his hands and places and arm on his shoulder in permission to speak.

AHAB

Yes, permission granted. You may speak openly and freely Justus. I am curious what you have to say.

JUSTUS

Word has gotten back to me from some of our informants within the city walls, that the Prophet is in hiding, in fear of the Queen.

Justus looks at Jezebel as she glances back and grins. He is taken aback for a moment in distraction, then regains composure again. Looking back at the King. He knows Jezebel is really in control. But the King must be addressed first.

AHAB

Jezebel, enough of this! Do you not think that allowing your religion into Judah was enough? Stop distracting my soldier's and focus on the problem at hand.

Ahab turns now to Justus.

AHAB (CONT'D)

Justus, what is it you are asking or suggesting?

JUSTUS

I am wondering with the level of fear the Prophet is showing, and the protection of the people of the only Prophet of Yahweh that is left, how will we find him? Would you agree that the only way to do so, is to promise he will not be harmed or killed upon his arrest? It is your decision Queen Jezebel and my King. I am at your command.

Justus slaps his hands to the side in respect that he will take the orders that the King and Queen give him.

AHAB

Do whatever she says.

Ahab points at Jezebel and she gets up, moves over to Justus and shows him the letter.

JEZEBEL

Give them what they want. Safety. We just need you to get word to this murderer first. I will take care of him. Mark my word, if he is not caught and killed by tomorrow, I will ask the Gods to take my life in exchange for failing to bring him to justice and to take his. Now do as I say and GO!

JUSTUS

Yes, my Queen. As you have said, so it shall be done.

Justus turns around and commands the other soldiers, who readily follow him. Keenly aware that their lives may be at stake if they fail to accomplish this mission.

JUSTUS (CONT'D)

Soldier's let's go! Move! Let's go!
Move out!

Justus and the other Soldier's take their leave. Ahab and Jezebel are now standing beside each other. Jezebel sits back at her vanity and glass mirror, brushing her hair calmly as she grins with a sense of accomplishment and in anticipation of her blood lust about to happen, to the enemy of her people and her Gods. Ahab, walks over to her, leans down, slowly kisses her neck and shoulder. Pulling down the shoulder of her dress a bit, and then kissing her shoulder. She leans her head towards him as he does so.

AHAB

Done, Jezebel, as you asked. But, at what cost? When this is finished, I expect you to keep YOUR promise, and you will be only mine. Priestess or not.

JEZEBEL

I will do so with pride, duty, and on my own merit. I will be only yours. Ashtoreth, the Goddess of love and Fertility, will bless us with many children, who will rule in your wake. And I, by your side, my love. My only love.

They kiss and she places a headdress, currently posing as a scarf in her own home, around his neck and down his back and pulling him in close. Combing her fingers through his hair. He is fully immersed in her seduction. The allure has worked as they head to the bed and close the curtains to the bed in the bedchamber, Jezebel lays down and Ahab atop of her, as they kiss.

EXT. BEERSHEBA, A TOWN IN JUDAH. 851 BCE. BUSY MARKETPLACE.
DAY

Elijah (Prophet of Israel, male, 30's or older), is frantic, afraid, and on the run, hiding as he goes through the city of Beersheba, a town in Judah. He is hiding behind a corner in the marketplace. He takes one moment, grabs his face in desperation and slumps to the ground to sit and weep into his hands. He looks up and God.

ELIJAH

Why? Where are you? I was the only Prophet who stood for You, Yeh. In the midst of that woman's wrath, temptation, and in the face of death. You brought Your power down from Heaven, and killed the false prophets of Baal, as I knew You would. And now, she is determined to kill me. How, is that justice? What do I do?

A group of Market Goer's, REBECCA, TALIA, and ESTHER (adult Jewish women of various ages) can be seen and heard gossiping. Although they do not know Elijah is there.

REBECCA

Did you hear about the Queen? She is a woman not to be messed with.

(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Would you not agree my friends?
What are your thoughts about her
lack of tolerance for the Prophet
Elijah?

TALIA

Yes, she has no limit. I was told
she said she would prefer to die if
she does not find Elijah and kill
him herself. And I believe her. She
has no mercy. They say she even
prayed to the Gods, for them to
find and kill him and pleaded with
the Gods that if it does not
happen, that they will kill her
instead. Now, that is dedication to
your faith. I admire her. Or fear
her. I am not sure which.

ESTHER

I know some of you have fallen prey
to her lure of worshipping false
idols and gods. But our Queen has
done things that would have been
unimaginable in the past. This is
just too much. Killing our own
prophets and now the prophet
Elijah? Please, tell me you have
not fully given up the sacred
things we learned when we were
young. Or, speaking of fear, that
you fear what Yahweh will do if we
do not turn from our ways. Our
people have done this over and over
and it has never ended well for us.

REBECCA

No, we have not fully fallen prey.
We just believe in keeping our
options open. In being, open
minded. I mean, for our own safety,
we must adjust to our situation. We
all know that Ahab is not the one
really ruling our Kingdom. It is
Jezebel. She has him wrapped around
her finger. And if Adonai is the
one true God, we are His people.
So, we can not lose. That is the
way I see it. We are His Chosen
people.

TALIA

She is right. We should have
learned lessons from long ago.

(MORE)

TALIA (CONT'D)

But I for one, am afraid to say that to anyone but you two. We all have seen what our Queen is capable of. We know that she will not stop, until she finds Elijah and does to him what she said she would do. Kill him. Just like she did to the other Prophets. He is all we have left. Let's just pray for him.

ESTHER

I will pray and I for one, do not plan to bow down to false idols. No matter what happens to me. I am responsible for my own actions. I know the Lord will honor that and protect me for worshipping Him alone. The One true God. Just as the Torah commands us to do. I will do. I hope Elijah flees and finds a place to hide and can truly hear the voice of the Lord. One can only hope. Yes?

They all nod and speak words of agreement.

The three women begin to pray on behalf of the city of Judah, for the Lord to protect Elijah and their people, and if they have done wrong for God to guide them back to Him. For him to hear the voice of the Lord.

Distraught, Elijah is glancing around the corner of where he his hiding. His Servant, BEMJAMIN (20's male), places his hands on Elijah's shoulder.

BENJAMIN

We must go. People are talking about you everywhere. The queen's army is looking for you. Breaking in doors even.

ELIJAH

Then I must go.

BENJAMIN

I will grab your things. Let's go Elijah!

ELIJAH

Benjamin, you are MY servant. Wait for a moment, for me to talk to God, to listen, for me to hear Him so He can guide me. We must wait!

A group of men are seen gossiping near some livestock being sold. Soldiers are moving from door to door, and around the Marketplace, demanding to know where the prophet Elijah is. Frightening the patrons and Marketplace workers.

JEREMIAH

Do you see all these soldiers,
Whisper, men.

Jeremiah begins to look even more intently at the other men he is speaking with and whispers loud enough to be heard clearly by the other men. He keeps looking around for soldiers, in a paranoid manner.

We do not want them to know we are followers of Yahweh as well. There are very few of us left who will not bow down to the alters of Baal. And you have seen what happens when someone stands up against that evil woman, Jezebel! People die!

ZECHARAIAH

They are everywhere. Like fleas on a dog! They will never stop, until they find him. He is dead already.

JEREMIAH

What do you think, Nemiah?

NEHMIAH

I think that when a Prophet mocks your Prophets, pours water on his own wood so that others will know that when the flames come down from Heaven, and the flame burns brighter than theirs, consuming even their wood, AND those prophets die. I think it is time to maybe evaluate if our God is the one true God. I am not sure what part of that the enemies of Yahweh are not getting.

Nemiah shrugs his shoulders, in not quite understanding why they are not fearful of Yahweh. The other men either shake their head and nod in agreement.

ZEKARIAH

Here comes a soldier. Act like you are buying an animal.

A soldier approaches, as the men stop talking about the prophets and switch to small talk with the market stand owner about the livestock. Ad lib occurs between the three men and owner, HAGRAN (Middle Eastern Woman in her 50's).

JEREMIAH

Yes, how much for the goat?

HAGARAN (50'S WOMAN)

I have been here for many years, as you know. I believe you can use two goats? Huh?

JEREMIAH

Oh yes, Hagaran. You know me well. Which means you can not take coins from me that easily. However, with that smile, you know you are the best saleswoman here and that gets me every time. How much for two goats? I do need more goats milk and cheese.

HAGARAN

For you, my friend, it will be 2 shekels. As long as you come back and buy fresh eggs from me tomorrow. You will bless your wife and she will bless you with a beautiful meal, of that I am sure.

A soldier interrupts them.

JUSTUS

By order of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, tell me woman, if you have seen the Prophet Elijah!

HAGARAN

I worship many gods; I would tell you if I saw that man. But, no, I have not seen his pass by here today.

ZEKARIAH

I think I saw him earlier leave the city. Heading that way.

Zekariah points in a random direction. The soldier leaves. Commanding the other soldiers to come along with him. They all follow. Riding off on their horses. In a hurry. The men are given their two goats and they begin to walk away with them. Standing to the side to talk, so they can't be heard.

For fear of the Queen and her fanatical devotion to Baal and other Gods.

NEMIAH

They are gone. We can speak freely now. Did you really see him go that way?

ZEKARIAH

No, but this prophet is all we have left. So, I sent them the direction I am guessing he would NOT go.

JEREMIAH

How do you know he wouldn't go that way? Was it because the Mountain of the Lord is in the other direction and you believe that is where Elijah may go?

ZECHARAIAH

He is a prophet. He hates idol worship. That direction is where the idols are erected in masses. I know because I risk my life every day, walking around them to go home. I will not compromise my faith. Even if it leads to death.

JEREMIAH

Death, I fear we will no longer have any of Yah's Prophets left with us soon. Elijah must die or the Queen promised to allow her gods to take her life. I think she believes she is one of those Gods. She will stop at nothing. Be prepared men, to be left alone soon. The prophets of old are gone. Who will be left, that can hear the voice of the Lord? Who will guide us? Who will lead us?

NEMIAH

I don't know.

Nemiah, looks in the direction of the soldier's and then in a worried way, in the direction of the mountain of the Lord.

NEMIAH (CONT'D)

I just don't know. We can only hope. And pray. Pray that Adonai will hear us as well.

(MORE)

NEMIAH (CONT'D)

Pray that through the chaos, the Prophet Elijah will somehow be able to hear the voice of the Lord still.

The men look concerned, as they walk away.

EXT. BEERSHEBA JUDAH MARKETPLACE. DAY

BENJAMIN

You heard what they said Elijah, my Teacher. You will die if you stay here. It is my job to serve you. I have done so with joy and peace in my heart. Let me take your things, and help you. Allow me to do my duty, and serve you. By helping you and protecting you.

ELIJAH

No, I must go alone. Yahweh is my Protector. And He alone is who I will rely on. You have served me for years and I am thankful for that. But, I am going. And again, I am going alone. This is my battle Benjamin. Not yours. It is too dangerous, and like the other Prophets that Jezebel shamelessly took the lives of, I may be next. Only the Lord knows. You must stay behind.

BENJAMIN

No! I won't leave you!

ELIJAH

Are you my servant?

BENJAMIN

Of course. I have dedicated my life to serving you and the Lord Elijah. Please, do not throw that away. Do not throw me away!

ELIJAH

Do you believe that I, your master, hears the voice of God?

BENJAMIN

You know I do Elijah. You know I do. Why would you ask such a thing?

ELIJAH

Then trust me. This journey will be long and dangerous. I may not come back alive. I am not letting that happen to you as well, my friend and loyal servant.

Elijah puts his hand on Benjamin's shoulder, hands him a wine skin, and some provisions. Benjamin begins to shed some tears. Elijah looks into his friend's eyes.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He shine His face upon you, and give you His peace.

BENJAMIN

I hear the soldiers again. They must have caught on to the fact that you did not show any tracks or signs of going that way. What do I do?

ELIJAH

Hide for a while, until it is time to come out. Do what I have taught you. Fervently pray, and focus on hearing from the Lord, and let Him guide you. Not me! Now go, my friend and faithful servant. You have my blessings. You are free.

Benjamin, leaves, but not without looking back at Elijah sadly. He looks over at the soldiers and rushes off into the back streets. Sneakily and hastily walking, running away.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

I have done everything you told me to. Including letting my only the one most loyal to me go free. The person who would have kept me from feeling isolated. Now I am alone, afraid for my life, and the only prophet left. Should I just allow them to take me and die? Why God? Why let me get this far and kill all those you found detestable. It is Your people who are corrupted. Not me! Yet, it feels like I am the one being punished. I have served you faithfully, believed you, spread the truth that You give to me. This makes no sense Lord.

(MORE)

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

No sense at all! What do I do now?
What do I do?

He drops to the ground again, holding his hands in his face. Looking up helplessly at the bright, hot sun, with sweat pouring down his face, and a look of desperate fear. He hears some windchimes as he is about to get up and expose himself to the soldiers, to just let himself die and save himself from the long agony of waiting for it to happen. He has sand in his hands that he lets fall, upon hearing the windchimes. He glances over to see LEAH (Middle Eastern Woman, 30's) market seller with many windchimes.

LEAH

Windchimes, get your windchimes. We have them made of shells, rock, glass. Beautiful windchimes. Enjoy the sound of the gentle breeze. Windchimes!

Elijah hears a gentle breeze and sound of the wind. It appears to be guiding him in the opposite direction as the three men had sent the soldiers. It almost sounds as though the wind is saying, "go". Quietly, softly, but if he listens close, it is unmistakably being said and he is being guided. It increasingly gets louder, until he can no longer ignore it.

He follows the dusts direction that it is being blown in. The winds seem to make the sounds of Heavenly Hosts singing in a longing way. He gathers himself, stands, brushes himself off, stumbling a bit. Keeps getting back up, and walks in that direction, out of the city and into a wilderness. He goes by, unnoticed, as he places a headscarf over his head and some of his face.

EXT. DESERT WILDERNESS. DAY

Tripping as he goes. Grasping the ground and watching the sand fall through his hand, in the desert. Elijah stares into the sun. Longing for death to come. Elijah begins to grumble and complain to God.

ELIJAH

If only I still had my servant.
But, no, I am called to be the
servant of the Lord. Yet, this is
where I am.

Elijah begins to become angry and kick at the sand. Reaching to the ground and then throwing the sand to nothing, in frustration.

(MORE)

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

I wish I was with my brothers who died at the hands of Jezebel. At least they no longer have to endure this pain, loneliness, hunger, thirst. This heat! It is unbearable. My lips are dry and there is no water to be seen. This? This! Is this my end? Is this the way I will die? Adonai! Where are you?

Elijah gasps as he sees a spot in the distance that looks like a tree. It is so hot, that it is almost unbearable. He rushes to get to the tree. Exhausted, and stumbling. But, determined to reach it. He reaches does reach it and is now sitting under a broom tree. Emotions have a chance to grasp him as he feels a gentle breeze and a moment of shade.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

I have had enough, LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my brothers, Your Prophets, who have already died!

After he has collapsed from emotional turmoil, Elijah is still complaining and loudly whispering to God, that he wants to die. Pleading with Him to just end the pain and free him from this suffering, fear, chaos, and storm he is enduring in life. He falls asleep begging God to let him die. With a solitary tear, running down his face, in desperation.

EXT. BESIDE A FIRE. NEAR A ROCK. UNDER THE TREE. EVENING

Elijah is sleeping. Nighttime sounds can be heard as the ambiance of the evening. A gentle breeze gives the sound of an Angel, which awakens Elijah. Who not only hears the sound of an angel but sees one? The Angel is touching Elijah. Elijah wakes with a startle. And gazes bewildered at the Angel of the Lord.

ELIJAH

Who are you? What are you? Who sent you to me? How did you get here and know how to find me? Did that woman send you? Will she not be satisfied until every Prophet of Yahweh is dead?

ANGEL

Get up and eat Elijah, Prophet of Yahweh, for the LORD sees you and hears your cry for help.

Elijah looks around and there beside his head is some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So, he eats and drinks and then lays down again. He looks around, but the Angel is gone. He falls back asleep, with the fire still flickering, and all that can be heard is the gentle whisper of the wind. It sounds almost as though he can hear the breeze say "rest".

EXT. STILL BY THE FIRE IN THE DESERT WILDERNESS. EVENING

Elijah can be seen sleeping, with the crackling of the fire sound being heard, crickets, and other evening outdoor sounds of the desert. Elijah's eyes are closed, as he rests. A hand can be seen touching his shoulder to awake him. Elijah's eyes quickly widen in yet again, a surprise.

ANGEL

Get up and eat some more, or your journey ahead will be too much for you.

The food being cooked over the heat of the stones is enough for Elijah to be fed for many days. He is much surprised at the sight of so much food and drink, just for him.

ELIJAH

I am blessed by the favor of the Lord. This is enough food to feed me for at least forty days.

ANGEL

Take these wine skins and bring the drink with you for your journey, for it will be long and difficult, but the Lord will be with you. Listen closely, and you WILL hear Him.

The Angel of the Lord hands Elijah full wine skins for the journey, and some empty ones. Elijah fills the containers with water for the journey that happens to now be in a nearby clay jar. He also packs some of the bread that was left over on the stones, for rations for the journey as well. He has a look of content at the provision on his face, but also of concern due to the warning. It will be a long road ahead, and he knows it.

EXT. WALKING TOWARDS A MOUNTAIN. DAY

Elijah has found a donkey, which he has placed the few supplies and rations he has upon. He throws packs up and throws the blanket and leather bag over the animal.

They are looking at a mountain and he pats the donkey, and they begin to walk.

ELIJAH

We made it my friend. Mount Sinai.
The Mountain of Yahweh. There is no
safer place for us to be, but
there. You will see my friend.

They walk for miles. Then take a break and rest. Elijah gets out his food and wine skins. Opens them and begins to pray.

Lord, Adonai, Yah, we thank you for
provision, and for allowing us to
arrive at this safe place. Your
Mountain. Where Your Prophet can
sleep in peace. Amen, Amen, and
Amen.

Elijah and the donkey walk more slowly as the sun begins to fade, towards the mountain. Although they should be running, they are walking at the pace of exhaustion. The day begins to fade into evening. The sun can be seen setting. They spot a cave in the distance. When evening approaches, they arrive at the cave, go inside, light a fire, and collapse to sleep for the evening. As Elijah begins to fall asleep, he calmly, contently, breaths in and out in relief. When he breathes, the dust on the ground of the cave blows gently, and a faint sound of windchimes seems to be resonating from the calm breath of wind. A welcoming sound, although it sounds as though it may be coming from outside. But there are no windchimes.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

It must be the sound of the Lord
speaking to us, my loyal companion.

Elijah throws the donkey a piece of fruit that he has in his bag of food supplies for the journey. The donkey happily eats it.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Adonai must be telling us to get
our rest, after we endured the long
journey. And...we made it safely,
without the Queen getting her way.
Goodnight, my faithful friend.

Elijah looks away from the donkey, and now looks up, as though he is talking to God, while he lays on his back and prepares sleep. A blanket he brought is draped over his body. Finally, a peaceful night's rest in this Holy Mountain cave, of Mount Sinai.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Thank you, Lord...thank you...thank
you Adonai.

Elijah falls fast asleep.

INT. CAVE ON MOUNT SINAI. EVENING

Dream sequence: Elijah is dreaming that he is back at the marketplace. Memories of the gossip is being replayed in his mind. He then dreams of the sound of the windchimes again, guiding him to safety. He gasps for a moment and wakes up, looking around, pondering where he is. Forgetting he is in the cave on the mountain. He then hears a voice and looks forward, into the direction the voice is coming from.

VOICE OF THE LORD

What are you doing here, Elijah?

Elijahs eyes widen. He is in awe of the Lord, but angry, fearful, sad, loves and fears the Lord and his behaviors reflect this conflict inside him. He quickly sits up, then stands. Speaking in the direction he hears the voice.

ELIJAH

I have zealously served the Lord
God Almighty. But the people of
Israel have broken their covenant
with you. Torn down Your alters and
killed every one of Your Prophets.
I am the ONLY one left, and now
they are trying to kill me too!

Elijah is nervous, but angry and frustrated, saddened, confused, a mix of emotions yet again and begins to cry out to the Lord. He wants clarity.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Why did the Lord allow all this to happen and why is You still allowing it to happen? Why have You been silent, not able to be heard, to I and my brothers who served You until death? Why have you not spoken to us in the chaos? Until now, I have not been able to hear Your voice. I do NOT understand Lord!

VOICE OF THE LORD

Go out and stand before Me on the
Mountain.

Elijah turns around and as he does, he is actually standing on the mountain again. Exactly in the area he fell asleep. He looks out of the cave and over the mountain to the valleys.

But then the Lord passes. You can't see His face. No, He is too Holy. But you can see the back of Him and His body. The Lord has brown hair, and he is clothes by a pure white robe. The Lord passes by the cave. Looking forward as he passes. After He passes, a mighty windstorm passes the mountain. It is so windy that Elijah's blankets blow away, his clothing is flowing fiercely. So much so, Elijah must hold them tight. He grabs any items he has and crouches down and covers his head for safety.

ELIJAH

Lord, the rocks are tearing lose
and flying away. They will hit me,
or my animal. Where are You oh
Lord? Where are you? Come back.
Please! Save your servant!

The storm dies down and there is silence.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Lord, where were You? You were not
in the wind. Show Yourself to Your
servant. Please!

Then a great Earthquake hit, when Elijah had finished praying.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Is this all I get from You Yahweh?
A storm and now an Earthquake.
Silence, yet again. Clearly, you
are NOT here! Here I am. Left
alone. In danger. Just kill me and
get it over with Lord! Did You hear
me? Please, just get it over with!

When Elijah finished praying, silence happened yet again. He slumps to the floor, grabbing his face, crying. He is on his knees in desperation.

It is silent and the only thing that can be heard for a moment is Elijah and his cries. Then, a lightning bolt hits with a crack. It catches everything nearby on fire, the wind blows fiercely and causes the fire to spread. Elijah is coughing and covering his mouth and nose. He stands and hides in a corner of the cave and waits for the firestorm to pass. When it is finished, Elijah is gets extremely frustrated at the Lord.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

This is too much Lord! Did You hear
me? This is too much! You were not
in the wind, not in the Earthquake,
and neither are You in the fire.

(MORE)

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Let me, your servant, hear Your
voice one last time before I die.
Grant me this one request.

Elijah becomes quiet and hopeless when he hears nothing. Sobbing, one last time. This time, not bitterly. He cries in giving up. But then, a soft and gentle breeze begins to blow. The windchimes can be heard again, within the gentle breeze. It sounds as though someone is talking through the gentle breeze. He covers his face with his cloak, due to the smoke from the fire storm. He nears the entrance of the cave to get a better listen to the voice in the wind. The wind is giving a sound, as though it is saying, "why are you here, Elijah?". It grows louder and louder, until it can be heard clearly.

VOICE OF THE LORD

What are you doing here, Elijah?

ELIJAH

As I have said, I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you and tore down Your alters and killed every one of Your Prophets. I am the ONLY one left, and now they are trying to kill me too! You seem to be trying to kill me too? That is how it appears. Look around me.

Elijah gestures to the damage of the scorched mountain, the smoke in the cave, the mess the wind and storm made, and his torn clothes.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Why Lord? I ask You yet again, as your humble servant. Why? I have only loved and served You! Why have you brought this destruction upon me? What do You want me to hear? What do You want me to do?

VOICE OF THE LORD

Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. Then anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi to be King of Israel, and anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-Meholah, to replace You as my Prophet.

(MORE)

VOICE OF THE LORD (CONT'D)

Anyone who escapes from Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and those who escape Jehu will be killed by Elisha! Yet, I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or kissed him!

ELIJAH

There are others? I am not the only Prophet who survived Jezebel and her wrath?

Elijah falls to his knees and bows to the Lord, amazed at His grace and mercy. Crying tears of joy now.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

You are Yahweh, Lord and Jehovah, El Roi, The God Who See's, El Olam, The Everlasting God, El Elyon, The Most High God. You are Adonai, my Lord and Master, Jehovah Nissi, The Lord Who is My Banner and Miracle, and I am Your humble servant. I will do as You say.

EXT. MOUNT SINAI. DAY

A rush of wind can be heard and the voice can no longer be heard. But, the Lord spoke with a still small voice. Elijah looks at the Donkey and begins to speak to him.

ELIJAH

Oh, my dear companion, if only you could talk. Did you hear that? We have another long journey ahead of us and much to do. Let us go, my friend.

The donkey brays for a moment, then Elijah begins to gather his things, place them on the donkey, grabs the lead (the rope around the donkey's face and neck, used to guide the animal) looks over the long mountain expanse, takes a deep breath and they begin on their journey, with renewed confidence that they will be accomplishing the will of the Lord Most High. They can be seen walking further and further, until they only appear as a dot in the expanse of the mountain desert.

EXT. A JEWISH CITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. A TIME WHEN A MAN, WHOM SOME CALL A PROPHET, AND OTHERS CALL THE MESSIAH, IS CAUSING HOPE TO SOME AND ANXIETY TO OTHERS AND IS BECOMING WELL KNOWN IN 1ST CENTURY JERUSALEM. MARKET PLACE AREA. DAY

We see Deborah, sitting with the students on the ground, legs crossed, quietly, and suspensefully listening.

LILAH (JEWISH GIRL, 8 YEARS OLD)
Raising her hand zealously. Deborah smiles and laughs a bit at her eagerness.
Me, me, me, Ms. Deborah, my turn.

CALEB (YOUNG BOY)
Girls! They always want to talk.

MICAH (YOUNG BOY)
I know Caleb. I have a sister too and that is all she does.

Micah turns to Ismael and talks to him.

MICAH (CONT'D)
Does your sister talk as much at home as she does when we are learning our Torah lessons Ismael?

ISHMAEL
You have no idea Micah. No idea.

Ishmael looks at his sister, with a brotherly grin, then back at the boys and all three boys laugh for a moment. Ishmael then glances back at Deborah to hear the rest of her lesson.

DEBORAH
Sisters...and brothers...are a blessing of the Lord, are they not? I say yes. You would be so bored without each other.

CALEB
That is up for question.

MICAH
I agree with Caleb.

Deborah smiles at the children and then looks towards Lilah.

DEBORAH
Yes, Lilah. What is your question my dear child? I love your eagerness.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Do you all not see the glow on her face. She loves to learn. I love that.

LILAH

There is another Prophet who told us, that the Lord wants people to come to Him as a child. He spoke to us the other day. His Name is Yeshua. Have you heard of Him? What does that mean?

DEBORAH

Yes, yes I have. I, and all our people, including your parents I imagine, are still learning what this new Prophet, means in His teachings. This Rabbi, Teacher, Prophet, who knows...maybe the Messiah, is making us all question a lot of things.

Deborah pauses for a moment to let the children chatter about her statement, watches them excitedly and curiously talk, and then reals them back in.

But I agree that those are wise words you heard Him say. I think it means to come to the Lord with eagerness, expecting, belief in Him, just as you are doing right now Lilah. As all of you children are doing. Now, what did you want to say about the story of the Prophet Elijah? Or ask me?

LILAH

What happened to the woman, Jezebel? Did she live, did she turn to God, did Elijah live?

ISHMAEL

You have so many questions Lilah.

DEBORAH

Let me also ask Ishmael a question first.

Deborah turns to Ishmael and the other boys who were talking about sisters, and leans in to speak to him.

You boys were talking about sisters. Yes, I know it was in jest.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

But we sometimes treat our own family different because we are so close to them, love them, but feel comfortable enough to maybe treat them with less respect than we should. This is what the Israelites did to God. Elijah stood in the gap for the children of God and gave them the message God said to give them. Even when they turned away from Him. Because He loves us so much.

LILAH

But, you did not answer the question Deborah. Did he find the 7,000 Prophets, did he kill Jezebel, did he find Elisha, what happened to Elijah? Did he...

ISHMAEL

LILIAH...slow down. Our teacher will not be able to understand you, let alone hear you if you keep talking so fast. Take a breath sister.

Ishmael turns from his sister to Deborah, with a little grunt of frustration with Lilah.

I'm sorry Deborah, she has been so excited since she heard Yeshua teach us children the other day.

DEBORAH

Well, if this Teacher has generated this much interest, I must go see Him myself. Soon. But, for now, let me answer your sisters' questions.

ISHMAEL

I understand. I am just trying to help. It is my job. I am her older brother you know.

DEBORAH

And a good one at that. Lilah is blessed, as you are Ismael. To have each other. Speaking of having each other. The Lord did spare the 7,000 Israelite Prophets who would not bow down to Baal. He was not alone.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

He did find Elisha, who became a great Prophet and helped bring idol worship to an end, which helped the Israelites to go back to the one true God, Yahweh. Praise be to Adonai.

CHILDREN

Praise be to Adonai.

LILAH

And Jezabel? What happened to her. I hope she turned to the Lord. I hope God had mercy on her and she lived.

DEBORAH

Well, my dear. I would like to say that she did. But she did not. And the Lord kept his promise. You see, I would like everything in the world to be beautiful. But some people are beautiful on the outside but choose not to be on the inside. She decided to stay bitter on the inside. We all have free will. Each and every one of us!

LILAH

No! I don't like that ending.

ISHMAEL

I like it! Blood and guts and all kinds of exciting things. And the man, Elijah, was faced with being killed and still followed the Lord. I like him. I want to be just like him! I bet there were blood and guts everywhere after Elijah did what God said. I wish I was there to see it!

LILAH

Ishmael, that is disgusting! That is not exciting, it is sad. What a sad ending. Why?

(Ishmael laughs at his sister's response)

CHILDREN

All the children are picking a side and add libbing there own thoughts. Some say "I want to be like Elijah", others are saying "that is a horrible ending", and more.

SHILOH, NAOMI, AND JOHANNA (THREE
YOUNG GIRLS)

Add lib back and forth talk of the girls agreeing and yet not agreeing with the others thoughts about Jezebel's ending.

SHILOH

Ewwweee, that is nasty!

NAOMI

Ewwweee, that is disgusting!
I know, I do not like that ending
either.

JOHANNA

You girls are too sensitive.

SHILOH

How would you like to end like
that? Don't you at least feel a
little sorry for Jezebel?

JOHANNA

I would not have bowed down to
Baal, let alone kill Gods people.

NAOMI

Johanna does have a point, Shiloh.

SHILOH

I know. It is still disgusting
though, what Ishmael said.

JOHANNA

Well, he is a boy, what do you
expect.

The girls get a little laugh. Ishamel does not appear to be bothered by their response.

ISHMAEL

I just speak the truth. I am sorry
if your stomachs are too sensitive
to handle it.

DEBORAH

Enough children. You are all
entitled to your opinion. But there
are many lessons to learn in this
story. One, do not let bitterness
root itself in you. Do not give in
to others, if it defies what is
Adonai's best for us.

(MORE)

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

For HE alone knows what is good for us. What is better. And...

ISHMAEL

And we should not always look for the Lord in the storms of life. But, in the still small voice, the gentle whispers, the soft breeze.

DEBORAH

Exactly, what does that mean to you all?

The children are quiet and do not know how to answer the question.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

This is a safe place to share your thoughts. But I think it is wise for you to go home and think about this and share your thoughts with us tomorrow. I can't wait to hear what you think.

Deborah grabs some snacks out of her bag, and begins to hand the children some dates and other snacks out of her cloth within her bag that is beside her. The children are happy and ready to eat after a long day of learning. They begin to talk to each other about how hungry they are and happy to eat.

Who is hungry for a snack before your Emah and Abba come to get you?

CHILDREN

Me, me, me!

DEBORAH

Do not worry, there is enough for everyone. Now, who listened? That was not a statement, it was a question, who thinks that they can recall the reading that I taught you and go back to tell your families what you learned? You can be THEIR teachers! How fun would that be, for YOU to be the one to teach them? Hmmm...

The children all raise their hands, saying "me", "I can", "I do", "I remember it".

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Then lets say it together.

The Children and Deborah, as a group, start to quote the reading.

CHILDREN AND DEBORAH (CONT'D)

But, after the wind, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind, there came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper, a still small voice.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

And who was the still small voice, that we all must listen closely to be able to hear? Even in the middle of the storms of life?

LILAH

God!

SHILOH

Adonai!

NAOMI

The Lord!

ISHMAEL

Yahweh. But what if life gets too loud. What if we go through too many storms and can't hear Him?

DEBORAH

Then we do what we must, to quiet ourselves and listen to...

ISHMAEL AND LILAH

Ishmael and Lilah look at each other and say this sentence in unison and agreeingly, smile.

A still small voice

Deborah smiles, closes her eyes, and hears a voice in the darkness of her closed eyes.

YESHUA (V.O.)

Suffer the little children to come unto Me, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Deborah opens her eyes, and a determined look and a glint of a determined smile comes across her face. With the raise of an eyebrow.

DEBORAH

Exactly, a still small voice.