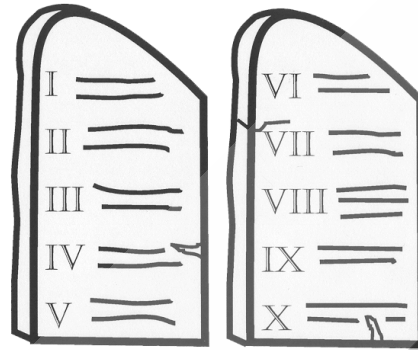


A Wayne Scott • LifeHouse Production



Moses

Script, Music and Lyrics By
MICHAEL TENNANT

Additional Music by
NOLAN LIVESAY

Based on the Old Testament book of Exodus Chapters 1-20

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

Messenger	Of Pharaoh's Commands
Amram	Moses' Father
Jochebed	Moses' Mother
Maidens 1 & 2	Servants to the Princess
Princess	Adopts Moses
Miriam	Moses' Young Sister.
Moses	Man of God, Chosen to be the Deliverer of his People
Slave	Suffers Greatly Under Taskmaster
Taskmaster 1	Overseer Who Fights with Moses
Benaiah	Quarrelling Slave
Sherebiah	Quarrelling Slave
Guards 1 & 2	Carries out Pharaoh's Orders
Sisters 1-6	Zipporah's Playful Younger Sisters: Hannah, Dinah, Bernice, Rebekah, Lydia, & Zilpah
Zipporah	Strong and Beautiful Young Woman. Becomes Moses' Wife.
Shepherds 1, 2, 3 & 4	Selfish and Petty Herdsman
Jethro	Zipporah's kindly Father. High Priest of Midian.
Young Moses	About Ten Years
Gershom	Moses' and Zipporah's Young Son
Aaron	Moses' Wise Older Brother and assistant
Taskmaster 2	Brutal Overseer of the Slaves
Elders 1, 2 & 3	Leaders of the Israelites
Court Magician	Inept Advisor to Pharaoh
Servant	Obedient and Fearful
Pharaoh	Hard-hearted and Cruel King of Egypt
Egyptian Girl	Silly Flirt
Zebulun	A Man of Enduring Faith
Messala	A Bitter, Wounded Slave
Israelites 1, 2, 3 & 4	Ungrateful and Complaining

Israelites/Slaves, Egyptians, Guards, Servants

“MOSES”

By Michael Tennant

SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

ACT I

Overture

1. “The Decree”Israelite Ensemble
2. “An Israelite in the Palace”Moses
3. “Why?”Moses & Ensemble
4. “Shadows of the Past”Zipporah & Moses
5. “Cry Of Israel”Children of Israel
6. “Return To Egypt”Taskmaster, Slaves, Aaron, Elders, Israelites
7. “We Will See”Pharaoh
8. “The Plight”Pharaoh, Slaves, Moses

ACT II

9. “Slave Song”Slaves
10. “Water Turned To Blood”Egyptians
11. “I Will Not Let Them Go!”Pharaoh & Aaron
12. “Taskmaster’s Love Song”Taskmaster
13. “Freedom From Slavery”Elders & Slaves
14. “Egyptian Dance” (Instrumental)Egyptian Girls
15. “Keep the Faith”Zebulun and Ensemble
16. “Don’t You Ever Wonder?”Zipporah & Moses
17. “Leader’s Lament”Pharaoh
“Israelite in the Palace” (Reprise) Moses
“Cry Of Israel” (Reprise)Israelites & Pharaoh
“Water Turned to Blood” (Reprise)Egyptians
18. “Israelite Song of Celebration”Israelite Ensemble
Finale: “Ten Commandments” (“Keep the Faith” Reprise)Zebulun, Moses, Ensemble

"Moses"

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ACT I

Overture

PROLOGUE: NARRATIVE TABLEAU

SONG: "THE DECREE"

Ensemble

God blessed the children of Israel
While Egypt began to fear
This growing nation might rebel
While rumors of war drew near

After the death of Joseph
A new Pharaoh came to power
Who ordered God's children to be oppressed
Their children killed in a dreadful hour

Messenger

Hear ye all this decree set about by the Pharaoh. Every daughter who is born to the women of Israel shall live...but any woman of Israel who gives birth to a son shall watch him be cast into the river to drown...

(Women cry out as their children are taken from them)

(Song resumes)

Ensemble

It came to pass that a child was given
To the descendants of Levi
For three months they kept their child hidden
Instead of giving him over to die.

SCENE 1: RIVER BANK

Amram

We can't keep him. You know we can't keep him!

Jochebed

What would you have me do?! This is our son?

Amram

We've tried to hide him here. For three months we've tried to hide him here. We won't be able to go on hiding him. It's only a matter of time until we're found out, and you know what the Pharaoh will do to us. If he can find any reason, any fault with us, our lives will be over. Is that a risk you want to take? Think of Aaron and Miriam.

Jochebed

I cannot let my son be thrown into the river to die.

Amram

Every time that child cries, our life is in danger. Do you think the neighbors don't know we're keeping a child?

Jochebed

Lower your voice.

Amram

The Pharaoh will reward them if they report us to the guards. We have no other choice.

Jochebed

It's cruel...it's murder.

Amram

Look at me...if there was any other way out of this...

Jochebed

We could run...we could...

Amram

Give the child to me. I'll take him to the river myself.

Jochebed

No...at least, let me put him in a basket so that he will float.

Amram

What will that do for him?

Jochebed

At least I won't feel completely responsible for his death. Look at him. He's a beautiful child.

Amram Alright, but this must be done quickly, and quietly.

(Song resumes)

Ensemble The Lord watched over the child (The Holy)
Lord watched over the child (Our Great and Holy)
Lord watched over the child
As he was put into an ark of bulrushes
As he left his mother's arms
He was placed into the hands of God
Who protected the child from harm

The child was carried away
By the river water's flow
He was found by a princess
The daughter of Pharaoh

(Princess and two maidens walk along the riverside. The princess stops)

Maiden 1 Is there something wrong, your majesty?

Princess Do you see that?

Maiden 2 See what, your majesty?

Princess That basket there in the reeds.

Maiden 2 Yes. How very strange to find a basket here.

Princess Bring it to me.

Maiden 1 Yes, your majesty.

(The maiden retrieves the basket)

Princess Set it here.

(The princess opens basket and is overcome with emotion and compassion for the child)

It's a baby. This is one of the Hebrew children. Look at him. Just look at him.

Maiden 2 What will you do with him?

Maiden 1 If he's truly a child of the Hebrews, there's only one thing to be done.

Princess No...I couldn't. We won't watch this poor child drown.

(Miriam comes into view)

Maiden 1 Your majesty.... *(Points towards Miriam)*

Princess And who are you?

Miriam *(Visibly frightened)* I'm...I'm...

Princess Come forward.

(Miriam approaches the princess with caution)

Do you know the child?

Miriam Yes. Shall I go and call a nurse for you, from the Hebrew women, that she may tend to the child?

Princess Go. Take this child away and nurse for him for me, and I will give you wages.

Miriam Yes, your majesty.

(Miriam takes the basket and exits)

Princess He shall be my son...my adopted son, and one day, heir to the throne.

(Song resumes)

The first of many miracles
Happened that day in the water
When an Israelite child marked for death
Was adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter
He was raised in his rightful home
He was lovelier than roses
The princess who drew him from the water
Named the child Moses
Moses...Moses...Moses!!!
(Music segues to)

(Black out)

SCENE 2: PALACE OF EGYPT

SONG: "AN ISRAELITE IN THE PALACE"

Moses

I've lived for years in the palace
As an heir to the throne
I've been taught by the finest teachers
Egypt has ever known

I am surrounded by riches
I have armies at my command
If I snap my fingers women will run
Just to take my hand

At first I loved the palace
But as time passes by
I think of my family from long ago
And I cannot help but cry –

Out to my Father in Heaven
Maker of the Land and Sea
Maker of the Universe
Maker of me

Father help me remember
Whose blood runs through my veins
I'm an Israelite in the palace
While my people are in chains

My mother told me a story
On the day we had to part
She brought me here to the palace
Where my royal life would start

There at the gates when she hugged me
She told me for the last time
How other children's lives were taken
But God chose to spare mine

Those other boys who were murdered
Might have been my playmates
Why did I come to the palace?
Why did I not share their fate?

They cried out and their voices were silenced
As their mothers fell to their knees
No pity was shown to the children
Despite their family's pleas

How can I sit on the throne
Of the man who destroyed my people's homes
I'm an Israelite in the palace
And my heart is full of shame

(Song ends)

(Underscore continues)

(A slave is thrown on stage. The taskmaster follows him on. The taskmaster punches slave and whips him)

Slave Please! Please don't hurt me!

Taskmaster 1 This is what happens when you don't finish the work I give you!

(The taskmaster beats the slave again. The slave cries out in pain and falls to the ground. The taskmaster raises his whip again, when Moses yells...)

Moses Stop! Please! What has this man done?

Taskmaster 1 What has he done? He hasn't done anything! He's fallen behind on his work!

Slave *(Looks up)* I was exhausted. I couldn't work any longer. I needed to rest.

Taskmaster 1 Silence! I didn't give you permission to speak!

(The taskmaster raises his whip to beat the slave again, when Moses grabs his arm and stops him)

Moses He's had enough. Go about your business and I'll see that this man goes back to work.

Taskmaster 1 When I'm finished with him, he won't be able to work, and I don't remember asking you to step in.

Moses Do you know who you're talking to?

Taskmaster 1 I know exactly who I'm talking to. The adopted son of the Pharaoh's daughter... and what's worse... you're an Israelite. You may think you're of great importance, but we all know the truth. It is well known that Pharaoh bears a great hatred towards you. You'll never sit on the throne!

Moses Two Pharaohs have died since I've lived in the palace. Both times, I could have been their successor.

Taskmaster 1 What's the use of being heir to the throne if you refuse to become the Pharaoh.

Moses I refused to become the Pharaoh while my people are in bondage.

Taskmaster 1 You refused because you're a fool! The truth speaks louder than the crack of this whip! Now be off with you.

(Taskmaster turns to the slave to continue beating him)

Moses Do not hurt that man again.

(With a wicked grin, the taskmaster whips the slave once more. In a fury, Moses attacks the taskmaster. They fight. The taskmaster is killed. The slave gets a second wind)

Slave You've killed him!

Moses Are you alright?

Slave You've killed him!

Moses We've got to hide the body before anyone sees. Help me...

Slave You've killed him.

(The slave runs off stage)

Moses Where are you going?

(Moses drags the body off stage as the chorus enters)

SONG: "WHY?"

Ensemble

Moses took the body, and hid it in the sand
Then returned to the palace for the night
He was sure nobody saw him, He was sure nobody knew
But the news spread quickly among the Hebrews

Fear gripped Moses, and thoughts raced through his mind
About the slave, the taskmaster and the fight
He tried to put it behind him, but the terror only grew
In his dreams he saw the face of the man he slew

Moses

What have I done, I have no doubt
The Pharaoh will kill me if this murder is found out
I tried to help my people when evil had been done
Why? Why? WHY?

*(Two Israelite men walk on stage in the middle of an argument that is becoming violent)
(Underscore music continues until end of scene)*

Benaiah How dare you! I shall not allow you to insult me! (*Pushes Sherebiah*)
Sherebiah What will you do, then?
Benaiah I shall make certain your mouth never opens again!
Sherebiah You are a fool! Let us settle this once and for all!
(Moses runs between them as they prepare to fight)

Moses Please, friends, do not fight! You are Israelites, therefore, you are brothers!
Sherebiah Look who it is! The Israelite who ran off to live a life of luxury in the palace, and left his people behind.

Moses I'm trying to help you...
Benaiah Mind your business, Moses!
Moses I won't have you fighting one another. I will deal with the man who attacks first!
Benaiah What will you do! Kill us like you did the Pharaoh's taskmaster?
Moses What? (*Shocked and terrified*)
Sherebiah Do not act innocent Moses. The story is widely known throughout Egypt already. Pharaoh's guards discovered the body this morning.

Moses The guards...? (*Fear is growing by the second*)
Benaiah They will come for you, Moses.
Sherebiah I hope Pharaoh puts you to death! It will serve you right for betraying your people!
Moses Brothers, please...I was protecting an Israelite. That is why I killed the taskmaster!
Benaiah I imagine there's a price on your head. You'd best leave and never return before an Israelite reports you to the guards.

Moses Who would do that? Who among my own people would do such a thing?
Ben. /Shere. Guards! Guards!
Moses What are you doing? Stop!
Ben. /Shere. Guards!
(Two guards enter and see Moses)

Guard 1 There he is!
Guard 2 It's Moses!
Guard 1 Do not let him escape!
(There is a brief chase and Moses barely manages to get away)

SCENE 3: AT THE WELL IN MIDIAN

(Zipporah and her sisters arrive at the well with their sheep. Moses is asleep by the well)

Hannah Who is that man by the well?
Dinah He looks like he's asleep.
Bernice Or dead.
Rebekah Either way, he's resting peacefully. Don't disturb him. Let us draw the water and hasten on our way. Father is expecting us.
(Zipporah breaks off a small piece of bread and puts it down by Moses)

Bernice That's our lunch!
Zilpah He looks like he needs it more than you.
Bernice You are so cruel to me!
Zilpah Oh, be quiet.
Dinah Hannah, are you watching the sheep?
Hannah Yes!
Dinah Father will be none too happy if they run off again.
(The other sisters notice Zipporah has not taken her eyes off Moses)

Zilpah Zipporah, do you plan on helping us today, or was this just a sightseeing trip?
(Zipporah begins to help drawing the water from the well, when four shepherds are seen heading towards the well)

Dinah Oh no!
(The sisters become frantic as the shepherds approach them)

Hannah Make haste. Draw the water quickly.
Shepherd 1 Have we not told you women not to take our water?
Zipporah This well doesn't belong to you anymore than it belongs to us. It's here for everyone to use.
Shepherd 1 Everyone but you. Give those buckets to us.

Bernice We shall not!

Shepherd 1 It looks like we'll have to do this the hard way.
(Shepherd 1 pulls out a knife. The sisters see this and put the buckets on the ground)

Shepherd 3 Thank you, ladies, for your generosity. Our sheep will appreciate it.

Shepherd 4 And they even took the time to fill the buckets for us. That's not an easy job.

Shepherd 2 But now their sheep don't have any water to drink.

Shepherd 3 Sheep can't live without water.

Shepherd 4 Maybe we should take their sheep, too.

Shepherd 2 Might as well. They'll only die if they go off with the women.

Shepherd 1 Why don't you women pick those buckets back up and carry them to them to the place where our sheep are grazing?

Zipporah Why don't you bathe in the water instead? You'll never attract women, but at least you won't attract flies.
(Shepherd 1 grabs Zipporah by the hair on the back of her head and holds a knife to her throat. The other sisters move to help but the other shepherds hold them back. No one has noticed Moses has woken up and is silently climbing to his feet)

Shepherd 1 You've got a big mouth. I think only six sisters will be going home today.

Moses Take your hands from her, and be on your way.
(Everyone's head turns, surprised to see Moses standing here. Shepherd 1 throws Zipporah into the arms of Shepherds 2 and 3 and then turns his blade to Moses)

Shepherd 1 I don't know you, stranger, but you'd best turn around and walk away.
(Before Shepherd 1 knows what is happening, Moses has disarmed him and thrown him to the ground. Shepherds 2 and 3 join in the fight. Moses grabs Shepherd 2's staff and uses it to attack Shepherd 3 and then proceeds to knock Shepherd 2 down. Zipporah grabs a bucket and puts it over Shepherd 4's head. The six other sisters surround him and beat the daylight out of him. Moses picks up the bread Zipporah left for him, sits down on the well, and begins to eat it. When Shepherd 4 falls to the ground, Moses applauds the sisters, who stare at him, partly in awe, partly in shock)

Hannah We should go. *(Stunned and lost for words)*
(The sisters begin gathering their buckets, still in shock)

Moses Thank you for the bread.

Zipporah And thank you for coming to our defense.

Moses You're still shaken up. Let me help you with those buckets.

Zilpah Oh, no, we couldn't...

Moses Please, I insist.
(Moses picks up the shepherds' staff, puts three buckets on each side, and then picks it up over his shoulders. The sisters are amazed at this strength. Moses walks off as the sisters follow)

(Scene Transition to the house of Jethro)

SCENE 4: HOUSE OF JETHRO (TENT)

Hannah/Dinah Father, father!

Jethro Back so soon?

Bernice Yes. Father!

Jethro I didn't expect you home so quickly.

Rebekah You won't believe what happened at the well, father!

Jethro What?

Lydia We were drawing water from the well...

Dinah When the shepherds came out from nowhere!

Lydia I'm telling this story!

Dinah Sorry.

Lydia The shepherds tried to take our buckets of water from us...

Hannah Then Zipporah made them angry!

Lydia And that's when...

Bernice One of the shepherds pulled out a knife! It must have been this long. *(Gestures with hands)*

Hannah No, much bigger.

Lydia He must have been...

Rebekah Seven feet tall!
Lydia He...
Bernice Was amazing!
Lydia Then...
Rebekah Two more shepherds attacked him, but he got the best of them as well.
Lydia Z –
Zilpah –Ipporah poured a bucket of water on the other shepherd’s head, and we all punched him and kicked him until he fell to the ground. Then he offered to help us carry the buckets home.
Lydia And that’s the whole story!
Hannah He was a great fighter!
Dinah The strongest man in the world.
Jethro Well, where is he?
Zilpah He’s right there!
(Zilpah points as Zipporah walks on. Moses stumbles on stage after her, barely able to walk under the weight of the buckets)
Jethro This is the strongest man in the world?
Bernice Isn’t he wonderful?
(Moses drops the buckets of water)
Zipporah Oh, sir, the buckets go over there.
(Moses, regretting he ever offered to help, uses his last bit of strength to reach down, pick up the buckets, carry them to where Zipporah pointed, and put them down)
Jethro Sir, my name is Jethro, and I understand you did a very kind thing for my daughters. I am in your debt.
Moses That is not necessary. I am only happy we all escaped unharmed.
Jethro Tell me your name, son.
Moses Moses.
Jethro *(Taking Moses’ wrist)* Moses, I am thankful God sent you to the aid of my daughters. Please, you look very weary. Join us for our afternoon meal.
Moses Thank-you. I would be honored.
Jethro Please, please come inside. Daughters, prepare the table for our meal.
Hannah Yes, father.
(Jethro and Moses are seated as the sisters bring food to the table. Jethro smiles brightly as he says)
Jethro It’s good to have another man in the house. Tell me, Moses, do you live in Midian?
Moses Midian? No...
Jethro Passing through, then?
Moses Yes.
Jethro Where are you from?
(Clearly Moses is becoming uneasy with these questions)
Moses Egypt.
Jethro Egypt? Well, that is certainly quite the journey you’ve taken. What brings you to Midian?
Dinah Father, we’re ready to eat.
(The sisters join Moses and Jethro around the table)
Jethro And now, let us thank our God and provider for the day’s food, events, and guests. Lord Jehovah, we thank Thee for Thy provisions...
(Upon hearing this, Moses thinks the prayer is over and begins eating the bread. He is very hungry. Jethro and his daughters look up) Moses, we’re still saying the blessing.
Moses Oh...I’m sorry. Sorry. *(Moses puts the bread down)*
Jethro Lord Jehovah, we thank Thee for Thy provisions, and for the protection and the protector You have given to my daughters this day. We praise Thee and thank Thee for Thy goodness and Thy merciful ways. Amen.
(Everyone but Moses opens their eyes and begins to fill their plate. Moses’ head is still bowed. He has fallen asleep)
Hannah What is he doing?
Zipporah He’s fallen asleep.
Lydia I realize he saved us from a horrible danger at the well, but you’ve got to admit, he is a bit odd.
Jethro Bless his soul, he’s exhausted. We should take him to a bed and let him rest. He doesn’t look entirely well. We’ll leave a plate of food by the bed and he can eat when he awakes.

SCENE 5: MOSES' DREAM

(Music begins)

(Dream shifts to a dream sequence of Moses in his younger years. He is ten or twelve, and Jochebed is taking him to a new life at the palace)

- Jochebed** It's time for us to say good-bye, Moses.
Young Moses Why am I going to live in the palace, mother?
Jochebed It's God's plan for you, Moses. God has a plan for us all, and carries them out in His own time.
Young Moses I don't want to leave home.
Jochebed I don't want you to leave either, Moses, but I have to let you go...you were never mine to keep. ...God gave you to your father and I for a short time, so we could raise you, and now the time has come for us to give you back.
Young Moses Will I ever see you again?
(Jochebed doesn't answer. She can't even look Moses in the eye...perhaps because she doesn't want him to see her tears. She hugs him)
Jochebed Listen carefully, Moses. I've told you this story before...now hear it one last time. There once was a child, who was born to parents who loved him very much. These parents, to save their son's life, made a basket of bulrushes, put their son in that basket, and sent him floating down the river. The God of Israel watched over this child...finish the story, son.
Young Moses The basket floated down the river and was found by the daughter of the Pharaoh. She took pity on the child in the basket, and the baby was returned to his mother.
Jochebed The child in the basket was you, Moses. God chose to spare your life...He has a plan for you, and one day that plan will be carried out in a way you've never imagined. Remember that story, Moses...hide it in your heart. One day, you'll have your own children, and you'll tell this story to them.
Young Moses I'll miss you, Mother.
Jochebed I'll miss you, Moses. Now go with God, and be the man He desires you to be.

SCENE 6: HOUSE OF JETHRO (TENT)

(Jethro and his daughters are busy outside doing chores. Moses stumbles outside, still slightly groggy)

- Jethro** Moses, you're awake. Did you find your plate of food?
Moses Yes, thank you. I'm sorry I fell asleep, I...
Jethro Think nothing of it, Moses. I could see how tired you were. With seven daughters running about, fighting and bickering, I understand how exhausted a man can become.
(Music trails off)
Moses Can I help you with anything?
Jethro No, just rest yourself.
Moses I feel badly you're all doing chores, and I'm just standing here.
Jethro Well, how about taking the sheep out to graze? That doesn't require much strength.
Moses The sheep?
Jethro Sure.
Moses I'm afraid I wouldn't know the first thing about leading the sheep.
Jethro They'll follow you, Moses. They will. Just show them the way.
(Zipporah looks over at Moses and catches his eye. She smiles at him)
Moses I...I...
Jethro The sheep like you, Moses.
Moses You can tell that?
Jethro Yes. And you know what? The sheep aren't the only ones who like you.
(Zipporah and Moses still have their eyes locked on one another. Zipporah's smile grows bigger)
Moses You mean...
Jethro That's right, Moses. I like you too!
(Jethro gives Moses a big bear hug. Zipporah laughs. Moses tries desperately to breathe)
Now, how about it? Those sheep look hungry.
(Jethro exits. Moses looks at the sheep, and has no idea what to do. Zipporah is watching Moses...Pressure's on!)

Moses Here sheep! This way! Over here, sheep.
Zipporah Does everyone in Egypt lead their flock the way you do, Moses?
Moses I wouldn't know. I didn't spend a lot of time with the animals.
Zipporah I never would have guessed.
Moses Your father says the sheep like me.
Zipporah He was wrong. They don't.
Moses Oh...
Zipporah Don't feel badly. They don't like many people. You have to have a certain way about you.
(Dinah comes on stage)
Dinah Zipporah, could you help me with...Oh...I am sorry....I did not mean to interrupt.
(Dinah exits, giggling)
Zipporah As I was saying, it takes a certain touch to lead these sheep.
Moses Will an Egyptian touch do?
Zipporah We'll never know. We'd need an Egyptian here to try and lead them.
Moses What do you mean?
Zipporah Do not insult me, Moses. You may have traveled here from Egypt, but you clearly are not an Egyptian.
Moses That is true. I am an Israelite.
Zipporah It must be difficult to be an Israelite in Egypt. I've heard times are hard for your people there.
Moses Times have been hard for several generations now.
Zipporah Terrible stories have been told to my family about the Egyptians and their worship of pagan gods. Are they as cruel as they sound in the stories I have heard?
Moses Not all of them...a very kind Egyptian woman saved my life when I was a baby. She raised me as her son...she's dead now. *(Trying not to become emotional)*
Zipporah I am sorry.
Moses I had better take the sheep out to graze. Sheep...sheep! *(The sheep ignore him)*
Zipporah Never mind, Moses...I'll take the sheep. You stay here and rest. Rest. Come along, sheep.
(The sheep follow Zipporah offstage. Moses exits from the opposite side of the stage. Jethro and the six other daughters walk on stage)
Hannah Dinah, what did you see?
Dinah I saw a look in Zipporah's eyes that I have never seen before. She's quite taken with him.
Lydia That is not like Zipporah.
Rebekah I agree...we have only just met this Moses.
Bernice He is a man of few words.
Zilpah Unlike yourself.
Bernice You are so cruel to me!
Rebekah Bernice has a point. He hasn't told us very much about himself, and he is a stranger.
Lydia What if he intends to rob us?
Hannah What do you think, father?
Jethro It is true...he has not spoken about himself a great deal, but his actions have told me all I need to know. He put his own life in danger to save yours...that tells me he is brave, and compassionate. Although he was tired, he carried your water home for you, and offered to help me with the chores. That tells me he has the humble heart of a servant. However, Lydia, I believe he will rob us.
Rebekah We are poor, father...what do we have that he would want?
Jethro Zipporah. I noticed the look in her eyes as well. It was the same way your mother looked at me.
Hannah I know mother would have liked Moses.
Jethro I believe she would have, Hannah.
Dinah Father, is it time for our evening meal?
Jethro Yes. Yes, let us go inside and eat.
(Music begins)
Lydia What about Zipporah and Moses?
Jethro We'll let them have some time to themselves.
(Jethro and sisters exit. Moses and Zipporah walk on stage, standing apart from one another)

SONG: "SHADOWS OF THE PAST"

Zipporah Who is this man who rose up and saved my life?

He showed no fear, not even of the knife
He risked his life to save me,
Without even knowing my name
I've never met another man who'd do the same

Moses I'm running for my life, should I stop here in this place
There was nothing in my way, except Zipporah's face
Am I safe here with her family, is her family safe with me?
Am I reaching for a love that was never meant to be?

Zipporah My heart is beating fast
Moses I have shadows in my past
What if she were to discover

Zipporah The man is like no other
Should I tell him how I feel,
Would I even dare

Moses If I disappeared tonight would she care?
Would she care?

Zipporah *(Interlude)*
Tonight my eyes have opened,
It couldn't feel more right

Moses I've got to know, I've got to see her,
I need to know tonight

Zipporah I've got to tell things
I shouldn't dare,

Moses Secrets unaware
The burden that I bear

Zipporah I wonder if he'd care,
Would he want my hand?

Moses Would she understand?
Zipporah Would he want my hand?

Moses Would she understand?
(Musical interlude as underscore)

Zipporah Moses...
Moses Zipporah...you're just the one I...I...
Zipporah You're the last person on my mind tonight.
Moses Just the one I wasn't thinking of.
Zipporah Moses, thank you again for helping us back at the well.
Moses And thank you, Zipporah, for bringing me into your home today, and feeding me, and giving me food. Your family was very kind to me.
Zipporah Would you like to sit down? *(They sit)* It's a very nice night, tonight.
Moses Yes...very nice. Zipporah...when morning comes, I should be on my way.
Zipporah *(Swallows hard)* Oh...where are you heading?
Moses I don't know.
Zipporah What are you running from, Moses? *(Moses looks away)* Is it so awful you can't tell me?
Moses Let's just say, I had to leave Egypt in a hurry. People are looking for me.
Zipporah People you owe money to...? *(Moses shakes his head)* Someone you insulted...? *(Moses shakes his head)* Moses, you can tell me...I'm a friend.
Moses If you truly are a friend, you're the only friend I have in the world. Please don't think differently of me once I've told you. *(Zipporah puts her hand on his)* I killed one of the Pharaoh's guards, and he's put a price on my head.
Zipporah Oh dear...*(She subtly, maybe even subconsciously, slides away from him)*
Moses I've been running. I collapsed at the well where we met. I don't know how long I was sleeping, and in truth, I really don't even know where I am. I've spoken to no one. I kept to myself as I traveled.
Zipporah Oh dear...
Moses I'll just stay the night, and tomorrow I'll go. *(Moses stands)* You have a nice family, Zipporah. I felt at home here.

Zipporah Moses...you don't have the strength to keep on running...you should stay. Father will let you, I know he will. We don't get many visitors...you'll be safe here.
Moses I just told you I murdered a man, and you'd let me stay in your home?
Zipporah Of course, Moses. I said I was a friend, and I meant it. Besides, I'm sure you didn't mean to kill him.
Moses I did.
Zipporah Oh dear...yes, stay...but please don't tell my father.
Moses Thank you, Zipporah.
(Zipporah steps into Moses' arms as the song continues)

Moses/Zipporah Tonight my heart was set free
We've come so far so fast
I feel your arms around me
I've found true love at last

Could it be, that you're my destiny?
I look at you and see the one God made for me
Now I understand, we are in God's hands
Now I understand, we are in God's hands
(Music transitions to next scene)

Moses Come Zipporah, let us go inside. There are things about myself that you should know.
(Music rises)
(Lighting transitions to)

SCENE 7: SLAVE FIELD OF EGYPT

(We see the children of Israel in slavery in Egypt. They are in anguish, and the few that are still faithful to God cry out to Him)

SONG: "CRY OF ISRAEL"

Children of Israel

God in heaven look down and see
Your children in captivity
God in heaven hear our cry
Have You left us here to die?
Have You left us here to die?

Misery and slavery are all we have known
When will You lead us to the land that is our own
Have You forgotten us, are we on our own?
Are we on our own?

We have no joy, we do not laugh
Lest we are beaten with a staff
Each new day brings us new pain
As our dreams of peace are slain

What will become of our families
Will they die of starvation or disease
They'll be tortured and punished if they cannot work
Will their bodies lie forgotten in the dirt?

God in heaven hear our cry
It won't be long before we die
We will soon lie down and die
We will soon lie down and die

SCENE 8: LAND OF MIDIAN

(Scene shifts back to the land of Midian. Time has passed. Moses and Zipporah are married with one child. Moses is in the wilderness, searching for the sheep who have wandered away)

(Music trails off)

Moses Sheep! Where are you? After all this time, they still refuse to follow me. Sheep! They follow my wife, they follow my son, they follow my wife's sisters...even the ugly one! Sheep! They follow my father –in –law, they follow each other, they follow birds...but they see me coming and run the other direction. Sheep! I've been given the best training Egypt had to offer! I've commanded armies, won battles, been a leader of men...but I can't get the sheep to follow me!

(Underscore begins)

(Moses sees a burning bush. He stares in great wonder, for the fire does not consume the bush)

Moses What is this? This bush is on fire...and yet, it doesn't burn.

God Moses! *(Moses jumps back)* Moses!

Moses *(Scared, bewildered, breathless)* Here I am.

God Do not draw near this place. Take off your sandals, for the place you stand is holy ground.

(Moses takes off his sandals, and continues to stare in shock) I am the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

(Moses gasps and hides his face)

I have surely seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry, for I know their sorrow. I have come to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good land, flowing with milk and honey. Come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

Moses Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?

God I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you. When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.

Moses Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them “The God of your fathers has sent me” and they say to me “What is His name?” what shall I say to them?

God I AM WHO I AM! Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, “I AM has sent me.” They will heed your voice and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him “The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.”

Moses But, suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say “The Lord God has not appeared to you.”

God Put your hand in your bosom.

(Moses puts his hand in his bosom. When he takes it out, it is leprous)

Moses I have leprosy.

God Put your hand in your bosom again.

(Moses puts his hand back in his bosom, and the leprosy is gone)

Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.

Moses Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.

God Who has made man's mouth? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be your mouth and teach you what to say.

Moses O, my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You might send.

God Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well, and look, he is also coming out to meet you. He shall be your spokesman to the people. Go now, and return to Egypt, for all the men who sought your life are dead.

(As Moses begins to leave, the sheep appear and surround Moses. Moses takes a step and the sheep take a step. Moses stops. Moses takes a step and the sheep take a step – they are following him)

(Lighting transitions to:)

SCENE 9: HOUSE OF JETHRO (TENT)

(Moses has returned to the house of Jethro. It is nighttime, and Moses stands alone outside of the house, looking towards Egypt. Zipporah comes outside. She stands by Moses. She takes his hand and looks towards Egypt with him. For a short time, there is silence. Then Zipporah says)
Moses, you often stand here at night, and for hours you stare into the distance. I've often wondered what you're thinking of.

Zipporah

(Underscore trails off)

Moses My home...in Egypt. We have to go there, Zipporah. We have to go back.

Zipporah I've always known the time would come for you to return.

Moses We must tell your family good-bye. We won't see them again.

Zipporah I understand.

Moses When we get to Egypt, you'll be frightened. Our child will be frightened. Things will happen there...things you've never seen. Powers will be at work, beyond our comprehension. Our lives will be threatened. But know this...whatever befalls us, the God of Israel will deliver us.

Zipporah I'll follow you, Moses.

Moses We'll follow God.

(Moses' son, Gershom comes outside)

Gershom Father?

Moses Come, Gershom. Tomorrow morning, we'll be going on a journey.

Gershom A journey where?

Moses Egypt. That's where I grew up. Your uncle Aaron will be meeting us on the way.

Gershom Father, you never told me I had an Uncle Aaron.

Moses Gershom, there are many things I should have told you that I have not. But I'll tell you now.

Would you like to hear a story?

Gershom Yes. *(Smiling)*

(Music begins)

Moses Yes? Well Gershom...There once was a child, born to parents who loved him very much. Those parents, to save their son's life, made a basket of bulrushes, and put him in the river. The basket floated down the river, and was found by the daughter of the Pharaoh...

(Music rises)

(Blackout. Underscore music plays. Dim lights come up on stage as we see the silhouettes of two men approaching each other at sunset. They pause to look at each other and they embrace)

SCENE 10: LAND OF EGYPT

Aaron Can it really be you, Moses?

Moses It's been so long, Aaron. It's been so long.

Aaron Miriam and I had given up hope on you long ago. We thought we had lost you.

Moses Miriam...how is he?

Aaron She is well, Moses.

Moses And the Israelites?

Aaron Times are dark, Moses. The darkest I've seen. Many of the Israelites have turned from Jehovah. They worship the gods of Egypt. They are very bitter. Strange powers are at work in Egypt. The new Pharaoh is a wicked man.

Moses Those things will change.

Aaron That is my prayer.

Moses Come, brother. Come meet my wife, and my son.

(Lighting transitions to)

(Lights up on Israelites in bondage. The taskmaster is tormenting them)

SONG: "RETURN TO EGYPT"

Taskmaster 2

You men are all a sorry sight!
A pathetic bunch of Israelites
Faster, faster, you're working too slow
Your laziness will upset the Pharaoh

Slaves
Taskmaster 2

The workday doesn't end with the setting of the sun
You'll work until I say you're done
We're short of breath and near to death, you'll work us to our graves
It matters not, your lives are useless, who cares about slaves?
You fools, continue digging, I'm going to make my rounds.
If you're not done when I return, you'll be buried in this ground!

(Moses and Aaron walk in the middle of the Israelites, busy at work)

Aaron

Elders of Israel draw near
The Lord Jehovah sent us here
He looked down from heaven when you cried out in pain
He knows your anguish and fear

(Great interest begins to gather as the elders summon others over to hear Aaron speak)

Elder 1
Elder 2
Elder 3
Aaron

Strangers have come from afar *(Gathering others to hear)*
How do we know you're who you say you are?
Will He heal our pain and scars?
The words we speak to you are true

There is work that we must do
Let us join together and worship God
Only He can see us through
Elder 2
We've been slaves for years upon this sod
We've been beaten with the whip and rod
The Lord has forsaken us, surely YOU LIE!

Aaron
Behold the power of God!

(Moses turns and raises his staff. All react briefly as a miracle has happened, then freeze in these poses. Moses' staff is still in the air. More Israelites come on a different part of the stage the news begins to spread)

Children of Israel

I saw the sight with my own eyes
It took us all by surprise
He threw the staff upon the ground
And we saw a serpent arise

They were sent from God make no mistake
His signs did not stop with the snake
By the river he turned water to blood
A dawn of hope will break

(Moses, Aaron and the elders move from their positions and all gather to worship God)

All

Our Father, we bow down before You
Lord Jehovah, God of the Hebrews
Our Provider, give us strength to endure
Our Maker, Defender and Deliverer
Our Maker, Defender and Deliverer
(Black out)
(Music transitions to)

SCENE 11: PHARAOH'S CHAMBER AND THRONE

(Scene Changes. We are about to meet Pharaoh for the first time. At first, the lights are dark, and we see Egyptian women doing a dance in the shadows. The lights come up suddenly, and we see a dazzling throne room. The Pharaoh's throne is surrounded by women, guards, and magicians. False gods (idols) are all about the room)

Taskmaster 2 Pharaoh, I must report a situation to you that has only recently occurred, and yet, has caused myself and the other taskmasters much grief. *(Music ends)*

Pharaoh Well...

Taskmaster 2 The slaves were hard at work, when two men appeared. I'm not exactly sure what was said, but the slave's work was disrupted. There was a man who was speaking, getting the slaves riled up, and another man...he said nothing, and all of a sudden, he threw his staff to the ground and it turned into a serpent. I thought you should know.

Pharaoh Are the slaves working again?

Taskmaster 2 As I left to come here, the other taskmasters were trying to get them rounded up and working again. I'm sure it's all under control.

Pharaoh Are the slaves working again?

Taskmaster 2 As I left to come here, the other taskmasters were trying to get them rounded up and working again. I'm sure it's all under control.

Pharaoh Where are these two men?

Taskmaster 2 They're waiting outside. They're requesting to see you. None of us knew what to do. We thought it would be best to get them away from the slaves, so the other taskmasters could try to get them back to work. The man who turned his staff into a serpent seemed to know his way about the palace, like he'd seen it before.

Pharaoh Show them in.

(Music introduction begins)

Taskmaster 2 Yes, Your Majesty.

Pharaoh Quickly!

Taskmaster 2 Yes, Your Majesty.

SONG: "WE WILL SEE"

Pharaoh

We will see, we will see who these men could be
Do they know it isn't wise to upset the Pharaoh
For I deal with those who cause disorder
When you're within Egypt's borders
Your life belongs to me
(Music trails off)

(Moses and Aaron enter)

Pharaoh Who are you, that you have disturbed the work of my slaves, and have made your way into my palace without my desiring your presence?

Aaron I am Aaron, and this is my brother, Moses.

Magician It can't be...

Pharaoh Silence! Why have you come?

Aaron This says the Lord of Israel, "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness."

Pharaoh Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go!

Aaron The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall on us with pestilence or with the sword.

Pharaoh Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? They shall not regard the false words you have spoken. More work shall be added to the slaves, but they shall no longer be given straw to make their bricks. They shall seek out their own straw. If they cannot fulfill their daily quota, they shall be beaten. Now go!

Aaron Please...we ask only for...

Pharaoh I said go! I shall be greatly upset if the slaves are interrupted again.
(Moses storms out, with Aaron right behind him)

Magician Your majesty...I recognize the man called Moses...

Pharaoh I care not!

Magician From long ago, before you came to the throne.

Pharaoh I said "I care not!"

(Underscore music begins)

Pharaoh Did they truly believe I would allow my slaves to leave their work, even for three days? I am the Pharaoh! I cannot be intimidated, and my decisions are never swayed!

SONG: "THE PLIGHT"

Pharaoh I'm the man of the hour
The ruler with all the power
The world sees me and cowers
Cowers in fear

I won't listen to their pleading
I'll laugh as they're bleeding
My kind face is misleading
I will never let them go
I will never let them go
(We will see the slaves as the bad news is given to them)
(Taskmaster and slave talk over underscore)

Taskmaster 2 Go on, slaves! Back to work! You've all heard the edict! Straw will no longer be provided for you!

Slave We'll never finish our work if we have to gather our own straw.

Taskmaster 2 You WILL finish, or else!

(Singing continues)
Slaves We should have ignored all Aaron said
He could have very well cost us each our head
We saw blood come from the river
It made us all quiver
Now blood will come from our backs
When the whip cracks!

Pharaoh/Slaves Moses and Aaron, go back to where you came
Or stay here and die, to us it's all the same
You've ignited the Pharaoh's flame

Pharaoh I will never let them go
All (I) He will never let us go!

Moses Why have You sent me back to this cursed place?
To see the Pharaoh face to face
You've brought trouble to Your people, evil has been done
I look for deliverance, and I find none!
Why? Why? WHY?!!

(Lights go very dark except over Moses. God speaks over underscore)

God Moses! Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh! For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand, he will drive them out of his land! I AM THE LORD!

(Singing continues)
(Lighting special on Pharaoh)
Pharaoh I will never let them go!
(Blackout)

End of ACT I

ACT II

Entr'acte

SCENE 1: LAND OF EGYPT

(Music plays in the darkness. Lights come up on the Israelites in bondage, who are working harder than ever)

SONG: "SLAVE SONG"

Slaves

More work to be done, more bricks to be made
Walls must be built, foundations must be laid
Never any rest, never peaceful sleep
No one feels our pain, no one hears us weep
(Music continues, twenty seconds as Taskmaster speaks over underscore)

Taskmaster 2

Faster! Move faster! You've still got a long way to go before your share of work is completed for the day! YOU! *(Pointing to a slave)* I've got my eye on you! I don't think you've been pulling your own weight! You'd better get twice as much work done today! And YOU! *(Pointing to another slave)* You've made more bricks than anyone, and are probably thinking your hard work should be rewarded! However, upon second glance, I discovered that these bricks are not of good quality! They were hastily and carelessly made, therefore, I had them thrown out! If this happens again, it will cost you your life! YOU! *(Pointing at a slave who is just about to drink some water)* Taking a water break? You forgot to ask me if I'd like some!
(The taskmaster grabs the stone cup from the slave hands)

Slave

Please! That's all the water I have!

Taskmaster 2

And it's very kind of you to share it with me! Next time you can't walk because I've whipped you and you find yourself lying under the hot sun, inches from death, I'll remember your act of generosity and drag your bleeding body into the shade, so you won't have a sun burn when they bury you! After all, one good turn deserves another!
(The taskmaster takes a big drink of water, pauses briefly, grabs his throat and gags)
Blood! This wasn't water! You made me drink blood!

(Music begins)

(The taskmaster runs off stage and we hear him throw up. Egyptians are beginning to run frantically on stage, aware something terrible has happened, but not sure what it was)

SONG: “WATER TURNED TO BLOOD”

Egyptian Woman I walked outside to breathe the morning air
But the smell was more than I could bear
All over I saw people taking ill
Tell me what is happening if you will

Egyptian Man Down at the seashore things are even worse
I believe we’re under some sort of curse
The most awful sight, I have ever seen
There is terror in the waters that were so serene

Egyptian Man 2 I have just returned from the river bank
I choked and gagged because the waters stank
The water turned to blood and killed the fish
Who has brought up us this anguish?

Chorus Water turned to blood
(Did you hear)
Water turned to blood
(Far and near)
Everywhere you look
(Can it be?)
Every river and brook
(And the sea)

Water turned to (turned to)
Water turned to (turned to)
Water turned to blood
Turned to blood
Turned to blood
Turned to
Water turned to blood!
(Underscore segues to next song)

*(Lighting transitions to)
(Lights up in Pharaoh’s Palace)*

SCENE 2: PHARAOH’S CHAMBER AND THRONE

(Underscore continues into the next song)

Servant Almighty Pharaoh, Moses and his brother Aaron have returned to speak with you.
Pharaoh Send them in.
Servant Yes, your majesty.
(Servant exits and returns with Moses and Aaron)

Pharaoh Welcome Moses and Aaron. *(Evil tone, evil grin)*
Aaron It has been seven days since the God of Israel has turned the water in Egypt into blood. The Lord has told us to return to you, and ask that the Israelites be let go.

Pharaoh And if I say “No?”
Aaron If you refuse to let them go, God will smite all of your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, in your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. And the frogs shall come on you, on your people, and on all your servants. Now I ask you once again! Will you allow the Israelites to leave here?

SONG: “I WILL NOT LET THEM GO!”

Pharaoh No! No! I will not let them go!

You've been sadly deceived, if you believed,
 I would have let them leave, I won't let them go!
 Try as you might, come at me with your plights
 There's no victory in sight, I won't let them go
 The slaves belong to me, they are my property,
 I will not set them free, I won't let them go
 I won't let them go, I won't let them go

Aaron The Lord has allowed you to rule, but your treatment has been cruel
 Don't let yourself be fooled, more plagues will come
 From here to the Nile, you've been wicked, you've been vile
 But God was watching all the while, more plagues will come
Pharaoh I won't break, I won't bend, our discussion is at an end
 Farewell, my friends, now you must go!
 Now you must go!
 (*Underscore continues*)
 (*Black out, except a special on Moses and Aaron*)
Moses (*To Aaron*) Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the
 ponds and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt!
 (*Total black out. We hear frogs ribbiting*)

SCENE 3: PALACE CHAMBER

(*Lights come up as the Taskmaster is leading an Egyptian woman on stage*)
Egyptian Girl Why have you brought me here?
Taskmaster 2 Because, my Egyptian beauty...we'll be safe here. The frogs will not find us.
Egyptian Girl I've heard that one before.
Taskmaster 2 (*Gasps*) From who?
Egyptian Girl Pharaoh's Baker. He took me into his kitchen, to cook up a little romance, but the frogs were
 everywhere...in the ovens, even in the food.
Taskmaster 2 The baker! I might have known!
Egyptian Girl One of the Pharaoh's magicians told me he could make the frogs disappear. He was in the middle
 of a love incantation, when the room filled with frogs. They were everywhere. The only thing
 that disappeared was me.
Taskmaster 2 The magician?! I can't believe you would fall for his tricks!
Egyptian Girl Then, there was the palace mortician, who said that...
Taskmaster 2 That's alright...I don't need to hear about the baker, magician, mortician, or anyone else. Tonight
 is just about you and I. Listen...do you hear any frogs?
Egyptian Girl No...
Taskmaster 2 Do you see any frogs?
Egyptian Girl No...
Taskmaster 2 You see...I am a man of my word. The frogs won't bother you here. How I long to marry a
 woman such as yourself.
Egyptian Girl (*Startled, as his statement was out of the blue*) WHAT ?
Taskmaster 2 It would bring meaning to my sad life...a reason to live. It would be so wonderful to come home
 after a long day of beating slaves, to find you preparing my evening meal, in the home you spent
 all day cleaning. Would you like that, my little Egyptian goddess?
Egyptian Girl Not really, no...
Taskmaster 2 Oh, but you answer too quickly. Please, allow me to enchant you with a song I have written for
 you.
Egyptian Girl A song?
Taskmaster 2 Yes....do you like songs?
Egyptian Girl Oh yes...the mortician wrote a song for me.
Taskmaster 2 Mine is better. Close your eyes, and allow my sweet words to permeate your spirit.

SONG: "THE TASKMASTER'S LOVE SONG"

Taskmaster 2 When I go to work each day, it's not for the pay
 But because I know Pharaoh depends on me

I'm the man for whom he sends, for he knows he can depend
On me when he is in a catastrophe
I'm always very nice, giving Pharaoh my advice
Lifting his sad spirit up to new heights
In times of devastation, I show him how to run the nation
Then I go off to work and beat the Israelites
But after a day of beating, I realize time is fleeting
My youth and beauty won't be around forever
To keep my family line around, little children must abound
A wife and family shall be my next endeavor

Oh, I'm the mean taskmaster,
With a soft heart
I have a gentle spirit, so I'm told
I yell and scream at the slaves
When they don't behave
For I have a reputation to uphold

Beneath my hard, rough skin
You'll find loneliness within
So I go to work and put on my disguise
But I would give it all up,
For you, my buttercup
You can't resist me, look into my eyes
(Interlude: Taskmaster and Egyptian girl waltz. We can hear frogs ribbit in sync with the music, as if they're singing along. Slowly, frogs appear)

Oh, I'm the mean taskmaster
Feared by every man
But what I really hunger for is love
I'm not asking for much
But I need your special touch
To complete me, to let my heart soar, like a dove

So I give my life to you
I can make your dreams come true
When you think of me, your heart will beat much faster
Life will be so grand, sweet honey, take my hand
The Egyptian beauty, and the taskmaster

(Song ends. Egyptian girl sees frogs, screams and runs out. Taskmaster follows)

Taskmaster 2 Wait! Come back! I know another place! A better place! No frogs, I promise!
(Lighting transitions to)

SCENE 4: PHARAOH'S CHAMBER AND THRONE

Magician Your highness, I have come with the latest report on the frogs.

Pharaoh Tell me, Magician.

Magician They are everywhere. There is no place you can go without seeing the frogs. They are in every home, every shop, and all throughout the palace. However, as frogs are held sacred throughout Egypt, we cannot harm them. Your people would like to kill the frogs themselves, but they fear it would upset Khum, the god of fertility, and his wife, Heqt.

Pharaoh Do you not think Khum and his wife, Heqt, would understand that frogs in this abundance are not a blessing?

Magician It is not for me to say how the gods will react. I only know that your people, great Pharaoh, are becoming angry. They look to you to solve this problem. Their living conditions are becoming most unbearable. We must plead with Moses and Aaron...

Pharaoh PLEAD WITH THEM?
Magician Yes, plead with them, that they might pray to their God and have Him take the frogs from us. You must understand what you are dealing with. Do you know who Moses is?

Pharaoh I have heard the stories. How the foolish daughter of a past Pharaoh found him in an ark of bulrushes in the Nile River? How she took pity on him? How she disgraced her father and his commandment by allowing him to live instead of drowning his wretched body? How she allowed him to come here, to the palace, and live as a member of the royal family? How, although he was heir to the throne, he refused to become the Pharaoh when his time came, because he felt sorry for the Israelites in bondage? And finally, how he betrayed Egypt and fled for his life after taking the life of a taskmaster? Is this the story you had intended to tell me?

Magician Yes, your majesty.

Pharaoh I know who Moses is. I have studied the past, and I am unimpressed. Moses is nothing more than a fool, as is his brother, Aaron.

Magician Perhaps, but the slaves have seen the two plagues that have been brought upon Egypt, and your people have felt the agony. Everyone is watching closely, curious as to what shall happen next.

Pharaoh *(To Servant)* Where are Moses, and his brother, Aaron?
Servant They are waiting nearby, in hopes of speaking with you.
Pharaoh Send them in.
Servant Yes, your majesty.
(Servant exits)

Pharaoh If Moses and Aaron want a war, I'll give them a war. If they want to demonstrate supernatural powers, I'll match their supernatural powers. If they want to negotiate diplomatically, I'll negotiate diplomatically. But I will not give them the Israelites, and I will not give them the victory!
(Servant enters)

Servant Your majesty, Moses and Aaron approach.
(Servant shows Moses and Aaron in)

Pharaoh Moses and Aaron, welcome.
Aaron Greetings, Pharaoh.
Pharaoh The power you have demonstrated is impressive. I have heard how far your curse of frogs has encompassed. There is no doubt our God, Khum, and his wife, the goddess, Heqt, have seen the frogs as well. However, it is time for your display of power to end, that my people may return to their lives. Therefore, I ask you, please...entreat the Lord, that He may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the Israelites go, and sacrifice to the Lord.

Moses *(Barely suppressing a grin)* Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only.

Pharaoh Tomorrow.
Moses Let it be, according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God.
(Underscore music begins)
(Blackout except for a special on Moses and Aaron. Moses drops to his knees and prays. After a time, he stands up, looks at Aaron, and nods. The plague of frogs will be lifted. Blackout on Moses and Aaron. Lights up on the floor)

SCENE 5: LAND OF EGYPT

SONG: "FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY"

Elder 1 Tell us what you heard
Elder 2 In the middle of the day
I heard the guards talking
Elder 3 What did they have to say?
Elder 2 The words they whispered made my eyes fill with tears
I felt a joy in my heart that I haven't felt in years

Moses and Aaron went before the throne
Of the mighty Pharaoh, whose heart is made of stone
Pharaoh begged Moses to take the frogs away

In return he'd set us free to go sacrifice and pray
(Elder 4 runs on stage and joins them)
Elder 4 Are the rumors true?
Elder 1 Have you heard them too?
Elder 3 Can it really be?
All Are we going to be set free?

For years we lived when we wished to die
Any word of hope was an outright lie
They tortured us and ignored our cries
Our mouths were dry but not our eyes

Now morning is breaking through the night
Freedom shines as a ray of light
The time has come for a hopeful dawn
And a day when our chains are gone
When our chains are gone.

(The Taskmaster walks on stage and whips a slave, and then another)
(Underscore continues under a brief dialogue)

Taskmaster 2 Get back to work! All of you! None of you are going anywhere!
Elder 2 But I heard the guards talking! Pharaoh told Moses he would let us go!
Taskmaster 2 Yes, he did...and then he changed his mind! *(Whips Elder 2)* Back to work! All of you!
(Taskmaster exits)
(Stage lighting darkens)

Slaves *(Singing resumes)*
God in heaven look down and see
Your children in captivity
Why do we bother to pretend
Our lives are at an end
Our lives are at an end

(Lights down on slaves. Lights up on Moses. He is upset and praying to God for a bit of guidance)

(Underscore music under dialogue)

Moses God, what has happened? You took away the frogs, just as Pharaoh asked! He even chose the time when the frogs would be removed from Egypt! I stood right in front of him, and he told me the slaves would be free to go and worship you...and then he changes his mind? Why Lord, have you sent me here, and why have you allowed me to perform such wonders if the Israelites are not going to be set free?

God Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so it may become the lice throughout all the land of Egypt."
(Blackout)

SCENE 6: PHARAOH'S CHAMBER AND THRONE/TENT HOME

(Lights up in the throne room. Pharaoh storms about as his magician follows him, trying to speak rationally to him)

Magician Your highness, please! Won't you listen to reason!
Pharaoh You are my magician! Not my advisor!
(Music ends)

Magician But your majesty...
Pharaoh People and animals all over Egypt are infested with lice! Lice, crawling all throughout their hair, spreading faster and faster, while you and the other magicians do nothing!

Magician There is nothing we can do! This is the finger of God, the finger of God I tell you!

Pharaoh You worthless fool! I am going down to the water! When I return, you had better have a solution waiting to be implemented!
(Pharaoh walks away as the magician calls after him)
(Lights dim on Magician)

Magician But Pharaoh! Pharaoh...
(Lights up on Moses, who was waiting for Pharaoh)

Moses Pharaoh! Thus says the Lord: "Let my people go, that they may serve me, or else, if you will not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people, and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. And in that day, I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know I am Lord in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow, this sign shall be."
(Underscore ends)
(Pharaoh, looking clearly stunned, keeps walking)
(Scene shifts to the home where Moses and his family stay. Aaron is there with Zipporah and Gershom. Gershom waits impatiently for Moses to return)

Gershom Mother, when will father return?
Zipporah Gershom...Gershom, come away from the door. I told you I don't want you wandering outside.
(Underscore ends)

Gershom I wasn't outside, I was inside...I was almost outside...
Zipporah Gershom, please, from now on do not even go near the door.
Gershom But mother, I hate being inside. May I go outside and look for more frogs?
Zipporah No, Gershom, no! I don't ever want to see another frog again.
Aaron Feeling a little cooped up, eh, Gershom?
Gershom Yes...
Zipporah Gershom, come over here. Let me check your hair for lice again.
Gershom I don't have any mother! Uncle Aaron, if you were my mother, would you let me go outside?
Zipporah Gershom!
Aaron I don't see any harm in Gershom going outside for a time. I'll watch him closely.
Zipporah Let's at least wait until Moses returns home. I don't want Gershom outside if another plague should come upon us.
Aaron Have faith, Zipporah, have faith. It's a sign of being one of God's people.
Gershom So is circumcision!
Zipporah Gershom! *(Sighs)* I'll be honest, Aaron...I'll feel much better when we finally leave this cursed land.

Gershom Where will we go when we leave this cursed land, Uncle Aaron?
Aaron Well Gershom, God has promised to give Israel a land flowing with milk and honey, and your father is going to get us there.

Zipporah Never did I imagine I would marry the man who would lead the Israelites out of bondage.
(Moses enters)

Moses Never did I imagine I would marry a woman so beautiful, from whom I would draw so much strength.

Aaron I never imagined you'd get married.
Gershom Father, did you see the Pharaoh?
Moses Yes, Gershom. I waited for him down at the waters, and I announced the fourth plague.
Aaron Am I to understand Egypt shall be in for another trying time?
Moses Unless Pharaoh changes his mind before tomorrow.
Gershom What will the plague be this time, father?
(Underscore music begins)

Moses *(Getting down to Gershom's eye level)* Flies. Many flies. More than you could ever imagine.
Zipporah I do not like flies.
Moses Be comforted. The Israelites will not share this plague with Egypt. Come, we must have a time of prayer. *(The four kneel down to pray)* Let us enter the presence of God, and pray for what will come in the days ahead. *(Lights dim to black out)*
(We hear a swarm of flies coming. The buzzing gets louder and louder. We hear men and women screaming)
(Underscore trails off)
(Lights up in Pharaoh's throne room. The last scream we hear is Pharaoh's)

Magician Please, your highness! We're doing all we can!

Pharaoh What makes you think you can do anything, you fool?

Magician We must plead with our god, Shu! Perhaps we shall be given relief from the flies!

Pharaoh Flies? Those are not ordinary flies; they bite! They have drawn blood!

Magician Your people are in a panic. They cannot open their mouths without fear of swallowing flies. We dare not delay action!

Pharaoh Is there nothing else we can do? What will happen if Shu refuses to help us?

Magician There is another option, Pharaoh, but you will not like it.

Pharaoh Speak!

Magician Let us negotiate with Moses and Aaron.

Pharaoh This is the best solution you can come up with? With all your wisdom and powers from worlds beyond, you can only advise me to negotiate with the very men who have brought the plagues upon us?

Magician I am sorry, Pharaoh. It is the only way out I can see.

Pharaoh Very well. *(To Servant)* Send for Moses and Aaron.

Servant Yes, your majesty. *(Exits)*

Pharaoh Perhaps Moses would like to become my new magician. I may have a position opening up soon, unless you can somehow convince me not to have you thrown to the crocodiles, you pathetic waste of flesh!

Servant *(Enters)* Your highness, Moses and Aaron approach. They were waiting to speak with you.

Pharaoh Isn't that a surprise. Send them in, now! Make haste, you fool!

(Moses and Aaron enter)

Aaron Greetings, Pharaoh.

Pharaoh You! Gather your people and sacrifice to your God in the land!

Aaron We cannot.

Pharaoh You cannot? Why?

Moses It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing to the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us? We will go three days journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He will command us.

(Underscore begins)

Pharaoh Very well...I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, only you shall not go very far away. Now intercede for me!

Moses Indeed, I am going out from you, and I will entreat the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore.

(Lighting transition)

(Lights up in Pharaoh's Palace. The taskmaster rushes in)

Taskmaster 2 Your highness, your highness!

Pharaoh What is it?

(Underscore ends)

Taskmaster 2 Moses and Aaron have been talking with the slaves...they're out of control. Moses say he's entreated the Lord to take the flies away, and because the plague was lifted, the slaves are free to go and sacrifice to their God in the desert. They want to know when they can leave.

Pharaoh Tell them they cannot leave. Tell them to get back to their work, and not to stop again.

Magician Your highness...

Pharaoh What?

Magician Do you think it is wise to keep the Israelites in bondage after agreeing a second time to allow them to leave?

Pharaoh Do you think it wise for you to question my decision? Men have died for much less. *(To Taskmaster)* Now go and deliver my message to the slaves.

Taskmaster 2 Yes, your majesty.

Pharaoh Now that the flies are gone, I think life in the palace can finally return to normal. *(Pharaoh summons his servant by clapping his hands)*

Servant Yes, your majesty?

Pharaoh Send for my dancing girls. I've had not joy since we became cursed. I want them to dance for me.

Servant Yes, your majesty. *(Egyptian Girls enter)*

INSTRUMENTAL: “EGYPTIAN DANCE”

(Music ends)

(Servant runs in just as the dance ends and shouts)

Servant Your majesty, word has just come to the palace that all of the livestock in Egypt is plagued! Animals all over are dying, or are already dead. They’ve contracted a terrible disease. But Pharaoh, none of the livestock belonging to the Israelites has been infected. None of them!

Magician It is as I feared! You did not heed my warning, and now the curses of Moses and Aaron will not stop.

Pharaoh Silence.

Magician Your stubbornness has brought this terror upon your people.

Pharaoh SILENCE! How foolish you are to speak to the Pharaoh in such a manner. Have you forgotten who I am? *(Pharaoh claps his hands, and two guards rush over and seize the magician)*

Pharaoh *(Pharaoh stands up and approaches the magician, who is trembling)* I asked you a question! Have you forgotten who I am?

Magician No, Pharaoh. Forgive me.

Pharaoh *(Pharaoh grabs the magician’s throat with one hand)*

Pharaoh Who am I?

Magician Please...

Pharaoh WHO AM I?

Magician *(Gasping for breath)* You are the almighty Pharaoh. Loved by the people....favored by the gods...

Pharaoh Is there not any reason I should not snap your neck in two?

Magician No...*(Barely able to speak)*

Pharaoh Do not mumble when you speak to me. Talk loudly so everyone can hear. Is there any reason I should not snap your neck in two?

Magician No...

Pharaoh You answer correctly. Yet, I shall allow you to live because I am gracious, and because you may still be of use to me. *(Releases his grip, magician falls to the floor)* I will remind you to choose your words more carefully the next time you speak. *(Looks at Servant)* Come here.

Servant *(Very frightened and hesitant to approach Pharaoh)* Yes, your majesty...

Pharaoh COME HERE!

Servant Yes, yes, your majesty.

Pharaoh You reported that all livestock belonging to my people has been plagued with a disease?

Servant Yes, your majesty.

Pharaoh And the livestock belonging to the Israelites remains healthy?

Servant Yes, your majesty.

Pharaoh The finest livestock in Egypt is diseased, while the useless beasts possessed by the Israelites have escaped this sickness. Tell me more.

Magician Our beasts are dying rapidly. The first report came from our armies. Most of their horses have been lost. The few that remain can’t even walk. If we were attacked right now, it would be devastating. We have also been told that cows, sheep, donkeys, oxen, even camels have been stricken.

Pharaoh Blood, frogs, lice, flies, and now our livestock are dying....I have grown weary of these games. Go to my taskmasters and tell them this new plague changes nothing! The Israelites will continue to work, and Egypt will continue to rule over them.

(Lights out in Pharaoh’s Palace. Lights come up as an elder of Israel lies on the ground, unable to move. Another elder of Israel walks on stage and finds him)

(Underscore music plays)

SCENE 7: LAND OF EGYPT

Zebulun Messala, what are you doing over here? If the taskmaster sees that you are not working, you know what will happen.

Messala *(Sad, tired voice)* I cannot work anymore.

Zebulun Evening has come...we will be going home soon.

Messala I will not return to my home tonight...my time has come, Zebulun.
Zebulun What foolishness are you speaking? (*Messala reveals his white garments, soaked in blood*) What has happened to you?
Messala I had a shortage of breath...I had to stop working. The taskmaster...saw me and began to beat me.
Zebulun Let me help you up.
Messala I cannot walk.
Zebulun I will help you.
Messala No! I cannot walk.
Zebulun Does it hurt?
Messala I do not feel anything...but I am cold.
Zebulun Shall I send for your family?
Messala No...I don't want them to see me like this. Not like this.
Zebulun They would want to be with you.
Messala Please...let me keep the last bit of dignity I have left.
Zebulun What is in your hand?
Messala It is an image of Ra, carved in stone. It belonged to my father. He held it in his hand when he died. Now I hold it in my hand...I pray that Ra will deliver me to my family who have gone on before me.
Zebulun You would defy Jehovah in death?
Messala I have said my prayers to Jehovah. He has not heard me. Every day I prayed for freedom. I was born a slave, and I will die a slave...as will my son. I will pray my final prayer to Ra.
Zebulun You are wrong, Jehovah is here, in our midst. He is watching us now. Do not forget his promise to deliver the slaves in the fourth generation.
Messala Look at me! I will not be delivered. (*Fighting for every word*) I...will...not...be...delivered.

SONG: "KEEP THE FAITH"

Zebulun

It is not for me to say, why hardships come our way
 There is so much I do not understand
 There's so much I do not see, life is such a mystery
 But I know my life is still in God's hands

He moves in ways no one ever could
 He uses people no one ever would
 And if you love Him, all things work for good
 Keep your faith, dear brother, keep the faith

In those times when things go wrong, and I've found I've lost my song
 I look to God for His plan is divine
 When I'm hurting deep within, and the storms are closing in
 I hold His hand, I know He's holding mine

He made me in an image of His own
 He comforts me when I feel I'm alone
 Someday He'll guide me safely to His home
 Keep your faith, dear brother, keep your faith

(Chorus sings in the background)

He moves in ways no one ever could
 He uses people no one ever would
 And if You love Him all things work for good
 Keep your faith, dear brother, keep your faith
(Music continues as segue to next scene)

Zebulun
Messala

Be strong...be strong...
 We will not be delivered. God has forgotten us.
(Messala dies in Zebulun's arms)

(Black out)

SCENE 8: PHARAOH'S CHAMBER AND THRONE

(Lights up in Pharaoh's throne room. The messenger runs into the room)

Messenger Great Pharaoh, there is something you must see.
Pharaoh Well?
Messenger Quickly, look out the window. Moses and Aaron are outside.
(Upon hearing this, everyone in the throne room, Egyptian girls, guards, etc. make a mad dash for the window)
(Music ends)

Pharaoh What are they doing?
Messenger They are scattering ashes about.
Pharaoh Ashes?! *(To Magician)* Why are they scattering ashes about?
Magician I do not know, Pharaoh.
Pharaoh This is one of their tricks, isn't it? They are preparing to curse us once again!
Magician It is very possible.
Pharaoh I know it is possible! That is why I mentioned it as a possibility! I want to know for certain what these cursed fools are planning.
Magician We could ask them, your majesty.
Pharaoh What?
Magician You could send for them. They are only just outside. You could send them and ask them why they are scattering about.
(Pharaoh claps his hands. The messenger pulls himself away from the window and says)

Messenger Yes, great Pharaoh.
Pharaoh Have Moses and Aaron come to me.
Messenger Yes, Pharaoh.
(Messenger heads back to the window)

Pharaoh I shall find out soon enough what is...
Messenger *(Yelling out the window)* Moses! Aaron! Pharaoh would like for you to...
Pharaoh *(Screaming)* Do not yell from the window! Go down and usher them in!
Messenger Yes, Pharaoh.
Pharaoh Now!
Messenger *(As he runs out)* Yes, yes...
Pharaoh What could possibly make these two men so persistent? Look at the trouble they are going through to free a people who are so pitiful that they have no other purpose in life than to be our slaves. They have been our slaves four generations, and now, out of the blue, Moses turns up here with his brother, and demands that the Israelites be allowed to go and worship the Lord in the desert. Does he not realize the Israelites worship the gods of Egypt? Does Moses not know the Israelites forgot about Jehovah years ago?

Magician After seeing the plagues that have been placed upon Egypt, many of the Israelites have begun to remember Him.
Pharaoh Why you...
Egyptian Girl *(Looking out of the window)* They are coming.
(Pharaoh claps his hands and everyone runs to their proper place in the throne room. The magician, guards, and Egyptian girls begin to scratch and rub their bodies, as if they have all noticed a slight itch)

Pharaoh What is the matter with all of you?
Guard 1 I do not know.
Guard 2 I feel strange...I suddenly feel hot.
Egyptian Girl I feel it too...
Magician Oh no...
Pharaoh What is that supposed to mean?
Magician The sixth plague is upon us.
Guard 1 It hurts...
Egyptian Girl Something is happening to my skin.
Magician What could this be?