

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL: TOBIT

CD 1

PART THE FIRST The Ninevites

1 Overture

Scene the First A Ninevite and Chorus of Ninevites

2 Recitative

(A Ninevite)

Happy Assyria! May thy great King
thus ever Triumph o'er his haughty Foes.

3 Chorus

Hear us, o Baal, while to thee we Sing!
O Baal, Hear us.
Destroy the Stubborn Tribes,
protect the King!
Hear us, Baal!

Scene the Second Tobit and Chorus of Israelites

4 Recitative

(Tobit)

How Soon Eclips'd is human Joy,
if any Joy an Israelite can find in Sinfull Nineveh! –
Scarce had my friends with Thankfullness of Heart
partook with me a Small Repast,
when Soon they found our Friend and Kinsman
Achior, murder'd in the Street.
And I have buried him:
Come what may come, Jehovah is our Trust
and Confidence.

5 Air & Chorus

Tobit and Chorus of Israelites

(Tobit)

O Lord, whom we adore,
Shall Judah rise no more?
Can this be thy Decree?
O Lord, can this be thy Decree?
Hear from thy Mercy Seat
the groans, thy Tribes repeat,
the Sighs, they breath to thee,
the groans, the sighs!

(Chorus)

Hear from thy Mercies Seat
the groans, thy Tribes repeat,
the Sighs, they breath to thee,
the groans, the Sighs!

Scene the Third

Anna, Tobit, Tobias and the

Chorus of Israelites

6 Recitative

(Tobias)

The Lord hath heard my pray'r,
mine enemies shall all be blank,
and dash'd with much confusion.
Then, grown red with shame,
they shall return in haste the way they came,
and in a moment shall be quite abash'd.

7 Air

(Tobias)

Will God, whose mercies ever flow,
expose His children's youth to woe?
The little birds His bounty taste,
all nature with His gifts are graced.
Each day, that I His care implore,
He feeds me from His altar's store.

8 Recitative

(Anna)

But Say, my Righteous Lord,
why thus provoke the King
of Nations, Great Sennacherib?

Why thus rebellious to his great Command
dar'st thou interr the Dead? –

(Tobit)

Insulting Anna!
Reason, duteous Love,
and ev'n Humanity itself
all join to ask this last kind Office of a Friend.

9 Duet

(Anna)

To Steal a Grave ev'n for a Friend
can Serve no glorious end.
The Dead heed not the Funeral Rite,
when prison'd in the Shades of Night,
nor will the living God above
reward a needless work of Love.

(Tobit)

Who Steals a Grave for Such a Friend
Observes a glorious end.
The Dead heed not the Funeral Rite,
when prison'd in the Shades of Night,
yet Still the living God above
will Sure reward this work of Love.

10 Recitative

Tobias *(to Anna)*

Your Pardon; from a Deed So just humane
and therefore pleasing in the Sight of Heav'n,
what Danger can accrue?
The earthly Pow'rs may rage and Swell,
yet, like the Sea, they have from infinitely
greater Pow'r their Bounds.

11 **Air**
(Tobias)
Boistrous Winds and Billows rolling
Own th' Almighty Pow'r controlling
all their (vain) Fury, when they Swell
and rage around.

Lo! He nods and Strait expiring
Sleep the Winds and Waves retiring,
leave the Shore with trophies crown'd.

12 **Chorus**
Tyrants may a while presume,
they never Shall receive their Doom.
But they Soon Shall trembling know,
Stern justice Strikes the Surest Blow.

Scene the Fourth
Sarah and Raguel

13 **Sinfonia**

14 **Accompagnato**
(Sarah)
Ah, Wretched Sarah! Wither shall I go?
Where fly from this Reproach,
this hatefull Scorn?
This imputation of a Murderess,
a Sevenfold Paricide!
But my clean Heart,
my Innocence is known to thee, o Lord.

15 **Air**
(Sarah)
Paid be my Adoration
to thee, Almighty Lord,
to thee, O Lord Father,
to thee, Almighty Lord.

O turn this Sinfull Nation
with thy all Saving word,
Father!

16 **Recitative**
(Raguel)
Be comforted, my Daughter;
God is just,
Tho' Skreend his wondrous works
from Mortal Eye.
Infinite Wisdom is his Counsellor,
and his right Hand Omnipotence. –
Fear not,
he will protect the righteous,
and Soon bind the fierce Destroyer in
coercive chains.

17 **Air**
(Raguel)
The Lord Sends his Thunders
their Pride to appall.
Revering his Wonders

they tremble and fall.

Thus fondly designing
his might to restrain,
their Bands all combining,
but labour in Vain.

- 18** **Chorus**
All Pow'r in Heav'n above or Earth beneath
belongs to thee alone, thou everlasting One.
Mighty, to save in Perils, Storm and Death.

PART THE SECOND

Scene the First **Tobit**

- 19** **Sinfonia**

- 20** **Accompagnato**
(Tobit)
Alas! To what Variety of Ills
are Sinning Mortals subject.
Greater none,
than what the Hand of Providence
hath laid on me,
in Sudden Darkness wrapt around.

Yet why art thou disconsolate, my Soul?

- 21** **Air**
(Tobit)
In great Jehovah, Almighty Father,
Seek thou Comfort, o my Soul.
Seek Comfort in great Jehovah, o my Soul.

Scene the Second **Tobit, Tobias and Azarias (Raphael)**

- 22** **Recitative**
Tobit *(to Tobias and Azarias)*
Happy in thee, my Son!
And thee, my friend;
of whom I erst' have heard a good report;
firm in our Faith, by Error uneduc'd!
Conds't thou conduct my Son to Media
on certain business,
I Should die in Peace.

- 23** **Air**
(Azarias)
Descend, kind Pity, heav'nly guest,
descend, and fill each human breast
with sympathizing woe!

That liberty and peace of mind
may sweetly harmonize mankind,
and bless the world below!

24 **Chorus**
Impartial heav'n, whose hand Shall never cease
to cheer fair Virtue with the Balm of peace!
With thy own Ardors bless the Youth,
and guide his footsteps in the paths of truth.

Scene the Third
A Ninevite and Chorus of Ninevites

25 **Recitative**
(A Ninevite)
If Blindness, Scorn, Contempt and Misery
be the reward of Hebrew Righteousness,
let Tobit and his Stubborn Followers
enjoy the Boon,
and hang their Servile chains:
while we, their Lords,
triumphant in the Pow'r of mighty Baal,
him alone adore.

26 **Chorus**
(Chorus of Ninevites)
O Baal, Monarch of the Skies,
to whom unnumber'd Temples rise!
From thee the Sun immensely bright
receiv'd his radiant Robes of light;
by thee with Stars the heavens glow,
the Ocean swells and Rivers flow!
O Baal, o!
The Vales with Verdure are array'd,
the flow'rs perfume the Thicket's Shade,
and 'tis by the Event confes'd,
thy Votaries alone are blest.

27 **Ritornello**

Scene the Fourth
Anna and Tobit

28 **Recitative**
(Tobit)
Pain'd as I am with one dark constant night,
Still greater pain I feel in the vain Boasts
and Triumphs of mistaken Infidels.

(Anna)
'Twere wiser to regard your own concerns,
than thus at Peril of thy Life decry
the long establish'd Rites of Nineveh;
rather bewail the absence of your Son,
our only Child, perhaps the loss for ever.

29 **Air**
(Anna)
Thy pleasing Face no more
shall I, my Son, behold,
thee in my circling Arms
no more enfold?

Wretched! So great is my Distress,
no language can my Griefs express.

30 Recitative

(Anna)

Oh thou bright sun!
How sweet thy rays to health and liberty!
But here, alas! they swell the agonizing
thought of shame,
and pierce my soul with sorrows yet unknown.

31 Air

(Anna)

With darkness Deep, as is my woe,
hide me, ye shades of Night, hide me!
Your thickest veil around me throw,
conceal'd from human sight!
Or come, thou Death, thy victim save,
kindly embosom'd in the grave.

Scene the Fifth

Tobias and Azarias

32 Sinfonia

33 Recitative

(Tobias)

What caution is too great for Mortal Man,
Surrounded with innumerable Perils,
unseen, unthought of!
Surely I had perish'd, as I in Tigris bath'd,
had not thy hand, thy friendly hand
destroy'd the monstrous Fish,
that darted on me, with his rav'ning Jaws.

(Azarias)

'Twas all the work of Providence,
the will of gracious Heav'n,
as Speaks my raptur'd Heart.

CD 2

1 Air

(Azarias)

Thou, God most high, and Thou alone,
unchang'd for ever dost remain:
Through boundless space extends Thy throne,
through all eternity Thy reign.

As nothing in Thy sight
the reptile man appears,
Howe'er imagin'd great.
Who can impair Thy might?
In heav'n or earth, who dares dispute Thy pow'r?
Thy will is fate.

2 Duet

(Azarias)

Cease thy Anguish, Smile once more,
let thy Tears no longer flow!

Smile once more!
Judah's God, whom wee adore,
Soon to Joy will change thy Woe.

(Tobias)
All His mercies I review,
gladly with a gratefull Heart
I review,
and I trust, he will renew
Blessings, he did once impart.

(Azarias)
What e'er this Tyrant may decree,

(Tobias)
What e'er this Tyrant may decree,

(Azarias)
returning Joys wee Soon Shall See,

(Tobias)
returning Joys wee Soon Shall See.

3 Chorus

(Young Virgins)
The Clouded Scene begins to clear
and Joys in gentle Trains appear.

(Chorus of Men)
When Crimes aloud for Vengeance Call,
the Guilty will be doom'd to fall.

(Full Chorus)
Rejoice, o Judah, in thy God!
The Proud alone Shall feel His Rod,
whilst blessings with a mild decree,
His Mercy now prepares for thee.

Scene the Sixth **Sarah and Raguel**

4 Sinfonia Symphony

5 Recitative

(Raguel)
How happy, Daughter, are we in our Guests!
What Heart cou'd wish a more accomplish'd
Friend than Azarias?
But the Youth, our Kinsman

(Sarah)
No more, dread Sir. –
So just I think your Praise, that I might own
without a Blush, a Passion, unfelt before;
yet not to be indulg'd, (Such my hard Fate,)
tho' rais'd by purest Love.

6 Air *(Sarah)*

To nobler Joys aspiring,
true happiness desiring,
from this vain World retiring,
Glory and rest I seek above.

No joys on Earth delight me,
nor Sweetest charms incite me
to own the Pow'r of Love.

Scene the Seventh
Tobias and Azarias

7 **Recitative**

(Tobias)

O Azarias, I must freely own,
did not our legal Customs here Command me
to fix my choice,
I could not have withstood the pow'rfull Charms
of Such a beauteous Form,
heighten'd by Virtue and Sweet Modesty.
But well thou know'st my Scruples.

(Azarias)

Fear no more; but with dilated Heart
and chearfull Brow let us partake
the Banquet of our Friend.

Scene the Eighth
Raguel, Sarah, Tobias, Azarias and Chorus of Israelites

8 **Recitative**

(Raguel)

The gratefull Tribute of our thanks to Heav'n
first having paid,
we dedicate for you, my Friends,
this happy Day to festal Joy.

9 **Air**

(Raguel)

Let Songs of varied measure
and every Social Pleasure
our Ardent Joy declare.

In choral Art uniting
and choicest Lays inditing,
sing we the happy Pair.

10 **Chorus**

Now Love, that everlasting Joy, invites
to revel, while you may, in pure delights.

11 **Chorus**

Happy, happy Shall they be
and free from care, from care and Sorrow free.
Guiltless pleasures who enjoy
Love sincere will never cloy;
all that's good and just, they prove,
where Virtue Crowns the Joys of Love.

PART THE THIRD

Scene the First

Tobit and the Chorus of Israelites

12 Sinfonia

13 Accompagnato

(Tobit)

Still am I persecuted; Still, each hour,
expect or chains, or Death, amidst a Crew
of poor deluded Mortals, who defy
and riotous blaspheme the God of Heav'n.

14 Air

(Tobit)

Cease your Pride, deluded mortals;
who Sits above Skies,
conspiring Strength defies
and mocks your vain design.

Turn to him, – deluded Mortals, –
e'er he in Thunder Speaks,
and on Rebellion breaks
the Clouds of wrath divine.

15 Chorus

Tremble, Guilt, for Thou Shalt find,
that wrath divine outstrips the Wind.

Scene the Second

Tobit and Anna

(Enter Raphael and Tobias and the Chorus of Israelites)

16 Sinfonia

17 Recitative

(Raphael)

Hail, Tobit! Highly Favour'd thou of Heav'n!
I bring thy Son Tobias, and with Him
th'expected Treasure.

Greater yet will soon arrive:
the Father, Servants, Flocks and Herds
of beauteous Sarah, his espoused wife.
Yet more he brings a Medicine, which this Night
shall peel the darking Scales from off thine Eyes;
that thou mayst See the Blessings of kind Heav'n.

(Tobit)

Welcome, my Son; & welcome, dearest Friend!
More Recompense I owe than I can pay,
but all is thine, ev' n all I have to give!

18 Accompagnato

(Anna)

Henceforth through all
the changing Scenes of Life,
in Trouble and in Joy, I'll praise my God;
from my Example all, that are distrest,

Shall Comfort take and charm their Grievs to rest.

19 **Air**
(*Anna*)
My Son, how happy,
my Son, how happy, in this thy Sweet Return!
Shall I no longer mourn
and grieve for thee no more?

Thrice happy in this Blessing,
my dearest Child caressing,
I'll now distrust no more,
nor doubt Almighty Pow'r;
but to the Lord return,
and him alone adore.

20 **Chorus**
Let none Despair: Relief may come, tho' late;
kind Heav'n can Save us on the Verge of Fate.

Scene the Third
Tobit, Anna, Tobias, Raphael, Raguel, Sarah and the Chorus of Israelites

21 **Accompagnato and Recitative**

Accompagnato
(*Tobit*)
Blest be the God of Heav'n! Again I view
the glorious Parent of Etherial Light,
Life of the Earth, and Ornament of Heav'n. –

Recitative
(*Tobit*)
Nor is thy Presence, Raguel, less dear:
But I want words,
my Daughter, to express thy Praise,
or, o my Son, thy Happiness.

(*Raguel*)
When equal Love, on equal merit form'd,
with pure Affection feeds the holy Flame,
no greater Happiness can earth bestow.

Nor will I doubt it here; tho' just the Fears,
that o'er our present Joy still casts a Gloom.

22 **Air**
(*Raguel*)
May true Joy and every Blessing,
past expressing,
Crown your pure and Constant Love.

Dread no Foe, your Bliss assailing
or prevailing,
favour'd by the Pow'rs above.

23 **Terzetto**
(*Tobias*)
More chearfull appearing,

(Anna)
with Smiles more endearing,

(Anna and Tobias)
with Pleasures to charm you,
no Fears to alarm you,
confide in his/my Love.

(Sarah)
No Pleasure can charm me,
while Fears thus alarm me
and banish all Love.

(Tobias)
More chearfull appearing,

(Sarah)
How can I be chearfull,

(Anna)
with Smiles more endearing,

(Sarah)
while Fears thus alarm me?

(Anna and Tobias)
Be comforted, be comforted,

(Sarah)
No, no!

(Anna and Tobias)
Fair/dear Creature!

(Sarah)
I cannot! No!

(Anna and Tobias)
With pleasures to charm you,
confide in his/my Love.

(Sarah)
No, no! When Fears thus alarm me.

(Anna and Tobias)
With pleasures to charm you,
no Fears to alarm you,
confide in his/my Love.

(Sarah)
No pleasures to charm me,
while Fears thus alarm me
and banish all Love.

(Anna)
May wisdom direct you
and Pow'r still protect you.

(Tobias)
Pure Love hopes this Blessing,
nor doubts of possessing.

(Sarah)

To enjoy So great Blessing,
my Trust is above,
when ever my Heart
proves Submission to Love.

24

Air

(Sarah)

Watchful angels, let me share
your indulgent daily care!

25

Recitative

(Sarah)

O King of Kings, celestial Lord!
Whose works our admiration raise:
With rapture shall my lips record
Thy Majesty's immortal praise!

26

Air

(Sarah)

Allelujah

27

Chorus

Swift our Numbers, Swiftly roll,
Spread the Sound from Pole to Pole.
Blessings on the Pair now join'd,
Joy and Peace to all mankind.

28

Recitative

(Raphael)

'Tis well; but take this caution from a friend:
Fly hence with Raguel to Ecbatana,
for thus the Prophet, righteous Nahum, sings:

29

Accompagnato

(Raphael)

O Nineveh! Thy Glory is laid waste;
the Sword Shall cut thee off,
the Fire devour thee.
And non shall Pity, none bemoan thy Fall. –
Virtue alone can make a people happy.

30

Air

(Raphael)

In Jehovah's awful sight
haughty tyrants are but dust,
those, who glory in their might,
place in vanity their trust.

(Exit Raphael)

31

Symphony

32

Recitative

(Tobit)

Saw ye the radiant Streams of Light,
that flow'd from his bright Path? –
Sure, 'twas not Azarias,
but a commission'd Angel from the Lord:
Whom therefore let us fear with filial Love

and with all duteous Hearts exalt his Praise.

33

Due Soprani soli & Chorus

Ye Servants of th'eternal King,
His Pow'r and Glory Sing,
and Speak of all his righteous Ways
with wonder and with Praise.

Amen, Allelujah, Amen.