

## Introduction

I thought a little background into how our Sukkot play came about was in order so that you can fully appreciate the heart and love, not to mention the hard work we at Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue put into it. I was raised in an Evangelical Christian home and it was our tradition every year on Christmas morning to read the account of the birth of Messiah before opening presents. That is a memory I cherish from my Christian upbringing. In my early 20s, I started learning about the Messianic movement, and was captivated by the blessings in G-d's Torah.

As a non-Jewish Messianic believer, I choose not to celebrate the birth of the Savior in the Christian manner, but to recognize that He was born during Sukkot (from studying, it seems to be the most logical probability, although I am aware of alternate views in the Messianic movement). In more recent years, my congregation has emphasized the feast of Sukkot more, with the hope to bring it to greater attention in the Body of Messiah at large, just as Passover has. I felt a tug for something more.

Sometimes in the Messianic movement, we are accused of having too much emphasis on Torah and not enough of Yeshua. I beg to differ, of course, but that is another discussion for another time. An idea sparked in my heart in June of 2015, with the childhood remembrance of the family Christmas morning reading. How could we incorporate the telling of Yeshua's birth in its Biblical context as part of our Sukkot celebration? Well, maybe we could read it, I thought. That seemed sort of cut and dry to me. What if a father read the story to his children? That would be a perfect "l'dor v'dor" passing-on of the story, one generation telling the next! And they could be sitting together in a sukkah during the telling!

I hit some roadblocks along the way, but with the encouragement of Catherine Currier, my best friend, and co-writer of the Sukkot play, it was written! I really couldn't have done it without her. She filled in all the places that I got stuck on and supported the project all the way through. We made 32 costumes in 4 weeks with a team of several people, including 3 seamstresses. Catherine painted for many hours the backdrops that were wooden frames covered with canvas. These frames were built by a man in our congregation, who also played the part of the Abba/Narrator. Many of the children in our congregation played shepherds, angels, or crowd members. Teenagers and adults carried the harder parts.

You will note as you read the script that most of the actual story is quoting from the Tree of Life Bible, within copyright permission stated in the front of the book. I believe the TLV to be the perfect setting for this play because its vision is complementary to the vision of this play.

Additionally, but most importantly, I wanted for someone to come to faith in Yeshua as a result of this play. God heard my prayer; A coworker, whom I had invited, came to the play and our Shabbat service every week after. She professed faith in Yeshua only 3 months later! Hallelujah! It brings tears of joy to my eyes every time I think of how I was so blessed to take part in a new birth! All of that hard work was worth it! It is my prayer that others will come to faith in Yeshua!

I would love to hear any stories that come from *your* play as well! I also ask that the text of the script be respected. If you want to contact me, you may email me at [mourning2dancing.af@gmail.com](mailto:mourning2dancing.af@gmail.com).

In Messiah,

Abigail Fatkins - Co-Writer of "Sukkot: A Time of Joy! A Play of the Birth of the Messiah"

Runtime approx. 27-03 minutes  
DISPLAY SUKKOT PLAY GRAPHIC\*\*\*

**Sukkot: A Time of Joy!**  
**A Play of the Birth of the Messiah**

Dedication Graphic\*\*\*

This play is dedicated, "so that you may know for sure the truth of the words that you have been taught." Luke 1:4 TLV

Scene 1 Family Sukkah Scene

Abba: Well, it's that time of year again! Lots of festivities like dancing and music and special food...and camping! (raises arms to show sukkah) Who remembers what we are celebrating this week?

Sukkah child 1: (raises hand first) G-d made us live in sukkot in the wilderness a long, long time ago.

Abba: That's right! What else?

Sukkah child 2: (kinda jumps up with lulav in hands) We shake a lulav!

Abba: Yes!

Ima: Who knows what else we call this holy day?

Sukkah child 1: The Feast of Tabernacles!

Ima: Very good! We follow G-d's command to live in this tabernacle of sorts to help us remember the amazing miracles He did for our people.

Abba: There's one more thing we celebrate...who knows what it is?

Sukkah child 3 jumps excitedly: It's Yeshua's birthday!!!!

Abba: Yes! Very good! Yeshua was born during the feast of Sukkot.

Sukkah child 3: Are we gonna read the Birthday story now, Abba?

Abba: Yes, let's read it together. (Displays TLV Bible in an obvious way)

(Transition music - )

## SCENE 2 Temple Scene

(Jerusalem sign projected on the wall)

(Zachariah enters wearing priestly garments when his name is mentioned, and Elizabeth enters also.)

Abba/Narrator reads:

In the days of Herod, King of Judah, there was a kohen named Zachariah from the priestly division of Abijah. Elizabeth, his wife, was from the daughters of Aaron. Together they were righteous before Ad-nai, walking without fault in all His commandments and instructions. But they were childless, because Elizabeth was barren and both of them were elderly.

(Cue "Kadosh" music and Elizabeth leaves)

Abba/Narrator continues: Now it happened to be Zachariah's time to serve as kohen before Ad-nai in the order of his division. According to the custom of the priestly office, it became his lot to enter the Holy Place of Ad-nai to burn incense. And the whole crowd of people was praying outside at the hour of incense burning.

CUE ANGEL \*\*

Abba/Narrator: An angel of Ad-nai appeared to him, at the right side of the altar of incense.

(Zachariah is afraid)

ANGEL Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Zachariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to your son. And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth. He will be great before Ad-nai; and he should not drink wine and intoxicating beverage, but he will be filled with the Ruach ha-Kodesh just out of his mother's womb. Many of Bnei-Yisrael will turn to Ad-nai their G-d. And he will go before Him in the spirit and the power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient ones to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready for Ad-nai a prepared people.

Zachariah: How will I know this for certain? I am an old man, and my wife is well-advanced in age.

Angel Gabriel: I am Gabriel, the one standing in G-d's presence. I was commissioned to tell you and proclaim to you this good news. So look, you will be silent and powerless to speak until the day these things happen, since you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their time.

(Fade out "Kadosh")

Crowd member 1: What's taking Zachariah so long?

Crowd member 2: Yeah! He's been in there quite a while!

Crowd member 1: Oh look, here he comes!

(Zachariah finally comes out but cannot speak. He makes signs at the people.)

Crowd member 3: What could this mean?

Crowd member 4: Have you had a vision, Zachariah? (Zachariah nods vigorously)

Narrator: When Zachariah completed the days of his service, he went home. After these days, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and hid herself for five months.

Elizabeth: (pregnant and overjoyed) Ad-nai has done this for me! In these days He looked upon me, to take away my disgrace among the people.

### SCENE 3 Nazareth Scene

(Nazareth sign on the projector, Miriam enters first and Gabriel enters when his name is said)

Narrator: Then in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by Ad-nai into a town in Galilee named Natzeret and to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Miriam.

Gabriel: Shalom, favored one! Ad-nai is with you.

(Miriam looks perplexed, wondering)

Gabriel continues: Do not be afraid, Miriam, for you have found favor with G-d. Behold, you will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you shall call His name Yeshua. He will be great and will be called Ben-Elyon. Ad-nai Elohim will give Him the throne of David, His father. He shall reign over the house of Jacob for all eternity, and His kingdom will be without end.

Miriam: How can this be, since I am not intimate with a man?

Gabriel: The Ruach-ha-Kodesh will come upon you, and the power of Elyon will overshadow you. Therefore the Holy One being born will be called Ben-Elohim. Behold, even your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age; and the one who was called barren is six months pregnant. For nothing will be impossible with G-d.

Miriam: Behold, the servant of Ad-nai. Let it be done to me according to your word.

(Gabriel leaves.)

## SCENE 4 Visiting Scene

Narrator: Miriam quickly traveled to see Elizabeth. When Miriam greeted Elizabeth, the baby leaped in Elizabeth, and she was completely filled with the Ruach HaKodesh!

Elizabeth (with a great shout): You are blessed among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Who am I, that the mother of my Master should come to me? For even when I just heard the sound of your greeting in my ear, the unborn child leaped with joy in my womb. Blessed is she who trusted that there would be a fulfillment of those things spoken to her by Ad-nai.

Miriam with raised hands: My soul magnifies Ad-nai, and my spirit greatly rejoices in G-d, my Savior. For He has looked with care upon the humble state of His maidservant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done a great thing for me, and holy is His Name. And His mercy is from generation to generation to the ones who fear Him. He has displayed power with His arm. He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down rulers from thrones and exalted humble ones. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent away the rich empty-handed. He has helped His servant, remembering His mercy, just as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Narrator: Miriam stayed for 3 months and returned home.

## SCENE 5 Joseph's Dream Scene

(Joseph enters looking thoughtful, then lies down to sleep)

Narrator: Miriam was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together she was found to be pregnant, through the Ruach ha-Kodesh. And Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, made up his mind to dismiss her secretly. But while he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Ad-nai appeared to him in a dream.

Unnamed Angel (Standing behind sleeping Joseph): Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Miriam as your wife, for the Child conceived in her is from the Ruach ha-Kodesh. She will give birth to a son; and you shall call His name Yeshua, for He will save His people from their sins.

Narrator: Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by Ad-nai through the prophet saying, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which means "G-d with us." When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of Ad-nai commanded him and took Miriam as his wife.

## SCENE 6 Bethlehem Scene

(Bethlehem sign on projector)

(Transition music - ? and Miriam and Joseph enter when they are mentioned)

Narrator: Now it happened in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the world's inhabitants. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone was traveling to be registered in his own town. Now Joseph also went up from the Galilee, out of the town of Natzeret in Judah, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Miriam, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. But while they were there, the time came for her to give birth- and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him in strips of cloth, and set Him down in a manger, since there was no room for them in the Inn.

Sukkah child 2: (interrupts) Wait! Where did they sleep? Where was this manger? And WHY didn't they let them stay inside?!

Abba: Hold on, hold on! There were thousands and thousands of people crowding in the city because of the decree, so the available places to stay filled up before Miriam and Joseph could get there.

Ima: But imagine they found this manger outside in someone's family sukkah, just like ours! Just think - if we put the pieces together, the time of year lines up with the Feast of Tabernacles! And what better place to stay than a sukkah?

Sukkah child 1: Oh I get it! They had no room in the Inn, but they let them stay in their family's sukkah. How nice of them!

Abba: Yes, very welcoming, indeed! Now back to our story...

## Scene 7 Shepherd Scene

(Cue sounds of sheep and crickets...)

Narrator: Now there were shepherds in the same region, living out in the fields and guarding their flock at night. Suddenly an angel of Ad-nai stood before them, and the glory of Ad-nai shone all around them: and they were terrified.

Main Angel: Do not be afraid! For behold, I proclaim Good News to you, which will be great joy to all the people. A Savior is born to you today in the city of David, who is Messiah the L-rd. And the sign to you is this: You will find an infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

(Cue angelic music)

Narrator: Suddenly a multitude of heavenly armies appeared with the angel, Praising G-d and saying,

Army of Angels: Glory to G-d in the highest, and on earth shalom to men of good will.

(angels leave - Fade out music)

Shepherd 1: Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which Ad-nai has made known to us!

(hurry to find Miriam and Joseph and the Baby Yeshua lying in the manger)

Shepherd 2: Ad-nai has given us a Savior! Isn't this wonderful?! It is just as He said! Praise Ad-nai!

Shepherds go through the audience saying: We found the Messiah! The Messiah has been born!

## SCENE 8 Temple Scene 2

(Jerusalem sign on the projector)

(Transition music - crowded place, many voices)

Narrator: When the 8 days had passed for His circumcision, He was named Yeshua, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

(enter Joseph with pigeons and Miriam with Yeshua)

And when the days of their purification were fulfilled, according to the Torah of Moses, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present to Ad-nai. As it is written in the Torah of Ad-nai, "Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to Ad-nai." So they offered a sacrifice

according to what was said in the Torah of Ad-nai: "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and pious, waiting for the consolation of Israel. The Ruach ha-Kodesh was on him. And it had been revealed to him by the Ruach ha-Kodesh that he would not die before he had seen the Anointed One of Ad-nai. So in the Ruach, Simeon came into the Temple; and when the parents brought the Child Yeshua to do for Him according to the custom of the Torah, Simeon received Him into his arms and offered a b'racha to G-d.

Simeon (looks at Yeshua in his arms, then up to Heaven): Now may You let Your servant go in peace, O Sovereign Master, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples: 'A light for revelation to the nations' and the glory of Your people Israel.

(Miriam and Joseph marvel)

(Baby passed back to Miriam)

Simeon blesses them and says to Miriam: Behold, this One is destined to cause the rise and fall of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is opposed, so that the thoughts of many may be uncovered. (And even for you, a sword will pierce through your soul.)

Narrator: Now Anna, a daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher, was a prophetess. She was well advanced in age, having lived with a husband only seven years and then as a widow until age 84. She never left the Temple, serving night and day with fasting and prayers. And coming up at that very instant, she began praising G-d and speaking about the Child.

(Cue joyful music)

Anna: Blessed be Ad-nai, for He has brought redemption to Jerusalem!

(Fade joyful music and characters in scene stay where they are)

## SCENE 9 Family Sukkah Scene 2

Abba: Isn't it amazing how Ad-nai keeps His promises from long ago? The whole Torah hints at a single redeemer for His people and at Sukkot, He finally comes! It says in the book of John, "The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us!" Yeshua put on this temporary home (pulling at skin) for you and me and when it was time, He gave His life, was buried, then came back to life three days later! Now He is with our Heavenly Father at His right hand, waiting for the appointed time to return for us so we can join Him and live with Him one day! Now that gives us great joy!

Child 2 (with eyes wide): You mean one day we get to be with Yeshua?! Wow! I hope I get the house right next to His!

Child 1: We won't have our own houses, silly. Yeshua said His Father's house has many rooms and He's preparing one for each of us! We get to be together!

Child 2: Cool!

Child 3: Ima, can we shake the lulav now?

Ima: Yes! Everyone grab your lulav and etrog and let's shake together on three - ready? One, two, three -

All: Hodu la'Ad-nai ki tov, ki l'olam chasdo! Give thanks to the L-rd for He is good and His mercy endures forever!

(Full Cast Enters for blessing of Messiah)

Abba: And now, let's bless Ad-nai for giving us His Torah made flesh. For without Yeshua, we don't know the way to salvation!

All of cast: Blessed are You, O L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, who has given us the way of salvation in Messiah Yeshua, amein!

(Closing celebratory music) All of cast in front, lines up, holds hands, bows together.  
All of Cast shouts, "Happy Sukkot everyone!"