

The Apollo-Morning Choral Clubs

Charles Galloway, Conductor

“Elijah”

An Oratorio by
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
with Orchestra

Odeon

Thursday Evening, February the sixth
Nineteen Hundred and Thirty

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KATHERINE COWAN.....*Soprano*
BLANCHE HERRICK HOPKINS.....*Contralto*
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We ask in all kindness that you refrain from applause after our renditions. It is our opinion that the absence of interruptions brought about by applause will heighten the beauty of the work sung. All expressions of applause will be gladly received by principals and chorus at the close of the concert.

Program

ELIJAH

(An Oratorio)

The author of this English version has endeavored to render it as nearly in accordance with Scriptural Texts as the music to which it is adapted will admit; the references are therefore to be considered rather as authorities than quotations.

PART I.

INTRODUCTION

Recitative

ELIJAH—As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

OVERTURE

Chorus

THE PEOPLE—Help, Lord! wilt Thou quite destroy us.
The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone, and yet no power cometh to help us! Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion?

The deeps afford no water; and the rivers are exhausted! The suckling's tongue now cleaveth for thirst to his mouth: the infant children ask for bread, and there is no one breaketh it to feed them!

Duet and Chorus

THE PEOPLE—Lord! bow thine ear to our prayer!

DUET—Zion spreadeth her hands for aid; and there is neither help nor comfort.

Recitative

OBADIAH—Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments, for your transgressions, the Prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, Forsake your idols, return to God; for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil.

Air

If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith our God.

Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence.

Chorus

THE PEOPLE—Yet doth the Lord see it not; He mocketh at us; His curse hath fallen down upon us; His wrath will pursue us, 'till He destroy us!

For He, the Lord our God, He is a jealous God; and He visiteth all the fathers' sins on the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him. His mercies on thousands fall—fall on all them that love Him, and keep His commandments.

Recitative

AN ANGEL—Elijah! get thee hence; depart and turn thee eastward; thither hide thee by Cherith's brook. There shalt thou drink its waters; and the Lord thy God hath commanded the ravens to feed thee there: so do according unto His word.

Recitative

AN ANGEL—Now Cherith's brook is dried up, Elijah, arise and depart, and get thee to Zarephath; thither abide: for the Lord hath commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. And the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

Recitative, Air and Duet

THE WIDOW—What have I to do with thee, O man of God? art thou come to me, to call my sin unto remembrance?—to slay my son art thou come hither? Help me, man of God! my son is sick! and his sickness is so sore, that there is no breath left in him! I go mourning all the day long; I lie down and weep at night. See mine affliction. Be thou the orphan's helper!

ELIJAH—Give me thy son. Turn unto her, O Lord my God; in mercy help this widow's son! For Thou art gracious, and full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

THE WIDOW—Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

ELIJAH—Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return that he again may live!

THE WIDOW—The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth!

ELIJAH—Now behold, thy son liveth!

THE WIDOW—Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that His word in thy mouth is the truth. What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

DUET—Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

O blessed are they who fear him!

Chorus

Blessed are the men who fear Him; they ever walk in the ways of peace. Through darkness riseth light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous.

Recitative

ELIJAH—As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth, before whom I stand, three years this day fulfilled, I will shew myself unto Ahab; and the Lord will then send rain again upon the earth.

AHAB—Art thou Elijah; art thou he that troubleth Israel?

CHORUS—Thou art Elijah, he that troubleth Israel!

ELIJAH—I never troubled Israel's peace; it is thou, Ahab, and all thy father's house. Ye have forsaken God's commands; and thou hast followed Baalim!

Now send and gather to me, the whole of Israel unto Mount Carmel; there summon the prophets of Baal, and also the prophets of the groves, who are feasted at Jezebel's table. Then we shall see whose God is the Lord.

CHORUS—And then we shall see whose God is God the Lord.

ELIJAH—Rise then, ye priests of Baal; select and slay a bullock, and put no fire under it; uplift your voices, and call the god ye worship; and I then will call on the Lord Jehovah; and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

CHORUS—Yea; and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

ELIJAH—Call first upon your god; your numbers are many; I, even I, only remain, one prophet of the Lord! Invoke your forest gods and mountain-deities.

Chorus

PRIESTS OF BAAL—Baal, we cry to thee! hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer! hear us! O hear us, Baal!

Hear mighty God! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe! O hear us, Baal!

Recitative

ELIJAH—Call him louder, for he is a god! He talketh; or he is pursuing; or he is in a journey; or, peradventure, he sleepeth; so awaken him; call him louder.

Chorus

PRIESTS OF BAAL—Hear our cry, O Baal! now arise! wherefore slumber?

Recitative and Chorus

ELIJAH—Call him louder! he heareth not. With knives and lancets cut yourselves after your manner; leap upon the altar ye have made; call him, and prophesy! Not a voice will answer you; none will listen, none heed you.

Chorus

PRIESTS OF BAAL—Hear and answer, Baal! Mark! how the scorner derideth us! Hear and answer!

Recitative and Air

ELIJAH—Draw near, all ye people; come to me!

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel! this day let it be known that Thou art God; and I am Thy servant! O shew to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me; and shew this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned!

Chorus

ANGELS—Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand.

Thy mercy, Lord, is great; and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee.

Recitative

ELIJAH—O Thou, who makest thine angels spirits:—Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires, let them now descend!

Chorus

THE PEOPLE—The fire descends from heaven; the flames consume his offering!

Before Him upon your faces fall! The Lord is God: O Israel, hear! Our God is one Lord; and we will have no other gods before the Lord!

Recitative

ELIJAH—Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape you: bring them down to Kishon's brook, and there let them be slain.

Chorus

THE PEOPLE—Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape us: bring all, and slay them!

Air

ELIJAH—Is not His word like a fire: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock into pieces?

For God is angry with the wicked every day: and if the wicked turn not, the Lord will whet His sword; and He hath bent His bow, and made it ready.

Air

Woe unto them who forsake Him; destruction shall fall upon them, for they have transgressed against Him. Though they are by Him redeemed yet they have spoken falsely against Him.

Recitative and Chorus

OBADIAH—O man of God, help thy people! Among the Idols of the Gentiles, are there any that can command the rain, or cause the heavens to give their showers? The Lord our God alone can do these things.

ELIJAH—O Lord, thou hast overthrown thine enemies and destroyed them. Look down on us from heaven, O Lord; regard the distress of thy people: open the heavens and send us relief: help, help thy servant now, O God!

THE PEOPLE—Open the heavens and send us relief: help, help thy servant now, O God!

ELIJAH—Go up now, child, and look toward the sea. Hath my prayer been heard by the Lord?

THE YOUTH—There is nothing. The heavens are as brass above me.

ELIJAH—When the heavens are closed up because they have sinned against Thee, yet if they pray and confess Thy

name, and turn from their sin when Thou dost afflict them: then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin! Help! send Thy servant help, O God!

THE PEOPLE—Then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin! Help! send Thy servant help, O Lord!

ELIJAH—Go up again, and still look toward the sea.

THE YOUTH—There is nothing. The earth is as iron under me!

ELIJAH—Hearest thou no sound of rain?—seest thou nothing arise from the deep?

THE YOUTH—No; there is nothing.

ELIJAH—Have respect to the prayer of Thy servant, O Lord, my God! Unto Thee will I cry, Lord, my rock; be not silent to me; and Thy great mercies remember, Lord!

THE YOUTH—Behold, a little cloud ariseth now from the waters, it is like a man's hand! The heavens are black with clouds and with wind: the storm rusheth louder and louder!

THE PEOPLE—Thanks be to God, for all His mercies!

ELIJAH—Thanks be to God, for He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for evermore!

Chorus

Thanks be to God! He laveth the thirsty land! The waters gather; they rush along; they are lifting their voices!

The stormy billows are high; their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them, and Almighty!

Intermission.

Program

PART II.

Air

Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord speaketh:—"Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments."

Who hath believed our report; to whom is the arm of the Lord revealeth?

Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him oppressed by Tyrants: thus saith the Lord:—I am He that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations? Be not afraid, for I, thy God, will strengthen thee.

Chorus

Be not afraid, saith God the Lord. Be not afraid! thy help is near. God the Lord thy God, saith unto thee: "Be not afraid!"

Though thousands languish and fall beside thee, and tens of thousands around thee perish, yet still it shall not come nigh thee.

Recitative

OBADIAH—Man of God, now let my words be precious in thy sight. Thus saith Jezebel: "Elijah is worthy to die." So the mighty gather against thee, and they have prepared a net for thy steps; that they may seize thee, that they may slay thee. Arise then, and hasten for thy life; to the wilderness journey. The Lord thy God doth go with thee! He will not fail thee, He will not forsake thee. Now begone, and bless me also.

ELIJAH—Though stricken, they have not grieved! Tarry here, my servant: the Lord be with thee. I journey hence to the wilderness.

Air

ELIJAH—It is enough, O Lord; now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! I desire to live no longer: now let me die, for my days are but vanity!

I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts! for the children of Israel have broken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword: and I, even I, only am left; and they seek my life to take it away.

Recitative

See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness: and there the angels of the Lord in camp round about all them that fear him.

Trio

ANGELS—Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved: thy Keeper will never slumber.

Chorus

ANGELS—He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

Recitative

AN ANGEL—Arise, Elijah, for thou hast a long journey before thee. Forty days and forty nights shalt thou go; to Horeb, the mount of God.

ELIJAH—O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yes, I have spent my strength for naught!

O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that Thou wouldst come down; that the mountains would flow down at Thy presence, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, through the wonders of Thy works!

O Lord, why hast Thou made them to err from Thy ways, and hardened their hearts that they do not fear thee? O that I now might die!

Air

O rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, and fret not thyself because of evil doers.

Chorus

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved.

Recitative

ELIJAH—Night falleth 'round me, O Lord! Be Thou not far from me! hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land.

AN ANGEL—Arise now! get thee without, stand on the mount before the Lord; for there His glory will appear and shine on thee! Thy face must be veiled, for He draweth near.

Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire; his words appeared like burning torches. Mighty kings by him were overthrown. He stood on the mount of Sinai, and heard the judgments of the future; and in Horeb, its vengeance.

And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, lo! there came a fiery chariot, with fiery horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven.

Air

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm. Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away forever.

Chorus

And then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh; and your health shall speedily spring forth then; and the glory of the Lord ever shall reward you.

Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with thy glory. Amen.

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