

# The Prophet Elijah Play

## Cast

Narrator	Obadiah
Raven (Raven is a puppet held by an actor )	Prophets of Baal (3 prophets referred to as BP1, BP2, and BP3 in this script)
Elijah	Referee
King Ahab	Other Israelites as available
Jezebel	Child of Widow
Widow	

**Props Needed: (2 or 3 “props people” will be needed to handle some of these, as noted in text of play. They are referred to as “props” in stage directions)**

- Crown (for King Ahab)
- Long blue paper sign with “Cherith” written in large block letters, to be carried onto and off stage
- Small basket with handle, containing bread and simulated “meat”—this can be just a wrapped package
- 10 sticks of wood—any kind, big enough for audience to see, each about a foot long
- Large handful of grass (can be imitation grass or thin strips of paper)
- Small bag to put some grass in
- Altar of Baal’s prophets—cardboard box that looks as if made of rocks (rock shapes can be drawn or painted on it)
- Altar of Elijah—another box, about the same size as the one described above, made specifically to look as if made of 12 rocks: 3 rocks wide, 2 rocks deep, 2 rocks high. Box should have slits so that cardboard or stiff paper “flames” can be pushed through them to simulate fire appearing on altar
- Cardboard or stiff paper flame shapes, painted orange, to be pushed through slits in Elijah’s altar by props person kneeling behind altar, as much out of sight as possible
- Cap marked “referee”—can be a real black and white referee’s cap, or any kind of cap with word “referee” marked on it in some way in way that audience can see
- Plastic shovel—dark color if possible to make it look more like a full-size metal shovel
- Two 2x4 boards to be slapped together backstage (by adults or older students) to simulate “chopping” sound
- 4 styrofoam meat trays with simulated “meat” wrapped in transparent plastic wrap. This is meant to be a visual joke, so it’s important that audience can see it clearly
- 4 plastic pails (larger than child’s beach pail)
- Low table (preschool size) or platform

- Painted backdrop of mountains if desired; not essential
- Costumes as the group decides

**Production Notes:** This play assumes the audience's familiarity with a traditional Orthodox Christian icon of Elijah, showing the raven. If your audience is not familiar with this icon, make one available to them, or modify the spoken lines. Also note that "Baal" is pronounced "bail."

## ACT I

*Stage is bare except for low table or platform.*

Narrator: Welcome to the Play of Elijah.

Raven: Don't you mean the Play of the Raven and Elijah?

Narrator: No. I mean the play of Elijah. This play is about Elijah and you are just an extra in the play.

Raven: Hmmpf (*squawk*)

Narrator: In many of Elijah's icon's, people can see you in the icon bringing Elijah food. (*Elijah comes and strikes a pose as in the icon while the narrator holds the raven, as in the icon.*)

Raven: You mean that everyone here has seen Elijah in MY icon.

Narrator: What do you mean?

Raven: I mean there is an icon of ME, and Elijah is in it.

Narrator: No, you are not the main character of that icon. Elijah is there and you are bringing him food. Now just smooth out your feathers.

Raven: Squawk (*Elijah breaks icon pose and just sits.*)

Narrator: As I was saying, this play is about the Prophet Elijah, and you can read about him in the First Book of Kings chapter 17 and following.

Raven: That book is OK, but there are better books out there.

Narrator: What are you squawking about now?

Raven: If you will recall, I have no lines in the First Book of Kings. In some books I actually have lines: "Never more, never more, never more."

King Ahab: (*enters wearing a crown.*) You silly bird, this play is about me, King Ahab. After all, as you said, the book in the Bible is called the Book of Kings. I am a king, (*points to crown*) so this play is about me.

Narrator: Oh please!! As I was saying, this play is about Elijah, and by the way, King Ahab, the Book of Kings mentions that you were the worst king the Israelites had up to that point in their history.

King Ahab: (pompously) Do tell...

Raven: Let me handle this one. It clearly states, King Ahab, that you are an Israelite. You are one of God's chosen people, but you married Jezebel, who worshipped Baal. (*Jezebel enters with prophets of Baal*)

Jezebel: I am the famous Jezebel.

Prophets of Baal:

BP1: We are prophets of Baal.

BP2: And we really love Jezebel.

BP3: Because she brought us to Israel.

*(All three cheering)* Yeah! Oh yeah! Yay, Queen Jezebel ! (etc.)

Jezebel: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Raven: As I was saying, you married the Canaanite princess, Jezebel, and she is not a good lady. She worships the fake god, Baal, and she got you, King Ahab, to build a temple to Baal and worship the fake god, too. *(Narrator and other voices offstage boo vigorously.)* And you know better, King Ahab.

Jezebel: *(gives an evil laugh)* I do have my ways, don't I? *(She exits with all her prophets.)*

King Ahab: Wait for me, Jezzy. *(Exits, following the queen and the prophets of Baal)*

Raven: *(speaking to audience)* Let me tell you how bad things were. Not only did King Ahab worship Baal, but Jezebel even had a bunch of the prophets of the true God executed. Many Israelites were turning to worship Baal, and most of the prophets of the true God were gone.

Narrator: This is where our play starts. Israel is falling apart because they have a bad king, and Elijah is going to save the day.

*(Elijah is still on stage alone with Narrator and Raven. He puts his hand up to his ear, tilts his head toward heaven, and pauses, listening for few moments. He nods and makes a hand gesture, indicating that he understands what he has heard.)*

Elijah: I hear the word of the Lord. He is telling me there will be no dew nor rain in this land except by my word.

*(King Ahab enters)*

Elijah: King Ahab, as you know, I am a prophet of the true God, so listen to me. No rain will fall here unless I say it will.

King Ahab: Yeah, right! *(Laughs while exiting.)*

Elijah: *(Again puts hand up to ear, tilts head toward heaven, and pauses, listening for a few moments)* I hear the word of the Lord. He is telling me to go east, cross the Jordan, and stay by the brook, Cherith. I should drink from the brook, and a raven will feed me.

Raven: That's me!

*(Elijah walks down through the audience and back up to the stage. While he does so, props bring out the blue paper sign representing Cherith. They carry it high so it can be read by audience. They lay it down upstage. Elijah comes back up and stoops down by the brook and mimes a drink from it.)*

Raven: Elijah traveled to the brook Cherith as God commanded him. And here comes my big part. Twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening, I bring him bread and meat. *(Narrator takes Raven to edge of the stage and gets a*

*small basket in his beak by the basket handle. Bread and fake meat can be seen sticking out of the basket. Raven brings it to Elijah, who takes it from Raven.)*

Elijah: Thank you, Raven.

Raven: Squawk! This went on for three years. Three whole years. That was one thousand ninety-five days that I, the great feeder of the great prophet, brought food to Elijah. That was two thousand one hundred ninety meals, which means it was four thousand three hundred eighty flights. Without fail and without complaining, I, Raven, brought food to Elijah. *(This bragging is ended by the narrator grabbing Raven's beak.)*

Narrator: And in all these three years, it never rained because Elijah never said for it to rain, and eventually the brook dried up. *(Props walk on and remove the brook, holding it high so everyone can see them removing it.)*

Elijah: The brook has dried up. What will I do now? Oh, I hear the word of the Lord again. *(Puts hand up to ear and pauses, listening again.)* He is telling me to go to Zarephath, and there a widow will feed me. *(Elijah walks out to audience again. Props enter and scatter about 10 sticks on the stage floor and place low table upstage. There is enough room to walk all around it. The table will be used as a bed. When Elijah returns to stage, the widow and her child enter.)*

Raven: Welcome to Zarephath, Welcome to Zarephath.

Elijah: Good day, ma'am.

Widow: Good day. *(Widow and child walk about picking up sticks)*

Elijah: Will you please get me some bread and water?

Widow: As the Lord God lives, I tell you, I have no bread baked, and I only have a handful of flour left and little bit of oil. This drought has been so horrible! Right now I am gathering a few sticks so I can cook up the last bit of flour and feed myself and my child one last meal before we starve to death.

Elijah: *(puts hand up to ear for a few moments, listening to prophecy)* Kind Widow, fear not. God just told me that your flour and oil will last until the drought is over. There will be enough food for all of us. Now go make some bread for me, and then make bread for you and your child.

Widow: *(with doubt in her voice)* Well, all right. *(She goes offstage; child sits on floor.)*

Raven: Elijah does not need me to feed him anymore. God is performing a miracle now and for many, many days, the handful of flour and small amount of oil that the widow has will feed Elijah, and the widow, and her child.

Widow: *(enters with armload of bread)* Look at this! It's a miracle!

Raven: Elijah stayed with the widow and her child while waiting for more instructions from the Lord. While he was staying with them, the child got sick and died.

Child: *(stands on low table)* I don't feel very well. In fact, I am dying. *(Child lies down on the low table and folds arms across chest.)*

Raven: The widow became very angry over the death of her child, and she blamed the death on Elijah.

Widow: Go away, Elijah, you man of God. Look at this. I cook for you and clean for you, and invite you into my house, and look what happens! My child has died. Go away, go away. You have brought death into my house. *(Widow exits, crying)*

Elijah: *(walks upstage of the table with the child and faces audience. He raises his hands in prayer and speaks)* God ,why did You do this? This woman was taking good care of me. You bring hardship to me, oh Lord, and that I understand, but why bring it to this poor widow and her child? This is not helping me!

*(Elijah bows down over the child's body 3 times, saying:)*

Lord God, bring this child's soul back to his body.

Lord God, bring this child's soul back to his body.

Lord God, bring this child's soul back to his body.

Child: *(gets up)* Hey, I'm alive again!

Widow: *(enters stage again)* My child lives! Now I know you are a good man, and truly a prophet of the true God.

Raven: So, you see, while the sins of Ahab brought drought, famine, and death to the people of Israel, God has brought food and life to this household. After many days, the Lord God spoke to Elijah again.

## **ACT II**

Elijah: *(stands for a few moments with his hand to his ear in the now- familiar listening pose)* God is telling me to go and talk to Ahab, and then God will bring rain to the land again. *(To the widow:)* Thank you for everything. I need to go and end this drought. *(Elijah walks off stage. The widow and her child exit; only the Narrator and Raven remain on stage. Props comes in and clears off the stage and places a handful of grass just left of center stage)*

Raven: For 3 years now, the land has been in a horrible drought, and as we said before, the king and many of the Israelites have been worshipping Baal. Jezebel even had a bunch of the prophets of God killed. There was one servant of King Ahab who secretly remained faithful to God. His name was Obadiah. King Ahab really liked Obadiah. During the drought, King Ahab decided that he and Obadiah should go out and gather all the grass they could find for miles around and feed it to the remaining animals. So while Obadiah was out looking for grass, he came upon Elijah

*(Elijah and Obadiah, who is holding bag, enter from opposite sides of stage. Obadiah picks up some grass and puts it in bag. Looks up and sees Elijah.)*

Obadiah: Is that you, Elijah? *(Prostrates, then stands back up.)* Glory to God!

Elijah: Glory Forever! Yes, Obadiah, I am Elijah. I have come back and I must see King Ahab. Will you please go and tell the king I need to meet with him?

Obadiah: Oh no. No no no no. Are you crazy?

Narrator: *(to Raven)* Can you tell the audience why Obadiah is acting this way?

Raven: Well, Obadiah knows that this news of Elijah's return is going to upset the king very much. Also, Elijah had... well... a history of disappearing, because God always made arrangements for him to hide, and keep him safe. Obadiah thinks that Elijah might be playing a trick on the king and Obadiah is afraid that the king just might kill the messenger.

Elijah: Oh come on, Obadiah, just go tell King Ahab that I am here and I need to talk to him.

Obadiah: Oh sure, sure. I will go tell King Ahab you are here, and when the king comes to find you, God is just going to pick you up and move you here or there, or anywhere He wants. And then the king is going to be angry with me, and probably kill me. No thank you. Not today. NO!

Elijah: But I need to talk to him

Obadiah: What have I done to deserve this? (*Looks up to heaven*) I have been faithful to You, Oh Lord. I have even hidden many of Your prophets so they wouldn't get killed by Jezebel. And how do I get thanked? I get asked to become the messenger that gets killed.

Elijah: Oh relax, Obadiah. I promise. I will be here when the king comes back.

Obadiah: Well, OK, Elijah, I will go get the king. (*Obadiah shakes his head, puts a hand to his forehead, goes offstage*)

Narr: So Obadiah went to get King Ahab.

Raven: And Elijah stayed there.

(*Obadiah and King Ahab enter.*)

Ahab: So you came back, you troublemaker! After you destroyed this land with a drought, now you return.

Elijah: Me? A troublemaker? No no no no no no, YOU are the troublemaker. By worshipping Baal instead of the true God, you have brought drought and famine to your people. You are the problem, not me.

Ahab: Oh yeah?

Elijah: Yeah. (*Ahab makes fists and acts as if he wants to fight.*) Look, King Ahab, this is what you need to do. Go get the people of Israel, and all your prophets of Baal, and meet me on Mount Carmel. There we will have a contest to see whose god is real.

Ahab: OK, fine! This sounds like a rumble. Well, I'm ready to rumble! (*He stomps offstage.*)

Narrator: So the king went out and summoned all the prophets of Baal, and all the Israelites, and they all met Elijah on Mount Carmel.

Raven: All of the Israelites knew who the true God was, but many of them had begun to worship the fake god, Baal.

Narrator: And why would they do that?

Raven: Because their king was worshipping Baal! His bad habits trickled down to the masses.

Narrator: Would you like to explain what is about to happen?

Raven: Sure. All the prophets of Baal and the all the people are going to meet on the Caramel mountain and there will be a contest between Baal and our True God. The prophets of Baal will set up an offering on one altar, and Elijah will set up an offering on another altar, but no one is going to light the fires. Then the prophets of Baal will pray to their god and ask him to light the fire. After that Elijah will pray and ask God to light His fire. Whichever god lights the fire will show himself to be the true God.

Narrator: That's very good, Raven, but did you say Caramel mountain? It is called Mount Carmel.

Raven: OK, OK, same difference.

Narrator: Hey, look, here they all come.

*(Enter prophets of Baal pushing their altar. Behind them or from other side of stage comes Elijah pushing his altar. Behind them come a crowd of Israelites. Some carry sticks to use for lighting fires on the altars. Cow "mooing" sounds are heard from offstage. Mooing noises should be heard from time to time throughout this scene.)*

BP1: We go first, we go first

BP2: You watch, our flames will burst

BP3: Because we are so well-versed

*(One person emerges from the crowd and puts on a referee cap.)*

Referee: Wait a minute, Baal prophets. You know the rules. We will flip a coin. Heads, prophets of Baal get to choose, tails Elijah gets to choose. *(Motions as if flipping coin.)* It's tails! Elijah what do you choose, first or second?

Elijah: I choose to go second.

*(Baal prophets dance around and chant the following lines:)*

BP1: Oh yeah, oh yeah, you're number two

BP2: Oh yeah, oh yeah, and watch what we do

BP3: Oh yeah, oh yeah, It's time to barbecue *(They all high-five)*

BP1: This will be good.

B132: I'll get some wood

BP3: We'll light up the neighborhood

*(They put some sticks on their altar. The cow is heard mooing.)*

BP1: Our god's life we will avow

BP2: I'll go prepare the cow

BP3: Baal, are you ready for some chow?

*(Mooing noises are heard while BP2 goes offstage. There is a chopping sound from two 2x4's being clapped together, and one moo is stopped abruptly by the chopping noise. More chopping sounds, then BP2 enters with 2 styrofoam trays of meat, which he places on the altar just as they are—trays of meat wrapped in styrofoam.)*

BP1: Let's start our chanting

BP2: Let's start our ranting

BP3: And Baal will start his granting

BP1: Here we go

BP2: Start the show

BP3: The fire will glow.

*(As they begin the following chant, they start to dance the "limp dance" which could be "galloping" around the altar. See 1 Kings 18:26. The prophets had a ritualistic dance that looked like they were limping.)*

BPI: HAIL

BP2 and 3: BAAL !    BPI: HAIL !

BP2 and 3: BAAL !

*(They repeat this over and over. Narrator walks across the stage with the "three hours later" sign. The Baal prophets slow down considerably but continue to dance and chant as Elijah says following lines:)*

Elijah: *(taunting and mocking)* Hey guys, where is your god? Hello? Any god over there? Baal? Has anyone seen Baal? *(Short pause while the Baal prophets continue chanting and dancing. Elijah can pace around during these lines.)* Hey guys, you'd better call louder. I think maybe he's off daydreaming or something. Hey now, wake up, buddy! Time to light the fire! You know ... maybe he took a holiday today. Or maybe he's busy with other things.

*(BP1,2, and 3 fall down from exhaustion)*

Elijah: Everyone, gather 'round. *(Israelites upstage the Baal prophets and give Elijah their attention)* You are Israelites. You know who the one true God is. How long will you walk on the fence like this? Let me prove to you the power of God. Here is an altar built of 12 stones, one stone for each tribe of Israel. *(Elijah puts some sticks on the altar, being careful to not cover the slits for flames. Next Elijah takes a plastic shovel and pretends to dig around the altar. Sound of mooing from offstage starts up again.)*

One Israelite: What is he doing?

Raven: He is digging a ditch around the altar.

Elijah: Now I will prepare the cow for the offering. *(Elijah goes offstage. Sound of a chop. The mooing stops. Elijah comes onstage with 2 styrofoam trays of meat and places them on the wood.)* Now I need four people to take a bucket of water and dump it on the wood and the offering. *(4 Israelites take buckets and mime pouring water on the altar.)* Now do it again. *(They do.)* Now do it a third time. *(They do.)* We have poured 12 buckets of water on this offering and the wood, and even the ditch I dug is filled with water. *(Elijah moves to stand behind the altar and raises his hands in prayer.)* O Lord, God of Abraham and Isaac, and Israel, let it be known that You are the true God. *(Props person behind altar pushes flames up through the slits.)*

Everyone: Yay! Praise God! Glory to God! (etc.)

Elijah: Now seize the prophets of Baal and get them out of here. All the filth of Baal must be purged from this land. *(Prophets run offstage in fear.)* King Ahab, come near. *(Ahab comes.)* Do you hear that sound from afar? That is the sound of rain!

Everyone cheers.

**THE END** (see following pages for activities and discussion questions about Elijah)

*Here are some activities and discussion questions for younger students, middle school students, and older students. However, teachers can decide which activities/questions are appropriate for their particular classes.*

**For Younger Students:** A story about Elijah based on I Kings (3 Kingdoms) 17: 1-16, with discussion questions and matching activity following. As you read the story with students, make sure they understand the meanings of these words:

- Prophet: a person who speaks to the people for God, telling them what God wants them to do, and reminding them that God loves them
- Widow: a woman whose husband has died
- Raven: a kind of bird

### **God Helps Elijah and a Widow**

It was a bad time in Israel. King Ahab forgot about God and worshipped other gods, false gods. The god worshipped by King Ahab and his wife was called Baal. Many of the people did as their king did, and also worshipped the false god.

The prophet Elijah said to King Ahab, "You know there is only one true God, but you worship false gods. Because of this, God has sent me to tell you that there will be no rain for three years. No rain at all, until God tells me that it is time for rain."

Without rain, life was hard. Lakes and rivers went dry. Crops died in the fields. People were thirsty and hungry.

King Ahab was very angry with Elijah. God told Elijah to hide by a brook called Cherith. He could drink the water from the brook. God sent ravens each morning and each evening, to bring Elijah bread and meat.

When the brook dried up, God helped Elijah again. He told Elijah to go to a town called Zarephath. There Elijah would find a widow who would feed him.

Elijah did as God told him to do. He found the widow gathering sticks to make a fire. Elijah asked her to bring him a bit of food and water.

But the widow said, "As the Lord your God lives, all I have left is a little flour and oil. I will cook that for my son and me, and after that we will die because we will have no food."

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid and do not worry. Go home and make a small loaf for me, and bring it. Then make food for yourself and your son. God has said, "The flour will not be used up, and the oil will not run out, till the day I the Lord send rain."

So she went home and did as Elijah said. And every day there was plenty of food for the woman, her son, and the prophet Elijah.

*To talk about with students:*

How did the widow show that she believed God would do what He said He would do? (She made food for Elijah even when she only had a little for her son and herself.)

## Find the Words (Younger Students)

(Make a copy of this page for each student. Answers follow at the end of the activity pages.)

Directions for students:

Draw a line from the words on the left to the word that goes with them on the right

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. The king who worshipped false gods   | a. Rain  |
| 2. The name of a false god  | b. Ahab  |
| 3. God told Elijah there would be none of this for 3 years  | c. Food  |
| 4. The kind of bird that fed Elijah   | d. Baal  |
| 5. The person Elijah met gathering sticks   | e. Raven |
| 6. The widow had only a little of this  | f. Widow |
| 7. When the widow did as Elijah said, there was enough of this for Elijah, the widow, and her son | g. Oil   |

## For Younger/ Middle School Students

(Make a copy of this page for each student. Answers are given at the end of the activity pages)

### Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

*Directions to Students:*

*As a review of the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal told in I Kings (3 Kingdoms) 17: 20-40, read the brief summary of the story below.*

*Next, pick out the letters that a star on each side of them. (For example, in the word **la\*n\*d** the letter would be **n**.) Write down these words, and arrange them to form a message about something God does for us. There are blanks for the words of the message*

*Then go back and pick out all the letters that are underlined. Write them down, and arrange them to form a second message about something God does for us. There are blanks for the words of the message.*

**Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to meet him on Mount Carmel, to show that Our Lord is the only true God.**

**They prepared two \*a\*ltars. Elijah's was made of twelve st\*o\*nes, one for each of the tribe\*s\* of I\*s\*rael.**

**The prophets of Baal shouted and \*c\*ut themselves till they bled and danced around their altar to get Baal's attention. Nothing happened.**

**"C\*r\*y louder to your god," Elijah taunted them. "Maybe he's asleep!"**

**Elijah placed a b\*u\*rnt offering on his altar, then had wate\*r\* poured on it three times. He prayed, asking God to answ\*e\*r his prayer.**

**Soon the \*f\*ire of the Lo\*r\*d came down and burned up everything. Then all the people knew that the Lord our God is the only true God.**

First Message (capitalized letters)

God \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Second Message (underlined letters)

God \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

## For Older Students (perhaps Middle School students as well—teacher’s decision)

### Thinking about Elijah: Discussion Questions

(Discussion questions for students to talk about can be put on board or screen. When students have given their own answers and ideas, have them consider and discuss the commentary on the lower part of the page.)

Read I Kings 16:29 to 18:39 together. Talk about these questions and issues:

1. We read in 16:31 that King Ahab served and worshipped the pagan god Baal “as if it had been a light thing.” Why do you think this “attitude” of King Ahab is specifically mentioned?
2. In Elijah’s first encounter with the widow in 17:8 and following, she shows faith in God and in God’s prophet Elijah by feeding him even when she has little. Then her son dies. How is her response to that event different from her response to the first encounter? Why is it different, do you think?
3. Compare 18: 28-9 and 18:36-7. What do the differences between these two ways of prayer tell you about our God?

#### Commentary:

1. As king of Israel, Ahab bore the supreme responsibility for keeping the people’s faith whole and pure. But he openly built pagan shrines. He not only practiced but gave official status to the worship of Baal, a nature god. This was an insult to the God of Israel, and led astray many of his people, who followed him into pagan worship. Yet he treated this behavior as if it were a “light thing.” When Elijah confronted him he showed no repentance, as David did with Nathan in 2 Samuel 12:1-13. Instead he called Elijah a “troubler of Israel” as if he himself bore no guilt for anything.
2. The widow was glad she and her son would survive on the food God gave through Elijah. But when her son dies, she accuses Elijah of intending to “bring my sin to remembrance.” She seems to believe her son’s death is punishment for some personal sin not mentioned before. But God is not a punisher. He’s always working to build our faith, even in the hard things He lets happen to us. He works through people, here enabling Elijah to raise the woman’s son from death and thus strengthen her faith.
3. God does not want showy, hysterical prayer. The worshippers of Baal practiced ritual prostitution and some terrible things—read Jeremiah 19:5. Though their idols had no power, their willingness to forget God and worship idols meant that behind those idols were demons. Read Deuteronomy 32: 17-18 for a good description of this. (This is why Elijah so violently opposed Baal’s prophets.) By contrast, our God, Elijah’s God, is approached through reverent but calm and confident appeal.

Find the Word answers are 1/b, 2/d, 3/a, 4/e, 5/f, 6/g, 7/c

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal: Message #1 is **God cares for us**. Starred letters in order are **a, o, s, s, c, r, u, r, e, f**.

Message #2 is **God hears prayer**. Underlined letters in order are **a, p, a, r, h, y, s, r, e, r, e**. (end