

A Wayne Scott • LifeHouse Production



# THE RISE OF KING DAVID

March 2 - March 30, 2013

An Original Adaptation with  
Script and Lyrics by  
DUSTIN CEITHAMER

Music by  
NOLAN LIVESAY

*Based on the Biblical books of 1st and 2nd Samuel*  
**Revised Second Edition**

© Copyright MMVIII by D. Ceithamer, N. Livesay, W. Scott – LifeHouse, Inc. All rights reserved.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

<b>Jesse</b>	A ruthless drunk man, hurt by the reign of Saul
<b>Marin</b>	A humble maidservant of Jesse
<b>King Agag</b>	A strong man, defiant and bold
<b>Saul</b>	A man of contradictions/ passionate and paranoid
<b>David</b>	A young man passionate in all he does, focused, clear
<b>Samuel</b>	A Prophet, Judge and Priest
<b>Abner</b>	A shady advisor to King Saul
<b>Michal</b>	A beautiful daughter of King Saul
<b>Saul's Captain</b>	A stern man of order
<b>Joab</b>	Faithful servant/ General of David
<b>Jonathan</b>	Saul's Son, educated and wise
<b>Mephibosheth</b>	Jonathan's crippled son
<b>King Achish</b>	Pompous King of Philistia
<b>Ahimelech</b>	A righteous priest
<b>Doeg</b>	A rough man
<b>Abiathar</b>	A young priest
<b>Leader of Keilah</b>	An unstable man
<b>Nabal</b>	Drunk, stubborn fool
<b>Abigail</b>	A wise, beautiful woman
<b>Ish-Bosheth</b>	Saul's arrogant son

**Saul's Warriors, Saul's Attendants, Saul's Servants, Priests, Women of Israel, David's Mighty Men, Philistines, Israelites, Maids, Amalekites, and other various chorus members.**

# “THE RISE OF KING DAVID”

By Dustin Ceithamer, Nolan Livesay

## SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

### ACT I

Overture

1. “A Shepherd’s Song” (Psalm 23).....David
2. “Your Power and Presence” (Psalm 8).....David
3. “Little David Play on Your Harp”.....David, Attendants/Servants
4. “Psalm 103”.....David
5. “Our Enemies”.....Israelites
6. “Who the Lord Says You Are”.....David
7. “New Life Can Begin!”.....Israelites  
“Psalm” 103 (Reprise).....David
8. “Deliver Me!”.....David
9. “I’ll Be By Your Side”.....Michal
10. “Duet. 6:4.....Men
11. “Deliver Me!” (Reprise).....David
12. “The Festival of the New Moon”.....Saul, Israelites
13. “There’s No Good Way to Say Goodbye”.....David & Jonathan

### ACT II

Entr’acte

14. “The Palace of Gath”.....Philistines
15. “It’s Not Always Easy” (Psalm 34: 1-22).....David
16. “The Glory of God” (Psalm 19).....David  
“Who the Lord Says You Are” (Reprise).....David & Jonathan
17. “Balm of the Nations”.....Israelites  
“Our Enemies” (Reprise).....Ensemble

Scene 2: The Palace of Gath, Day  
Scene 3: Cave of Adullam, Dusk  
Scene 4: Nob, Ahimelech's Tent, Day  
Scene 5: Cave of Adullam, Evening  
Scene 6: Maon, Nabal's Tent, Day  
Scene 7: Inside Keilah  
Scene 8: Cave in Ziph, Day  
Scene 9: Ziph, Day  
Scene 10: Desert of Maon, Nabal's Tent, Day  
Scene 11: Desert Cave in En-gedi, Noon  
Scene 12: Ramah, Funeral of Samuel  
Scene 13: Desert of Maon, Abigail's Tent  
Scene 14: Desert of Maon, Outside of Nabal's Property  
Scene 15: Saul's Camp, Midnight  
Scene 16: The Throne Room of King Achish, Day  
Scene 17: David in Philistia (Montage)  
Scene 18: Gath's Battle Grounds  
Scene 19: Endor, Night  
Scene 20: Ziklag/David returns from Battle with the Amalekites, Day  
Scene 21: Hebron  
Scene 22: Outside of David's Palace in Hebron, Night  
Scene 23: David's Palace, Banquet Room  
Scene 24: David's Palace, Ext., Midnight  
Scene 25: David's Palace, Courtyard, Day  
Scene 26: Saul's Palace, Ish-Bosheth, Noon  
Scene 27: David's Palace, Courtyard, Day

# "The Rise of King David"

© Copyright MMVIII by Dustin Ceithamer/Nolan Livesay/ W. Scott - LifeHouse Productions, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

## ACT I

### Overture

*(Overture is interrupted by Marin running onto stage)*

### SCENE 1: A TENT OF JESSE, EARLY MORNING

*(Jesse, an unkempt ruthless man in his fifties, is seen drinking as Marin, a beautiful maidservant, enters with a baby wrapped in a soft cloth.)*

**Marin** Jesse! Jesse! I come with good news!  
**Jesse** What?  
**Marin** Your wife has given you another baby.  
**Jesse** You said you had good news.  
**Marin** The tribe of Jesse now has one more...son.  
**Jesse** What's one more son when you have seven?  
**Marin** *(Sadly, knowing the cruelty of her master)* Eight.  
**Jesse** Get out of my sight.  
**Marin** I was told to not return to your wife's tent until you have chosen a name for your son.  
**Jesse** Name him David.  
**Marin** David. What does this mean?  
**Jesse** *(Rolling his eyes)* Beloved.  
**Marin** *(Humble)* A name fitting for a king, master.  
*(Marin exits with baby)*  
**Jesse** A name fitting for a shepherd.

### SCENE 2: A PLACE OF KING AGAG, NIGHT

*(The overture continues and concludes as King Agag runs to center stage where he is encircled by Israelite warriors. They encroach around him, Agag stands tall. King Saul, a man of great breeding, tall and sure of himself, enters.)*

**Saul** Have the others been killed?  
**Guard 2** All but this one, King Saul.  
**Guard 1** This is their King, Agag.  
*(King Saul threateningly walks around King Agag who falls to his knees)*  
**Saul** *(Casually excited)* Don't kill him. He may prove useful to me.  
*(The Overture ends)*

### SCENE 3: MOUNTAIN SIDE IN JUDAH, EVENING

*(David, 20's, a tender warrior who is passionate in every action, enters)*

**David** Alright, it's time for sleep. You've eaten your fill. You're safe from harm. Your social conflict has been resolved, and your shepherd is near.

**SONG: “A SHEPHERD’S SONG” (PSALM 23)**

**David**

Go to sleep you simple sheep  
The sun has set a while ago  
The morning dew  
Will be soon  
So dream until tomorrow...

I prepare your meadow so you can feast  
In the presence of enemy, foe, and beast  
I anoint you with oil; your cup overflows,  
Spilling over – – –  
Good measure – – –  
a treasure – – –  
Surely goodness and love will follow you  
All the days of your life,  
And you will dwell in the house of your Shepherd  
And you will dwell in the house of your Shepherd forever – – –

**David**

*(In realization as he falls asleep)* The house of your shepherd. Imagine what it must be like to dwell in the house of Israel’s shepherd, the great house of the great King Saul. Imagine the luxury, the worship, the food. I would never want to leave. King Saul, the greatest man in Israel. Never will my heart beat against him. I yearn to be in the house of our shepherd forever. *(David sighs with great longing)* Imagine the greatness. Imagine the peace.

*(Black out.)*

**SCENE 4: SAUL’S CHAMBER IN GILGAL, EARLY AFTERNOON**

*(King Saul and the prophet Samuel, are in the middle of a heated discussion as two guards stand near the exit of the room)*

**Samuel**

*(Emphatically)* Stop, Saul!

**Saul**

*(Broken)* Tell me what He said. The people are waiting.

**Samuel**

When did you stop being impressed with the Lord and become impressive to yourself?

**Saul**

The people need an answer...now.

**Samuel**

*(Correcting)* The people live under God. He’s the one who answers them.

**Saul**

*(Defending)* The Lord has chosen me to be His voice to His people.

**Samuel**

Then why have you stopped listening to His voice? *(Beat)*

**Saul**

Samuel, what did the Lord tell you last night?

**Samuel**

*(Prophesying)* The Lord anointed you King over Israel. He sent you on a mission. Why did you not obey the Lord?

**Saul**

*(Interrupting)* But I did obey the Lord...

**Samuel**

*(Still prophesying uninterrupted)* “Does the Lord delight in offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?”

**Saul**

But I did obey the Lord.

**Samuel**

You obeyed your fear of the people. To obey the Lord is better than sacrifice. You have become a worshipper not of the Lord, but a worshipper of yourself.

**Saul**

I am asking you to come with me now and worship with me in front of the people.

**Samuel**

When was the last time you worshipped the Lord by yourself?

*(No answer)* Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as King.

**Saul** Come back with me, Samuel. The people need to see me with you.

**Samuel** I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as King over Israel!

*(Samuel goes to leave and Saul falls to the floor grabbing the hem of Samuel's robe, tearing a piece off as he cries)*

**Samuel** Just as you have torn my robe the Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and given it to one of your neighbors...to one who is greater than you.

**Saul** When will this happen?

**Samuel** When the new King is ready to lead the people.

**Saul** *(Feeling the weight of what Samuel has said, desperate)* I have sinned. But please, honor me before the elders of my people and before the Lord your God.

**Samuel** When did he stop being your God and become only mine?

**Saul** *(Desperate)* Samuel?

**Samuel** I will go with you. Now go. I'll be along shortly. *(Saul exits. Samuel motions for the guards)* *(To guards)* Bring me Agag the Amelekite King. *(Guards bring out the tied and bound king)* Leave us now. Join Saul. *(The Guards exit. Samuel frees Agag.)*

**Agag** *(With great confidence)* I knew your King would see things your way. You seem to be the man who is running this nation. At any rate, honor be yours for not letting me die at the hand of your King. You truly are a priest of the gods.

**Samuel** As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women.

**Agag** What does that mean? *(Samuel draws dagger unseen by Agag)*

**Samuel** *(Determined)* Obedience is better than sacrifice.

*(Samuel slits the throat of Agag, who falls to the floor dead)*

#### SCENE 5: HILLS OF JESSE, AFTERNOON

*(David hurries on to hill with a black eye and cuts on his arms. He carries his harp. The "voices" of his past torment him.)*

**Jesse** You're a wicked boy. You think that you are special, don't you?

**Brother 1** You think you're my boss?

**Jesse** You think you're better than us, David?

**Brother 2** Conceited brat!

**Mother** You're worthless.

**Jesse** Under no circumstances is he to rest tonight.

**Brother 3** Get him! Punch him in his smug face.

**Brother 4** It was David's fault!

**Jesse** I'll teach you to respect your authority!

**Mother** You worthless creature.

**Brothers** Get him!!

**David** "You are a shield around me, O Lord. You bestow glory on me and lift my head. To the Lord I cry aloud, and he answers me from His holy hill."

#### **SONG: "YOUR POWER AND PRESENCE" (Psalm 8)**

**David**

I've killed lion and bear for these sheep that bite  
I've been away from my family and my bed at night  
I've learned to love these hills and pastures  
The countryside, meadow, and moor  
But it's you Lord I've learned to love  
It's you Lord I adore

O Lord, Our Lord, How majestic is your name  
Majestic is your name in all the earth  
And your glory is set higher than the heavens

Higher than the heavens  
May my heart praise your glory and worth  
Your power and presence is bursting with breath  
Your power and presence; life conquering death  
Your power and presence, completes my soul  
The presence and the power that makes me whole  
*(The voices exit)*

In my heart there's a valley amidst mountains and hills  
Where nothing the world has to offer can fill  
But You Lord are filling me, reminding that You  
Are the restorer of hurt and the pain we go through  
It's you Lord I adore – –

*(Choral voices add in)*  
Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name  
Majestic is your name in all the earth  
And your glory is set higher than the heavens  
Higher than the heavens  
May my heart praise your glory and worth

Your power and presence is bursting with breath  
Your power and presence; life conquering death  
You power and presence, completes my soul  
The presence and the power that makes me whole – – –

**Brother 2** *(Out of breath)* David! There's a stranger here who says that he must see you. He says he's the prophet Samuel. He won't sit down until he sees you.

#### SCENE 6: A TENT OF JESSE, EVENING

*(The prophet Samuel stands in the middle of David's family. The family is tired, but all still stand. David enters with Brother 2. Samuel's focus intensifies. David comes to the center of his family, staring at Samuel eye to eye. Both men are touched with the presence of the Lord. Samuel pulls out horn of oil and with great care anoints David.)*

**Samuel** *(With great respect)* It is done. *(David's family exits. David stands, still changed by the presence of the Lord)* The Lord spoke to me, "Rise and anoint David; he is the one."

**David** The "one?"

**Samuel** You are the one the Lord has chosen to be King of the nation of Israel.

**David** *(Confused)* But Saul is the King of Israel. He's the man who's been anointed.

**Samuel** But you are the one the Lord has chosen.

**David** *(Sadly, because of his great respect for King Saul)* But Saul is King. I don't want to be King. I want to serve the King.

**Samuel** You are the one the Lord has chosen. The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you with even greater power than you are already feeling. *(Samuel drops to his knees and touches the hem of David's robe to his lips)*

**Samuel** *(With gentle tears)* The Lord's anointed. *(Samuel exits, leaving David alone)*

*(David and Saul stand on opposite sides of the stage. The postures of the two men change as the Spirit of the Lord leaves Saul and rests upon David. Saul ends up on the floor in wild pain while David's hands are raised to the Lord with boldness)*

#### SCENE 7: SAUL'S PALACE, INT., THAT EVENING

**Saul** *(Trance like)* Isolation. Darkness. Separation.



*(Saul faints and is surrounded by guards, attendants, and servants who restore him to a sitting position)*

**Servant 1**

Master! Master?

**Saul**

Isolation. Darkness. Separation.

**Attendant 1**

O great King?

**Saul**

Get me the Spirit...

**Guard 1**

Master?

**Saul**

Get me the Spirit...I need the Spirit.

*(Saul collapses to the ground. Saul is helped to his feet by the members of his royal staff. They exit as Saul crosses to a different part of the stage as underscored music indicates a passing of time)*

**Servant 2**

*(Whispered to servant 1)* Perhaps we should tell him.

**Servant 1**

It will only make his recent condition worse.

**Saul**

*(Under intense pain)* Isolation. Darkness. Separation.

*(Saul again collapses to his knees, looking upwards to heaven. Different members of his royal staff enter and help him to his feet. Saul recovers and they exit. He crosses to a different part of the stage as underscore again indicates a passing of time)*

**Servant 2**

Saul needs to know. Someone needs to tell him.

**Servant 1**

Let that someone be one whose employment doesn't rest in the King's hands.

**Servant 2**

He will never find peace until the Spirit of the Lord is again resting on him.

**Servant 1**

Or until he's in the presence of that Spirit again.

**Saul**

*(Exasperated)* Get me the Spirit. I need the Spirit...

*(Saul falls to the floor as members of his royal staff enter and aid in his standing. They assist Saul as he exits. The two servants remain talking quietly as Abner, a wise but sinister advisor to the King, spies on their conversation)*

**Servant 2**

We must tell him.

**Servant 1**

Tell him that the Spirit of the Lord now rests on a shepherd?

**Servant 2**

He knows the Spirit no longer rests upon him!

**Servant 1**

It will be our heads. We must not tell him.

**Abner**

*(Startling servants)* Tell him the truth. *(The servant takes a beat in shock)*

This shepherd David, is a warrior, correct?

**Servant 1**

Yes.

**Abner**

*(Slyly)* Tell the King this. This shepherd is a musician like none other, is this not true?

**Servant 2**

Yes.

**Abner**

Tell this to the King. Tell the King of all his traits: that he is a cunning musician, a mighty valiant man, a man of war, prudent in matters, and comely in person. Leave no fine detail out of David's description. Tell all this to the King. I'll get the boy David.

*(Abner tosses a bag of money at the feet of the two servants. They stand looking at the money wondering who'll make the first move. Abner exits and says:)*

**Abner**

Tell the King there is one who can bring rest to his troubled spirit. Go tell the King, and I'll take care of David.

*(The Servants exit. Saul cries loudly from off stage as David enters in awe, wearing humble clothing. David holds a bundle of bread, a skin of wine, and his harp, his hands are covered in blood. A servant enters and takes the bundle of bread and wine. David is now summoned to play the harp for Saul's troubled Spirit)*

**David**

*(Calming himself looking around the empty grandness of the palace)* O Lord, you are King of Kings and the King of my heart.

*(Abner enters and indicates for David to wait)*

**Abner**

This will be waiting for you in the chamber of the King. He waits for you now.

*(Abner takes David's harp and exits)*

**David**

*(To God)* May this heart you formed beat a little slower.

*(David is "readied" by attendants during the following song. David calms himself. Attendants, servants, and Samuel "in a separate location," all join in adding harmonies and layers to the simple melody. At song's end David stands for the first time in front of the Lord's anointed King, King Saul)*

**SONG: "LITTLE DAVID PLAY ON YOUR HARP"**

<b>David</b>	Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelujah Little David play on your harp Hallelujah Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelujah Little David play on your harp Hallelujah
<b>Servants</b>	Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelujah Little David play on your harp Hallelujah Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelujah Little David play on your harp Hallelujah
<b>All</b>	Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelujah Little David play on your harp Hallelujah Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelujah Little David play on your harp Hallelujah

*(David stands before Saul who is dressed in all his kingly glory. David's love for King Saul is seen in his eyes. Saul sees David's power and is in awe. Saul is filled with a mixture of admiration and jealousy. Saul turns his back and hunches over in pain. Abner enters with David's harp and hands it to David who sits and begins the worship to the Lord. Saul is stunned at the beauty of David's worship and his outward countenance is slowly changed from pain to that of healing)*

**SONG: "PSALM 103"**

<b>David</b>	<i>(Breaking the silence)</i>	Praise the Lord, O my soul; and all my inmost being, Praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your
--------------	-------------------------------	--

diseases

Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you  
With love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good  
things. So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed  
The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,  
abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor his  
anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us  
according to Our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the  
earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him. From everlasting to  
everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His  
righteousness with their children's children – with those who keep His  
covenant and remember to obey his precepts. The Lord has established

His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord,  
O my soul.

*(All present worship the Lord, but none as passionately as Saul. Saul stands and motions to an Attendant. This Attendant brings Saul a scroll, feather, and wax. Saul writes on scroll, seals it with wax, and orders a servant to take it. All exit but David, Saul, and Abner.)*

#### SCENE 8: A TENT OF JESSE, DAY

*(The servant entrusted with Saul's scroll enters)*

**Jesse** *(Entering hurriedly)* You ask to see me?  
**Servant** Indeed. I've requested your presence to inquire of you in regards to a matter involving Saul, the King of Israel, the Lord's anointed.  
**Jesse** Yes, I know who he is, what does he want?  
**Servant** These are the words of Saul, King of...  
**Jesse** Get on with it.  
**Servant** *(Reading from scroll officially)* "Let David, I pray thee, stand before me, for he hath found favor in my sight."  
**Jesse** Tell the King..."no."  
**Servant** No? It isn't an option.  
**Jesse** Then why do you ask? Look, David was my son before he became the Lord's anointed, and now at my age, I need a son more than his anointing and the complication it brings.  
**Servant** David is the Lord's anointed? Does Saul know?  
**Jesse** I don't know; he's your master. I need my son back, the sheep are getting restless.  
**Servant** So is King Saul. I need to return to him with a response from you.  
**Jesse** No.  
**Servant** Be reasonable.  
**Jesse** *(Building, losing control)* Reasonable? Reasonable doesn't overtax a family man's only business for lavish luxuries. Reasonable doesn't take a father's many sons away from him and make them serve in a losing war. Reasonable doesn't take the one son he has left at his side to be a musician for the King's pleasure. *(Beat)* David is needed here.  
**Servant** Think of David's role in the scope of this huge nation.  
**Jesse** Think of him as my son. *(Beat)*  
**Servant** I'll tell King Saul that David is to be at the King's service only as needed, for he is still needed at home.  
**Jesse** While you're at it why don't you tell King Saul who is really the Lord's anointed.

#### SCENE 9: THE ROAD TO BATTLE, DAY

*(David, carrying a bag of provisions, walks past Michal, a beautiful young woman. She is bold, energetic, and Saul's daughter. She has run away from the palace for a day, which is usual. She follows David around as he stops and tries to not be bothered by her. He notices her beauty. Quickly, he turns and walks away, knowing trouble when he sees it. She ducks away as he scurries. He notices that he is alone. She laughs, unseen. He turns around and sees no one. He turns once again and walks away. He then screams and drops his bags of provision for "his hand was shot with sling shot." Michal walks onto stage with sling shot in hand)*

**David** *(Shocked and hurt)* Do you think that's funny?  
**Michal** *(Snotty)* Do you?  
**David** No, I don't!  
*(They stare into each other's eyes as they feel their natural attraction for each other)*  
**David** You could have killed me!  
**Michal** You can't kill a person with a sling.  
**David** No, but you can kill a person with a rock!

**Michal** Calm down, you're fine.  
**David** Fine? Fine is not getting hit with a rock by a girl who's trying to kill you with a sling!  
**Michal** You can't kill a person with a sling.  
**David** (*Frustrated*) No, but you can kill a person with a... (*Matter of fact*) You're a horrible person.  
**Michal** I was only having a little fun. I wasn't hurting anything.  
**David** I'm certain my hand begs to differ.  
*(Michal grabs David's hand and holds it gently to face)*  
**Michal** Your hand doesn't seem to mind.  
**David** (*Slowly with longing*) You're a horrible person.  
**Michal** (*Slowly, feeling his skin*) Your hand doesn't seem to mind.  
**David** (*Slower still*) You're a horrible person.  
**Michal** You don't really think that, do you?  
**David** (*Trying to impress*) I'm David. Armor-bearer to King Saul.  
**Michal** Why is Saul's armor-bearer not on the battlefield?  
**David** I'm on my way now.  
**Michal** (*Playfully looking in sack*) Are you going to fight with bread?  
**David** I'm not going to fight...I'm going to fight with the power of the Lord.  
**Michal** And bread.  
**David** I'm bringing these provisions to my brothers who are fighting in the army of the King.  
**Michal** I hear the King's army is losing the war.  
**David** The war will be won by the Lord, not the armies.  
**Michal** Tell that to King Saul. If the Lord is going to win the war He's going to need a big weapon to fight against the Philistine's new weapon.  
**David** The Lord could win the war with the smallest of weapons.  
**Michal** We'll see.  
**David** I don't have time for your doubt. Why don't you share your doubt with your King?  
**Michal** I'll share it with my father.  
**David** Why?  
**Michal** Because my father is king...King Saul. (*Pause*) What?  
**David** You're Michal?  
**Michal** What?  
**David** You're a horrible person.  
**Michal** I'll see you in battle.  
**David** I'll see you in the palace.  
**Michal** Is that an order?  
**David** No, it's a hope. (*David starts to exit*)  
**Michal** (*Bratty*) Wait. You might need this. (*Hands David her sling*)  
**David** I might. But the Lord won't.

#### SCENE 10: TENT OF BATTLE, DAY

#### SONG: "OUR ENEMIES!"

**Warriors/Servants/Israelites**

Our enemies are larger  
They're stronger and more fierce  
Our swords are staying sharpened  
Our spears no longer pierce  
Our greatest ploys have been destroyed  
And we can't catch our breath  
Our enemies are standing,  
Grand, and fond of death  
If we're to win, we'll win,  
But we don't see how  
Our enemies are stronger –  
Where is God now?

Our confidence is weaker

Our posture's getting slack  
Our hope has become bleaker  
As our enemies attack  
Our enemies are gaining pride  
As we hide and shake  
We agree that victory  
Should not be a mistake  
If we're to win, we'll win,  
But we don't see how  
Our enemies are bigger  
Than our God right now – ?

Our enemy is bigger  
Our victories are smaller  
Our enemy is broader  
Our enemy is taller  
Our enemy is fiercer  
Our enemy is stronger  
We are feeling weaker  
Their spears are getting longer  
If we're to win, we'll win  
But we don't see how  
Our enemies seem more real  
Than our God right now – –

**David** *(Running on stage to warrior)* What's going on?  
**Warrior 1** *(Whispering)* It's Goliath of Gath.  
**Warrior 2** *(Whispering)* Goliath the Philistine giant.  
**Goliath** *(With great confidence)* Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects, but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.

**David** *(Not realizing he's talking out loud)* Who is this uncircumcised, pompous...  
**Goliath** This day I defy the ranks of Israel!  
**David** Who is this Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?  
**Goliath** Give me a man and let us fight each other.  
*(Goliath exits. All the warriors talk amongst themselves)*

**Warrior 3** *(To David)* Why do you look so shocked boy? He's been talking like this for the past forty days.

**David** He's been shaming Israel, the nation of God for forty days?! Who's tried to stop him?  
**Warrior 3** Are you joking? No, really, you're joking right? Did you see how huge he is? No one stands a chance against a creature like that.

**David** It's a chance worth taking. It's not us who would need help if we were to fight. He would need all the help he could get. *(Yelling)* For God fights the battles of his people.

**David** *(To Warrior 2)* What will be done for the man who kills Goliath of Gath and removes this disgrace from Israel?

**Warrior 2** The King will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter's hand in marriage and will exempt him and his father's family from paying taxes.

**David** What?  
**Warrior 2** Money, status, no taxes...

*(David looks out suddenly and shouts the following line. As he does, Saul enters while David's back is turned. All warriors see Saul and bow before him. When David turns around he is startled at the sight of everyone on the floor and that he now finds himself in the presence of the Lord's anointed, Saul)*

**David** *(Shouting)* Let no one lose heart in all the camps of Israel on the account of this uncircumcised Philistine, I will go fight him, and chop off his ugly head...

*(Turning around and seeing Saul, David lays flat on the floor; lower than any of the others)*

**Saul** You? You are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man since his youth.

**David** *(Nervously, speaking quickly still lying on the floor)* Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who delivered me then will deliver me again.

**Saul** How can you be so sure, boy, that you won't be crushed by his hand?

**David** Surely you know my King. I'm not fighting my own battle; the battle I'm fighting is the Lord's. He wants victory more than I do.

**Saul** Very well boy, go and be back tomorrow ready to fight Goliath of Gath.

*(All exit. Saul stares at David)*

**Saul** Come to my tent early tomorrow and I'll let you use my royal armor, sword, and shield to guarantee that you have victory.

**David** Gladly, but the Lord has already given Israel victory. *(Saul humbly exits)*

O Lord, did not even the King know that victory is in Your hand and not in what we hold in ours? O Lord, my victory. Wave your banner over me now.

### SCENE 11: PHILISTINE BATTLE LINE, DAY

*(As all the warriors are lined up for watching the fight between David and Goliath, Saul and Abner, Jonathan and Michal, and David's brothers converse.)*

**Saul** What kind of sense could he have? He refused my armor, sword and shield.

**Abner** He'll make a good example to the people.

**Saul** Example?

**Abner** He'll show people what happens when we try to be bolder than our King.

**Saul** You say that, as if it were possible.

**Abner** No offense, my lord.

*(Transition to David's brothers)*

**Brother 3** *(Taking bids)* Place your bets while you can. He'll die.

**Brother 2** *(Placing money in a head wrap)* He'll die.

**Brother 1** *(Placing money in a head wrap)* He'll die.

**Joab** *(Placing money in an alternate head wrap)* He'll live.

*(Transition to Jonathan and Michal)*

*(Michal enters)*

**Jonathan** You're back?

**Michal** Did you miss me?

**Jonathan** *(Obviously lying)* No. When are you going to learn you can't run from your problems?

**Michal** I might not be able to run from them, but leaving the palace allows me to get a break from them. Why is the whole assembly gathered today?

**Jonathan** A young man, not in Saul's armies, is going to fight Goliath today.

**Michal** What did he do to get on Saul's bad side?

**Jonathan** Nothing. He volunteered. He really believes he's going to win.

**Michal** What kind of weapon is he using?

**Jonathan** I heard he refused Saul's armor, shield, and sword.

**Michal** Talk about running from your problems.

**Jonathan** We'll see. *(All gasp as "Goliath" approaches)*

**Goliath** Where is the one who shall challenge my greatness? If your god is so great where is the one that will stand against me? Where is the one? *(Philistines cheer)* Where is the one? *(Philistines cheer)*

**Saul** Where is the one?

**Jonathan** He'll show.

**Brother 3** Where's David? *(David comes running in with fire in his eyes. Israel cheers wildly)*

**Goliath** Am I a dog that you send a mere boy to chase me with a stick! Ha ha ha.

**David** You come against me with sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the Lord almighty.

**Michal** (To Jonathan) Can you see what he has in his hand?  
**Jonathan** He's holding a shepherd staff. And a sling?  
**David** (Passionately) This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. The whole world will know of the true God of Israel.  
**Jonathan** (To Michal) He's grabbing his sling. You can't kill a person with a sling!  
*(David screams as he flings his sling as hard as he can. Goliath falls to the ground with a tremendous thud)*  
**Michal** (To Jonathan, calmly) No, but you can kill a person with a rock.  
*(All Israel cheers wildly)*  
**Abner** (In shock) He's done it? He's really done it!  
**Saul** I can't believe my eyes!  
**David** (From offstage) Come here you filthy Philistine. *(Getting carried away)* I'll cut off your head and feed it to your children's children before I kill them!  
*(The sound of a head chopped off. All Israel looks stunned; cheers from all are heard. David runs on stage with Goliath's head and sword, Michal gets David's attention)*  
**Michal** Well done David.  
**David** The victory is the Lord's!  
**Michal** Great! Now can I have my sling back?  
*(David, still holding Goliath's head in one hand and Goliath's sword in the other, doesn't know how to un-tuck sling from the back of his belt. She leans in and kisses him while un-tucking the sling.)*  
**Michal** Thank you.  
**David** (In awe) Thank you!  
**Man of Israel** David! The hero of Israel!  
*(David is lifted on the shoulders of praising Israelites. They all exit, but David.)*

## SCENE 12: OUTSKIRTS OF THE CELEBRATION, LATE AFTERNOON

*(A discouraged boy is sitting on the sidelines of the celebration. David gets his attention. Jonathan, Saul's son, who is brave, educated, handsome and tall like his father, watches the interaction and is deeply moved, for the boy is Jonathan's son.)*

**David** Hey little man. Why aren't you celebrating like the rest of Israel? You're not a giant are you?  
**Boy** No, I'm a boy.  
**David** (Surprised) A boy? I don't know. All the boys in Israel right now are celebrating, and you have the looks of a giant.  
**Boy** I'm not a giant. I'm not anything.  
**David** (Fascinated) Really?  
**Boy** Really. I'll never be brave, or run as a warrior, or fight courageously in battle.  
**David** Oh, no. That's awful. How do you know?  
**Boy** 'Cause my brothers told me so.  
**David** And because they said you'll never be those things...you'll never be those things?  
**Boy** Well, they're older than me and they would know.  
**David** I'm older than you and I just called you a giant. Does that make you one?  
**Boy** (Laughing) No. I'm not even three cubits tall.  
**David** Well, it doesn't matter how tall you are now. You could be a giant later in life. I'm positive that even Goliath was once your height. Just because people tell you something about yourself doesn't make it true.  
**Boy** Really?  
**David** Really. You're not who your brothers say you are, you're not who your parents say you are, you're not even who you think you are!  
**Boy** Then who am I?  
**David** You are who the Lord says you are!

## **SONG: "WHO THE LORD SAYS YOU ARE"**

**David** You are who the Lord says you are

Don't listen to any voice but His  
You are what the Lord says you are  
You are what the Lord says

You're not what your doubt says you'll be  
You're not what your pride or the people say  
You're not what the world has labeled you  
You're not a lie that will betray  
And I'm standing here holding your hand  
I know that believing is hard  
You're not what your doubt says you'll be  
You are who God says you are –

You are who the Lord says you are  
Don't listen to any voice but His  
You are who the Lord says you are  
You are what the Lord says

*(The boy hugs David. He runs off revealing to David that he is severely crippled)*

**David** *(In awe to God)* How precious is your loving kindness O God.  
*(Jonathan makes his presence known)*

**Jonathan** I've never seen anything like that before.

**David** Anything like what?

**Jonathan** Today I heard you speaking boldly of our Lord before the people. I've never known anyone who speaks boldly of the Lord when no one is around.

**David** Sometimes it's the smallest things that impact us gigantically. I'll never think of Goliath as long as I live without thinking of a boy not even three cubits tall.

**Jonathan** That boy was my son. *(Beat)* "You are who the Lord says you are." Do you believe that?

**David** I do. *(Beat)* I was raised with a father who never called me "son," and brothers who wished for my death. But I knew that I was what my name meant: Beloved, 'because the LORD delights in me.

**Jonathan** I heard the Lord call me brave. I've longed, since I was young, for my father to see the braveness in my heart, but I've never heard it from his lips.

**David** Brave and Beloved. We make a good pair.

**Jonathan** Well, Beloved, today I'm sure all of Israel feels the same about you. Today you wiped away disgrace from Israel and you've wrapped my son in the Lord's confidence. A good day's work.

**David** Praise God for the way that He holds victories both big and small in His hand.

**Jonathan** In the Lord's eyes there are no small victories.

**David** Do you believe that?

**Jonathan** *(Slowly)* I do now.

### SCENE 13: SAUL'S PALACE, INT., DAY

**Saul** Dear Israel. A great day has dawned upon our nation's horizon. Our enemies are broken and our nation is healed. I, King Saul, am a King who honors his word. From this day forward may the house of Jesse be exempt from paying taxes. *(The crowd cheers)* Step forward David. *(David does so)* David, son of Jesse. Your place is now within the palace by my side. Never will you want for anything. You will be a favored son to me. I will call you "son." "Son!" You are the brave son I never had. *(Jonathan runs into a hiding spot)* This day I also give you a high position in my army, with thousands of men behind you and your judgment. All will know the name David. All will respect your name. All will honor David, and the Great King Saul! *(All Israel cheers)*

*(David is taken off stage by servants who excitedly want to speak with him. All exit but Saul and Abner)*



**Abner** You laid it on a little thick don't you think? I mean calling him son?  
**Saul** We need to keep a close eye on David. Besides, I'm a man of my word.  
**Abner** When it's in your best interest.  
**Saul** I know that David can't be trusted.  
**Abner** I've never seen someone so seemingly devoted to you. Except for me, of course.  
*(Awkward pause)* He will not be out of our sight King. We'll keep "your son" in our careful watch.  
*(King Saul and Abner exit. Jonathan comes out from his hiding spot. He's visibly upset. A small parade of adulation for David passes by)*

### **SONG: "NEW LIFE CAN BEGIN"**

**Israelites** David, a shining example  
David, you're Israel's favorite son  
David, braver and bolder  
And with David, victory will be won  
Our enemy seemed bigger  
Our victories seemed smaller  
Our enemy was broader  
Our enemy was taller  
Our enemy was fiercer  
Our enemy was stronger  
We were feeling weaker  
Their spears were getting longer  
But David's on our side,  
Sing it far and wide  
Victory will be won -- -- !  
With David on our side --  
David, Israel's bravest son -- -- !  
*(Song pauses)*

### **SCENE 14: SAUL'S PALACE EXT., EVENING**

*(Jonathan wipes away tears. David comes on stage with a great new robe obviously from King Saul. He sees Jonathan and in a playful manner saunters to him showing off his great new robe)*

**David** Have you ever seen a robe like this? Things are going to be different from now on.  
**Jonathan** More than you know.  
**David** I have a rightful place in the palace. I have a rightful place next to King Saul. I'm one of Saul's sons! His brave son. I've never heard anyone call me that before.  
**Jonathan** *(Fighting back tears)* I'm happy for you David.  
**David** I'd prayed for my father, Jesse, to call me son, but the Lord has used the obedient heart of King Saul to answer my prayer. I have a place in the King's palace. I have a place in the King's heart.  
**Jonathan** *(Breaking)* You have a place in mine, as well. You are everything Israel needs in a leader. I know something about you, David. I feel it when I am around you. I know that you will be King.  
**David** *(Worried)* Have you spoken this to anyone?  
**Jonathan** Not a soul.  
**David** Don't.  
**Jonathan** Why? You have an anointing about you.  
**David** I am in service to the King. This is my rightful place.  
**Jonathan** *(Building)* Your rightful place is to be King. You're everything King Saul isn't.  
**David** *(Building)* Don't speak against the Lord's anointed.

**Jonathan** *(Loudly)* I'm speaking in favor of you.  
**David** *(Breaking)* I'm a shepherd.  
**Jonathan** Is that who the Lord says you are? *(Long pause)* David, listen carefully. We don't have much time. Although I may not be the brave son of my father I will always be by your side.  
**David** And I'll be by yours.  
**Jonathan** David, hear me. Hearts can change. Battles can start. No matter where life leads us I will forever be on your side. You have my word; I will be on your side. Your battles are my battles. Your enemies are my enemies.  
**David** How can you promise this? How can you be sure?  
**Jonathan** I know that any battle you fight isn't your own, but the Lord's. This is the covenant I make with you David, son of Jesse.  
*(Jonathan takes off his sword, belt, tunic, robe. He lays down before David flat on the ground. David takes the sword and cuts his forearm)*  
**David** I make covenant with you. Your battle will be my battles. Your enemies will be my enemies. This is the covenant I make with you...  
**Jonathan** Jonathan, son of King Saul.  
**David** Jonathan?! *(Beat)* You're the rightful king after Saul is gone. Not me.  
**Jonathan** I want what is best for Israel, and you are what is best for this nation. In your heart is bravery of which I've only dreamed.  
**David** In your heart there is love that I've never known.  
**Jonathan** You will be king, David, not me.  
**David** We both will be King. Because, you'll forever live in my heart.

**SCENE 15: VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN ISRAEL (Over the course of months)**

*(Song resumes)*  
**Israelites** David, is bringing us victory  
 David, is showing how to win  
 David, is being brave and bold  
 And with David, new life can begin  
**Women** Saul has slain his thousands  
 And David his ten thousands,  
 Saul has been our King  
 But David is our leader  
 Saul has slain his thousands,  
 And David his ten thousands,  
 Saul has been our King  
 But David is our great leader – – – !  
**Israelites** David, you've brought us victory  
 David, you've shown us how to win  
 David, you've been brave and bold  
 And with David, new life can begin  
 David's on our side,  
 Sing it far and wide  
 Israel will win – – – !  
 With David on our side – – –  
 New life can begin – – – !

**SCENE 16: SAUL'S PALACE, THRONE ROOM, EVENING**

*(As night begins, David tip toes through the palace. He hears voices in the throne room of King Saul)*

**Abner** No, lord, I don't expect that the infantry would strike if the gain was...  
**David** Excuse me, my lord...  
*(Abner lies down for he knows that communication is futile with David present)*

**Saul** David!  
**David** My King.  
**Saul** Call me Saul.  
**David** Yes, my King.  
**Saul** Abner, look at this man. A great man. A man of the people. A man of war. A man of renown. *(To David)* Have I forgotten anything?  
**David** No, my King.  
**Saul** David, what brings you by my throne room tonight? I would have expected that you'd be fast getting caught up on your well deserved rest after leading Israel to another miraculous victory.  
**David** I can rest when I'm old. No offense Abner.  
**Abner** What?  
**Saul** He's said you're too old to be of use to me.  
**Abner** *(To Saul)* You'd know useless better than anyone I know.  
**Saul** *(Ignoring the rudeness of Abner)* Now David, what brings you by?  
**David** I was going to play the harp before I went to bed and I wanted to know if I could have the privilege of playing for you.  
**Saul** Of course David. When you're gone my heart doesn't feel complete. Please play.  
**Abner** Abner, leave us.  
**Abner** Yes, my lord.

**SONG: "PSALM 103" (Reprise)**

**David** Praise the Lord, O my soul; and all my inmost being,  
Praise His holy name  
Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits  
Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases  
Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you  
With love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things.  
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

*(Saul throws a spear at David, who quickly ducks out of harm's way. David is surprised and confused. Saul falls down to the ground. David runs to his side)*

**David** My lord, are you alright? Abner! Abner!  
**Abner** David. What have you done?  
**David** Nothing Abner. I was playing for the King and he threw his spear at me. Quickly after he fainted.  
**Abner** *(Circling, with smelling salts)* Master. Master.  
**Saul** You. Is he dead?  
**Abner** Who, my lord?  
**Saul** *(Seeing David in the room)* The man who was trying to kill David. I will not rest until he is taken care of.  
**Abner** *(Catching David's eye in agreement)* I'm sorry to say that he got away. But we'll get him next time.  
**Saul** Play, David – for my nerves are weak.

**David** *(Song resumes)*  
The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed  
The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,  
abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor his anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to Our iniquities.

*(Saul again throws a spear at David trying to end his life. Saul faints)*

**David** Abner! Abner!  
*(Abner rushes in)*  
**Abner** What is it? Oh, my lord.  
**David** What is the matter with Saul?

**Abner** I can't be sure. But I suspect you're to blame.  
**David** Me?  
**Abner** *(In a quick whisper)* You're the one with the most to gain if something ever happened to the King. "David, the man of the people."  
**David** He tried to kill me with his spear.  
**Abner** A man in this kind of condition doesn't have the strength. I'd get out of here if I were you. Before the King wakes up and tells what really happened.  
**David** I wish he would. He tried to kill me, Abner.  
**Abner** Get out of here David. We'll deal with you later.  
**David** Look Abner! I'm innocent. I would never lay a hand on the King, the Lord's anointed. I would never do anything...  
**Abner** Get out of here... *(Regaining composure)* We'll deal with this tomorrow.  
*(David grabs his harp and quickly exits)*

**SONG: "DELIVER ME!"**

**David** What's happening?  
 Why don't I feel strong?  
 Have I made an unwise choice?  
 Have I done something wrong?

What's happening?  
 Did I miss a sign?  
 Did I do something wrong, tell me,  
 Did I cross the line?

O Lord be my strength  
 O Lord be my rock  
 O Lord be my deliverer  
 In You I will put my trust  
 In You I'll hold victory  
 In You I will put my trust  
 Deliver me, Deliver me...

**SCENE 17: COURTS OF SAUL'S PALACE, EVENING**

*(Abner enters with boldness)*  
**Saul** People of Israel. I've brought us together today to inform you of a change in my ranks. Honor has been placed upon the wrong man. For there is a man more loyal, and more deserving than the position that he has faithfully been holding. This man, David, will now serve as the highest ranking officer of my army. All generals and captains are to report to him immediately. Let it be done.  
*(All Israel cheers)*  
*(King Saul and Abner walk off the King's announcement platform. They talk quietly as the King waves to subjects)*

**Abner** The highest rank in your army? My lord, I thought you were trying to kill him, not honor him.  
**Saul** Abner, I've been unsuccessful at extinguishing his life. Perhaps our enemies will have more success on the battle field.  
**Abner** Master. You're brilliant.  
**Saul** Don't pander, Abner; on you it's disgusting.  
**Abner** Honestly?  
**Saul** Disgusting.

**SCENE 18: VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN ISRAEL**

*(Various groups of Israelites are on stage reporting the success of their new military leader David)*

**Israelite 1** Victory again!  
**All** Victory!  
**Israelite 2** Our enemies may have secret weapons.  
**Israelite 1** Our enemies may have stronger arms.  
**Israelite 2** But with David as our military leader how could we lose?  
**Israelite 3** What's the report? What's the report?  
**Israelite 4** David has led us to victory again!  
**All** Victory!  
**Israelite 5** Praise the God of Israel for David!  
**Israelite 3** David! Israel's hero!  
**All** Israel's hero!  
**Israelite 6** Our men are home from battle!  
**Israelite 7** And?  
**Israelite 6** Israel has conquered another nation.  
**Israelite 8** Let us praise the Lord who gave our nation David!

#### SCENE 19: SAUL'S PALACE, INNER COURTS

*(Saul is sorting through various scrolls and is bewildered)*

**Saul** *(To Abner who eats grapes off a tray)* Nothing but victory reports. Not one battle even close to defeat.

**Abner** What's the big deal?

**Saul** *(Ignoring him, as has become the custom)* Our numbers are flourishing, the armies have never been fuller or better trained, the subjects are loyal beyond compare. *(Almost discouraged at the success of his kingdom)*

**Abner** But David is still a threat.

**Saul** More than ever. He's steps within reach of my throne. He's closer to taking over the kingdom than ever. He has the heart of the people in his calloused hand. Any day I'm sure we can expect a run on the Kingdom.

**Abner** What are you going to do about... *(Correcting)* We...what are we going to do about it. You've tried to kill him yourself. You've tried to have your enemies kill him in war. What's next?

**Saul** There are worse things than death.

**Abner** *(Excitedly)* Torture!

**Saul** Of sorts. If we can't kill him physically, we'll take care of him in a way closer to home. *(Shouting)* David! David! *(To Abner)* Abner, watch and learn.

**Abner** Torture. I can't wait.

*(David enters)*

**Saul** David. I've just been reading of all your great successes lately on the battlefield. You are a rarity.

**David** My lord, you are too kind. You know that it is the Lord's hand that has guided my ways and led the armies this past year.

**Saul** Yes, the Lord's hand that guided your...now David. I am a man of my word.

**David** Yes, my lord.

**Saul** I've promised something to you long ago and have never followed through.

**David** My lord, I do not know of what you speak.

**Saul** I'm speaking of the greatest honor a King can grant a man.

**Abner** *(Under his breath)* Torture.

**Saul** David, I offer you the hand of my daughter in marriage.

**David** Master, I...I never thought, that I'd...I...

**Abner** *(Spitting out grapes)* What?  
**Saul** I see you're speechless. Now I've heard of how our little lovers have already met and are quite fond of each other.  
**David** My lord, all that you say is true. We have met and are fond of each other. It would be an honor to care for the hand of your beautiful daughter.  
**Saul** I insist this happens immediately. David, you are to marry my daughter.  
*(Saul motions as girls enter in a procession. Saul's daughter is veiled. The other girls dance about. As the song ends, Saul speaks)*  
**Saul** You are to marry my daughter...*(Saul pulls the veil off his daughter)* Merab!  
*(Merab is not pleasing to the eye. David tries to not show his shock)*  
**David** On second thought, my lord, I am but a lowly shepherd, exalted by your hand, but still a lowly shepherd from the meekest tribe of all the tribes of Israel. I am not worthy of the honor of marrying this daughter of yours, your daughter Merab.  
**Abner** *(Under his breath with great excitement)* Torture. Torture. It's working.  
**Saul** David, I insist.  
**David** I am, definitely, not worthy, my lord.  
**Saul** How dare you refuse me. You ungrateful wretch. I'll teach you to say "no" to my generosity!  
*(Saul storms out of the chamber. David runs in opposite direction. Abner flirts with the girls present)*

#### SCENE 20: COURTS OF SAUL'S PALACE, EVENING

*(Saul storms into the courtroom of the palace. He sees Michal sitting in tears. He runs past her, stops and goes back)*

**Saul** Michal?  
**Michal** *(Sobbing)* Father! How could you?  
**Saul** How could I do what?  
**Michal** *(Dramatic, but sincere)* You knew that I loved him. You knew that I loved him!  
**Saul** Loved who?  
**Michal** David. You knew that we loved each other.  
**Saul** What are you talking about?  
**Michal** Father, this past year David and I have fallen in love. We love each other, and you offer my sister Merab to him instead of me?  
**Saul** You're in love with David? David is in love with you?  
**Michal** *(Through sobs)* Father! I can't go on living!  
**Saul** Michal, he said "no."  
**Michal** What?  
**Saul** He said "no" to Merab's hand.  
**Michal** *(With no compassion for her sister)* Father, I know that he wouldn't say "no" to me. He would do anything to have my hand in marriage. Anything.  
**Saul** *(Devising a wicked plan)* Anything?  
**Michal** *(Calming down)* Anything.  
*(Black out)*

#### SCENE 21: DAVID'S CHAMBER, NIGHT

*(Jonathan runs into David's chamber. Obviously awakened from sleep)*

**Jonathan** David. David, are you alright?  
**David** Yes. I'm sorry to have called upon you in the middle of the night. But I have a secret mission in which I unfortunately need your help fighting.  
**Jonathan** Is everything alright, David? *(Beat, sensing trouble)* David?  
**David** Everything is fine. This is a mission from King Saul. I need your help pulling this off.  
*(Pulls out plans)*  
**Jonathan** *(Staring at plans, his eyes widen)* You have got to be joking.  
**David** I wish I was.  
**Jonathan** Covenant or no covenant you owe me big.

**David** I know. We don't have much time.  
**Jonathan** David. You have a good reason for this, right?  
**David** I'll explain on the way.  
**Jonathan** If I'm reading the plan right, I don't think that will be enough time.

## SCENE 22: SAUL'S PALACE, THRONE ROOM, NIGHT

*(Saul, Abner, and Michal pace the floor of the King's throne room. They nervously wait for sundown)*

**Michal** He'll be here. I know that he'll be here.  
**Saul** I'm sure he will be my dear.  
**Abner** The closest Philistine land is a way off.  
**Michal** He'll be here. I know that he'll be here.  
**Saul** If he's not my dear, I'm sure that it is not because he didn't love you.  
**Michal** Whose idea was it for this foolish test? Abner? *(Abner waves his hands in surrender)*  
**Saul** Father? Was this whole test your idea?  
**Saul** You are a prize my dear. And the one who has your hand must be worthy of it. He must show bravery, and courage.  
**Michal** *(Getting irate)* Since when is leading your armies and killing a giant not enough?  
**Abner** *(Talking down)* Tone. Watch your tone when speaking to your father.  
**Saul** The sun is almost setting. Soon the test will be over and we can all go about our lives again.  
**Abner** *(Cruelly)* Unless, of course, David is dead.  
**Michal** *(Harshly, realizing that it could be true)* You wicked man. *(Abner slaps Michal)*  
**Saul** Abner! Get out. Now!  
*(Abner leaves, knowing that he hurt Michal more than she hurt him)*  
**Michal** Do you think that he's dead? What did he ever do to you, but fight for you. Bring honor to you. Lift up your name. Even when no one else would. Are you trying to kill him?  
*(Pause)* Are you trying to kill him?  
  
*(Warriors run to throne room in a formation. They stop. Jonathan runs in)*  
**Jonathan** Your majesty, *(To Michal)* and runt. May I present the man of no shame "David."  
  
*(Fanfare plays as David enters with a chest, behind him, another man also carries a chest. David crosses to King Saul)*  
**David** My lord. As requested, in exchange for your daughter Michal's hand in marriage I now offer, before sundown, the price for a prince's daughter. *(David opens the chest)* A hundred Philistine foreskins.  
**Michal** Eeww.  
**Saul** And what's in the other chest?  
**David** A hundred more, just in case I miscounted. And now may I be entitled to the hand of your daughter Michal?  
**Saul** David, son of Jesse, you are entitled.  
*(Michal runs and hugs David, he puts his hands on her waist)*  
**Michal** Don't touch me. *(Jonathan starts to exit with warriors)*  
**Jonathan** You owe me. Big. *(Patting David's shoulder)*  
**David** Don't touch me.  
**Saul** *(Cunningly)* David, Michal, I'm so happy for you.  
**Michal** *(Hugging Saul joyfully)* Thank you Father. Thank you.

## **SONG: "I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE"**

**Michal** If you ever need a friend  
I'll be by your side  
If you find your dreams soon end

I'll be by your side  
Through the blessing  
Through the pain  
Through the sunshine  
Through the rain  
I'll be the one in whom you can hide  
I'll be by your side

If you ever think that you've failed  
I'll still be by your side  
If it seems your enemies prevailed  
I'll still be by your side  
Through the tough  
Through times of ease  
Through the rough  
And rocky seas  
I'll be the one who brings a calmer tide  
I'll be by your side –  
Through the joy  
Through times of doubt  
Through times of wealth  
Through times without  
I'll be your faithful friend, Your faithful bride

### SCENE 23: SAUL'S PALACE, INNER CHAMBER, MIDDLE OF NIGHT

*(An assembly of men carrying candles enter in various patterns crossing the stage. They all meet center and wait in silence. After a short pause Saul is seen entering with candle as well. He joins the men)*

**Saul** I'm grateful to all of you for joining me in the middle of the night. *(To attendant)* Are all invited present?

**Attendant** Yes, my lord. All except Abner.

**Saul** That's as it should be.

**Jonathan** David's not here.

**Saul** He's on his honeymoon, Jonathan. Some things can wait.

**Attendant** We haven't much time, O King.

**Saul** Yes. Listen closely, men. There has been one among us for some time who is planning on taking over the kingdom. A traitor.

**Jonathan** Father, this man must be stopped. No one can stand against the nation of Israel or King Saul.

**Saul** This man has been slyly devouring of my generosity. He must be stopped immediately. He and his closest friends, are, I've heard on good authority, trying to overthrow the nation of Israel. From the inside out.

**Jonathan** We can't just sit on this Father. Drastic measures must be taken to ensure the safety of the people, our armies, and you.

**Saul** *(In agreement)* A time has come for action. I put my son Jonathan in charge of squelching this threat to our nation. *(Slowly hitting a chord)* My brave son Jonathan will be in charge.

**Jonathan** Father. I'm honored to defend our nation in this fashion. I will not rest until this man is stopped and killed.

**Saul** Will you fight along side him men?

**Warriors** Yes. This threat must be stopped. Certainly. Etc.

**Saul** Excellent. My son Jonathan will lead you. Go, capture, avenge, and kill this threat to our nation. Go and kill...David!

**Jonathan** *(Under breath)* What?

*(All warriors exit in a hurried fashion leaving Jonathan and Saul)*



**Saul** My son. I knew I could count on you to lead this assignment. You are brave enough? Aren't you?

**Jonathan** *(Wanting badly to please)* Yes Father. But it is common knowledge that Abner is trying to...

**Saul** One enemy at a time son. Don't let me down.

**Jonathan** Yes, Father.

**Saul** *(Kindly touching Jonathan's face)* I trust you, Jonathan.  
*(Jonathan exits. Abner enters shortly after)* Follow him Abner. Don't miss a single detail.

#### SCENE 24: SAUL'S PALACE, EXT., AFTER MIDNIGHT

*(Jonathan rushes on and in a loud whisper calls for David. It is the middle of the night)*

**Jonathan** David. David. *(No answer)* David! David!

**David** *(Peeking head from high window)* Jonathan? What is it?

**Jonathan** I have to see you. It's of utmost importance.

**David** Come around and I'll let you in.

**Jonathan** No one must know that I'm here. Quickly. Throw down something for me to climb.

**David** There's not much here. I'll see what...

**Michal** David? What's going on?

**Jonathan** This is urgent David.

**David** Michal, help me tie our bed clothes together.

**Jonathan** David – they're looking for you even now to kill you.

**David** Who?

**Jonathan** All Saul's warriors. Trust me, you've got to get out of the palace as quickly as possible.

I don't have time to explain. Get out of here. Michal, go get a pitcher of water immediately.

**Michal** Why a...?

**Jonathan** Do it now. *(Beat)* *(To David)* Is she gone?

**David** Yes.

**Jonathan** David, go to Ramah, to the house of Samuel the prophet. You'll be safe there. He'll know when it is safe to come back. Don't tell anyone where you are going. And quickly. And use only back roads. I'll be asking the Lord for your protection.

*(Jonathan leaves and holds up his arm, showing the scars of their covenant. David holds his arm as well)*

**Michal** I have the pitcher of water; what am I supposed to do with it?

**David** I've got a plan.  
*(David and Michal duck from the window. As Jonathan leaves he runs into Abner who startles him. Abner has not seen the interaction of Jonathan and David)*

**Abner** Good work my boy.

**Jonathan** Abner! I didn't know that you were...

**Abner** There's a lot of things that you don't know.

**Jonathan** *(Covering)* I need your help. David and Michal are in there. Let's get the other warriors, go around, seize him, take him to King Saul, and then kill him.

**Abner** Lead the way.  
*(The two men quietly scurry off. Jonathan looks back at window one more time and exits)*

#### SCENE 25: SAUL'S PALACE, THRONE ROOM, EARLY MORNING

*(Saul is seated at his royal throne with a towel of sorts wrapped around his head. His head is splitting with a headache. Attendants are ministering to him, but nothing helps. The sound of Michal's crying is heard as the warriors bring on a bed with David lying soundly in the middle of it. There is a sheet covering him)*

**Michal** What has he done to deserve this? What has he done, Father?

**Saul** He is a traitor. And traitors must be dealt with severely.  
**Abner** *(Handing Saul his sword proudly)* Here, your honor...

*(Saul takes the sword, and plunges it into the heart of the sleeping David. All are stunned. Jonathan, shouts. Michal, cries. The warriors are shocked)*

**Saul** *(To David)* Now to see your dying eyes. *(Saul pulls back the cover to reveal an idol surrounded by goat's hair. He's furious as he realizes he's been tricked)* An idol? Goat hair? Michal? Michaal!!!!

*(Saul slaps his daughter who is flung across the room. He goes over and drags her by the hair)*

**Saul** Fight back, you daughter of a rebellious woman. Fight back, slut.

**Michal** He said he'd kill me. David said he'd kill me.

**Saul** *(About to strike her again)* What?

**Michal** David said that if I didn't help him escape he would kill me with his own hands.

**Saul** David would kill my offspring? It is hereby decreed that if anyone sees that shepherd boy David, he is to be killed, no questions asked. O, Michal.

*(Saul reaches out his hands to Michal, she flinches and runs to Jonathan. Saul turns and slowly walks out of the room. All are stunned)*

**Saul** Find David now. *(Black out)*

#### SCENE 26: RAMAH, SAMUEL'S HOUSE, DAY

*(It's a peaceful morning. David wanders through a peaceful village. Everything is calm and light. He stops by a small vegetable stand)*

**David** I'm looking for the seer, Samuel.

**Vendor** You must be David. Follow me.

**David** How did you know that I am...?

**Vendor** Follow me.

*(The vendor leads David through town and leads him to a humble dwelling. When he arrives a servant takes over)*

**Servant** You must be David.

**David** I am.

**Servant** Rest here. Drink this. You must be tired. Allow me to wash your feet.

**David** *(Beaten)* Thank you.

*(Samuel enters. Respect follows him when he enters a room. Because of his humility in the Lord, he walks as the most confident man)*

**David** *(Bowing)* Samuel.

**Samuel** *(Knowing time will be short)* Follow me. It's not safe here. We'll go to Naioth.

**David** The village of the prophets?

**Samuel** *(With sadness)* Follow me.

#### SCENE 27: SAUL'S PALACE, INNER CHAMBER/ RAMAH, SAMUEL'S HOUSE

*(Saul is seated on his throne. A harp is being played for him poorly. His nerves are sensitive. Servant enters)*

**Saul** *(To servant)* Any sign of them?

**Servant** No, my lord.

**Saul** It's been days. Get me Abner.

**Servant** Yes, my lord.

*(The harpist continues to play poorly, to the horror of Saul; Abner enters with a flourish)*

**Abner** Your majesty?

**Saul** *(Direct)* Abner, you told me seven days ago that David had gone to "Ramah" to see the prophet Samuel. Where now is David?

**Abner** O great King, David is...

**Saul** *(Getting impatient)* Abner, you also told me, four days ago, that a second set of troops were deployed to go retrieve David. Abner, where now is David?

**Abner  
Saul**

*(Stumbling, seeing the King's anger)* I know that these...  
Abner, you also told me, two days ago, that a third and final set of troops were deployed to go retrieve David. Abner, Where now is David!?? *(To harpist)* Shut up before I have you killed! Abner, to accomplish what you want, sometimes it is you yourself who has to pay the price. I'm taking control back into my very capable and anxious hands. I am going to Ramah.

**SONG: "DUET. 6:4"**

**Men**

Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one  
Love the Lord with all your heart  
Love the Lord with all your soul  
Love the Lord with all your strength  
Love the Lord our God  
The Lord our God,  
T h e L O R D  
o n e !

*(Saul "journey's" to Ramah. As he approaches Ramah's gate he draws his sword, then a strange noise is heard. Saul is drawn to the noise. He turns the corner to enter the city. In a very odd lighting, he sees all of his warriors in various stages of very intense worship. Saul's sword drops from his hand. He wanders around the courtyard amidst the true worship and prophesying of the warriors. He comes to center and, wanting to get away from everything that is "Saul," frantically disrobes and lies flat on the floor prophesying loudly in the name of the Lord. In time the warriors exit, leaving only Saul and his scattered clothes in sight. Samuel enters with a blanket, covers Saul, and helps him to his feet. As Saul weeps uncontrollably, they exit)*

**SCENE 28: SAUL'S PALACE, EXT. AFTERNOON**

*(David runs into the palace courtyard's "hiding spot." Jonathan is already there waiting for him)*

**David** *(Warmly)* Jonathan, friend. Seeing you is like being whole.  
**Jonathan** When you're away, I feel incomplete.  
**David** You are truly what your name means; a gift from God. You are God's gift to me.  
**Jonathan** And you David are truly "Beloved." I've longed to see you since you've been back. How long have you been in hiding?  
**David** Only a few weeks.  
**Jonathan** It's seemed like months.  
**David** Why does your father Saul want to kill me? What have I done wrong?  
**Jonathan** Since he's back from Ramah, he's been a different person David. I see a peace in his eyes that I've never seen before.  
**David** Is it safe for me to return, then? I long to be back in his service.  
**Jonathan** David, my father never does anything without consulting me. He's made no plans against you. He has sung nothing but your praises since he's returned from Samuel's.  
**David** *(Honestly)* I hear your words Jonathan, but I know that it isn't safe.  
**Jonathan** Why would he hide this from me?  
**David** Jonathan, your father has had to have heard of our friendship by now, our bond. A man can smell a double-minded man. I swear by the living Lord and your own life that I'm only one step away from death by the hands of your father.  
**Jonathan** Tell me what to do next and I will do it.  
**David** Tomorrow is the Festival of the New Moon. I will not show up.  
**Jonathan** *(Not liking the sound of this)* David?  
**David** If Saul questions my absence say to him, "David has gone to his hometown of Bethlehem to offer the yearly sacrifice for his family." If the King responds kindly, then we'll know

that peace is in his heart, but if he is enraged, we'll know that he has plans of harm deep in his heart.

**Jonathan**

I will do this for you.

**David**

*(Passionately)* Be merciful to me Jonathan, since it was your idea to enter into covenant with each other before the Lord. If there is anything, sin or iniquity that you've seen in me, that deserves death, please kill me now, yourself. Why wait and hand me over to your father?

**Jonathan**

*(Shocked)* Never. *(With great enjoyment in saying his name)* David. If I discover that my father is plotting evil against you I will tell you, as I have told you in the past. I am one with you in Spirit.

**David**

*(Calming)* How will you let me know of your father's response?

**Jonathan**

Meet me in two hour's time at the field by the edge of the palace and we'll conceive of a plan.

*(The two men embrace)*

**David**

In two hours time. One in Spirit.

**Jonathan**

One in Spirit.

*(They separate and exit)*

### SCENE 29: SAUL'S PALACE, BANQUET HALL, LATE AFTERNOON

*(Saul is seen making sure that the arrangements for the New Moon celebration are in order. He talks with Abner, and the servants are set up for the banquet)*

**Saul**

*(With a fond sigh)* The festival of the New Moon.

**Abner**

A wonderful celebration, my lord.

**Saul**

Is everything in order?

**Abner**

Yes, everything is in place.

**Servant 1**

Abner, where is the appointed place for the royal musicians?

**Servant 2**

The linens have arrived.

**Servant 3**

The order of meat has been accounted for.

*(Jonathan enters and is meddling with the linen order)*

**Abner**

Between the third and fourth column. Bring them immediately. Double check the standard of the cleanliness. Everything is going fine, your majesty.

**Saul**

*(Nagging; Jonathan is deep in thought)* Jonathan, I've heard on good authority *(Looking at Abner)* that your attendants are no longer keeping the purification requirements to be eligible to eat at tomorrow's feast. And remember your archery lesson tomorrow; you mustn't keep your instructor waiting like last time...Jonathan are you even paying attention?

**Jonathan**

I'm listening father. Tomorrow. Purification lessons. I'll be there father!

**Saul**

*(Disapprovingly)* Jonathan. *(Importantly)* And Jonathan, if you happen to see David tell him...that the palace hasn't been the same since he left. The walls have missed his music. The walls and the heart of Saul.

**Jonathan**

If I see him I'll...Does that mean you've invited him to the festival?

**Saul**

Of course. He's my highest ranking officer. I sent a personal invitation to his home, and told Michal as well. It is his duty to be at the palace, but the pleasure would be mine.

**Jonathan**

*(Carefully)* Things have been different with him not around. Father, may I speak honestly?

**Saul**

*(Elegantly)* Is there any other way to speak? *(Abner sighs)*

**Jonathan**

*(Cautiously)* Father, what if David is not opposing you? What if he is everything he seems?

**Saul**

We must be ever careful when it comes to threats of treason, and my throne...and yours, you are to be King after me. David is charged with treason. I want to secure your future, and mine.

**Jonathan**

And has he ever been questioned about this treason?

**Abner**

*(Getting tense)* I think running from the palace is answer enough.

**Jonathan**

If the men you've trained in battle were plotting to take your life, would you not do the same?

**Abner**

He didn't know that men were plotting to take his life.

**Jonathan** You didn't know either, but you found out quickly, speaking of which, how did you find out so quickly about the plan to capture David?

**Saul** *(Speaking for Abner)* Jonathan, Abner is not the one being accused, David is.

**Jonathan** *(Making solid points)* What has David ever done to oppose you? Has he not fought in your battles? Has he not brought your people together? Has he not promoted a positive opinion of you?

**Saul** All this is true, but the rumors of disloyalty...

**Jonathan** Disloyal? Has he ever not followed your orders precisely? Has he ever not gone above what you've required or asked? Who else could have led Israel into the realms of victorious battle? Only David. Father, I truly believe you've been opposing a man not against you. You've been fighting a man who's in full support of your throne. By his actions it is clear he isn't against you. I've never known one to be more loyal.

**Saul** *(Confused by the truth)* I don't know...you're right my son. I have sinned against David. *(Quietly)* I must make amends. *(Saul starts to get choked up)*

**Jonathan** *(Pause)* Father ?

**Saul** *(Waving Jonathan out of the room)* Your archery lesson tomorrow. Don't forget. *(Jonathan exits, processing all he's heard and said. Saul pulls Abner aside)*

**Abner.**

**Abner** Yes, your majesty?

**Saul** See to it that you're there tomorrow at his lesson. I've been sensing trouble.

**Abner** Let tomorrow come with its own trouble; let us worry about the trouble in today's hands.

**Saul** Yes, yes, Abner; you're always reminding me of the faded side of the coin. I want a new view, Abner. I want this celebration to represent a new start for me. I want the man who means the most to me to have the highest place of honor at my table. *(Abner thinks that Saul is referring to himself)* I want to honor loyalty.

**Abner** Yes.

**Saul** I want to honor faithfulness.

**Abner** Yes.

**Saul** Prepare the seat on my right side.

**Abner** Yes.

**Saul** This special place of honor reserve for David. Ensure that he and only he sits there.

**Abner** *(Seething with jealousy)* Of course your majesty. It will be my highest honor.

### SCENE 30: A FIELD OUTSIDE THE PALACE, DUSK

*(David is seen hiding in the field. He sings briefly)*

#### SONG: "DELIVER ME!" (Reprise)

**David**

O Lord be my strength  
 O Lord be my Rock  
 O Lord be my Deliverer  
 In You I will put my trust  
 In You I'll hold victory  
 In You I will put my trust  
 Deliver me  
 Deliver me

*(Jonathan enters)*

**David** *(Tense)* You're late.

**Jonathan** *(Playful)* You're tense. *(Jonathan gives a little bundle of food to David)*

**David** Is everything in order?

**Jonathan** Perfect order. David. You have my word that if my father intends to do you no harm I will tell you.

**David** And if his intention is evil?

**Jonathan** I will help you escape. David, it seems that the Lord has turned Saul's heart. I feel he is not opposing you any longer.

**David** *(Still concerned)* Safe isn't a feeling.

**Jonathan** *(With a joyful spirit)* I pray that the Lord will bless you, just as he used to bless my father. Someday the Lord will wipe out all of your enemies. *(With great feeling)* Then if I'm still alive, please be as kind to me as the Lord has been. But if I'm dead, be kind to my family.

**David** *(Weighted)* You have my word.

**Jonathan** I want our families to be at peace with each other. I pray that the Lord will take revenge on your descendants if they break our promise.

**David** If I am alive to have descendants. But thanks.

**Jonathan** The Lord who started this good work in you will complete it. The Lord isn't a liar. You will be King.

**David** *(Honestly)* I want Saul to be King. He's the Lord's anointed.

**Jonathan** So are you. You are to be King.

**David** You are the prince of Israel, you are also to be King.

**Jonathan** I want what is best for Israel. And you, David, are what is best for Israel.

**David** How can you look past your birthright and see a shepherd as king?

**Jonathan** Because even in a field watching sheep, you're more of a King than I could ever be, even in a palace.

**David** And you are a better friend than I could ever be to you. *(Beat)* And now, friend, how am I to know about Saul's intention?

**Jonathan** After the festival. I will come and shoot arrows in this field. I'll shoot three arrows to the side of this rock. I'll say to my arrow-boy, "Go find my arrows." If I say, "Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here," there is no danger for you to return to the palace. But if I say to the boy, "Look, the arrows are beyond you," then you must go, because the Lord has sent you away.

**David** *(Full of doubt)* Jonathan.

**Jonathan** The Lord is witness between you and me and our families forever. *(Beat)* I must go. Stay hidden and I'll return after the festival with good news.

**David** I am not as confident as you.

**Jonathan** David, your place is in the palace.

**David** Then why am I hiding in a field?

**Jonathan** The Lord knows you'll be King.

**David** *(Playfully trying to make a point)* So do you...

**Jonathan** *(Not knowing the profoundness of his words)* So does Saul.

**David** May the Lord be with you.

**Jonathan** The Lord is with you.

### SCENE 31: SAUL'S BANQUET ROOM, FESTIVAL OF THE NEW MOON

*(All of Israel's finest are gathered together to celebrate the festival. Fine clothes, fine food, and fine wine are all present. Saul, instead of worshipping the Lord, is introspective. No one seems to notice except Jonathan)*

### **SONG: "THE FESTIVAL OF THE NEW MOON"**

**All**

All praise and honor  
 To the Lord of seasons  
 Exalt, Extol  
 Blessing to His mighty works  
 All praise and power  
 To the Lord of seasons  
 Blessing and glory  
 Power and might  
 Be to the Lord of the seasons  
 This night

**Group 1** Praise the Lord  
**Group 2** Praise the Lord  
**Group 1** Praise His holy name

**Group 2** Praise His holy name  
**Group 1** All blessing and glory  
Honor and praise  
**Group 2** Blessing and glory and power and might  
**All** Be to the Lord of the seasons this night  
*(Music continues as interlude)*

**Saul** *(Troubled to Abner)* Where's David?  
**Abner** *(Glad to report)* Not here, O Lord.  
**Saul** I can see that, Abner. Where is he?  
**Abner** I do not know, master.  
**Saul** Bring to my attention your first sight of his presence.  
**Abner** Of course, my lord.

*(Song resumes)*  
All praise and honor  
To the Lord of seasons  
Exalt, Extol  
Blessing to His mighty works  
All praise and power  
To the Lord of all seasons  
Blessing and glory  
Power and might  
Be to the Lord of the seasons  
This--  
*(Song ends; music continues as interlude)*

**Saul** *(To Jonathan spoken over the above song)* Have you seen David?  
**Jonathan** Not tonight, Father.  
**Saul** Why hasn't David come to the Festival of the New Moon?  
**Jonathan** Father, his family is observing a sacrifice in his home town and his brother has ordered him to be there. He asked if he had found favor in your eyes and mine to let him be absent from our festival and go be present with his family. That is why he is not here.

*(Saul starts growing in anger. He grabs his spear)*  
**Saul** When did David ask this of you?  
**Jonathan** Just today, after I left.  
**Saul** I thought that you hadn't seen him tonight?  
**Saul** *(At song's end Saul Throws his spear at Jonathan)* Ahhhh. You're no son of mine! You are the traitor, among us.

**Jonathan** No.  
**Saul** *(Knocking him down)* My very own son. You've chosen your "friend" over your father, over your own flesh and blood.

**Jonathan** Father!!  
**Saul** *(Tackling Jonathan)* You're not my son. Your mother should be ashamed that you were ever born.

**Jonathan** Father!!  
**Saul** Our kingdom will not be secure as long as David lives. And your throne will never be established!

**Jonathan** *(Losing it)* I don't want my throne to be established. I want David to be king! He is the Lord's anointed. David's the man of the people. David's a man of God. He's more a King than you'll ever be!!

**Saul** *(Blowing up)* My son the traitor!!!  
*(Saul pushes Jonathan away. As Jonathan's back is turned Saul grabs his spear and throws it at Jonathan. Jonathan runs)*

**Jonathan** David, the true King of Israel!  
**Saul** *(Yelling as Jonathan leaves)* My son the coward! *(All stare awkwardly at Saul)*  
**Saul** *(Breaking the silence)* Praise the Lord!!!

*(Song resumes)*

**All**      *(Singing because they are forced)*

All praise and honor  
To the Lord of seasons  
Exalt, Extol  
Blessing to his mighty works  
All praise and power  
To the Lord of seasons  
Blessing and glory  
Power and might  
Be to the Lord of the seasons  
This night

*(All exit)*

### SCENE 32: A FIELD OUTSIDE SAUL'S PALACE, EARLY MORNING

*(David is hiding behind the chosen rock. He hears the voices of Jonathan, his instructor and the servant boy)*

**Jonathan**      I'll shoot my next three arrows over there.  
**Instructor**      Steady Jonathan. Your hands are trembling.  
**Jonathan**      I'm fine.  
**Instructor**      Are you alright? Have you eaten?  
**Jonathan**      I'll shoot my next three arrows over there.  
**Servant Boy**      *(Counting the arrows)* One.  
**Instructor**      *(Disappointed)* Jonathan. Where was your shooting line? Where is your shooting stance?  
**Servant Boy**      Two.  
**Instructor**      *(Unbelieving)* Your fletching points are all off. Focus.  
**Servant Boy**      Three.  
**Instructor**      Jonathan! You didn't even nock your arrow.  
**Jonathan**      Boy, fetch my arrows.  
**Instructor**      You have plenty of arrows here.  
**Jonathan**      *(With force)* I want those arrows.  
**Instructor**      Very well, fetch his arrows.  
**Servant Boy**      Yes sir.  
*(The boy runs onto stage. Looking back from where he just ran)*  
**Jonathan**      The arrows are beyond you. Go quick. Hurry. Don't stop!  
*(The boy runs off stage the other direction. He then, with arrows in his hands runs to his first entrance)*  
**Jonathan**      Thank you. Now go back to town.  
**Instructor**      No. We just got here.  
**Jonathan**      *(Forcefully)* Now go back to town.

*(They "go back to town." Jonathan enters stage weeping. David stands up and then bows three full times to Jonathan. They embrace and kiss each other's cheeks. They hold each other. David weeps loudly)*

**Jonathan**      Go in peace. We have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord. The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendents and my descendents forever. Nothing, not even distance can separate our bond.  
**David**      Jonathan! I don't want to leave you or the King. What have I done wrong?

### **SONG: "THERE'S NO GOOD WAY TO SAY GOODBYE"**

**David**      *(Sung tearfully)* Season's change, autumn goes  
Springtime comes to melt winter's snow  
I longed to make our summer slow  
There's no good way to say goodbye



There's no good way to say goodbye

I'll turn my back you'll see me go  
The pain will stay and make its home  
'Till seasons change and bring new growth  
There's no good way to say goodbye  
There's no good way to say goodbye

You don't have to be  
Alone without me  
I know that covenants are stronger  
Than the distances between

Then one day beyond the blue  
I'll see God's face; I'll see you  
We'll reunite; we'll be made new  
There's no good way to say goodbye  
There's no good way to say goodbye!

*(The two men hug and part ways)*

*(Lights fade to black-out)*

**End of ACT I**

**ACT II**

**Entr'acte**

## SCENE 1: NOB, PRIESTS TEMPLE, DAY

*(It is a peaceful morning in Nob. Abiathar, a young youthful priest, runs into the chamber of Ahimelech, his father and chief priest of Nob, who is helping Doeg, an evil man, with a sacrifice)*

**Abiathar** Father! David, son of Jesse, is here. He says it's important.  
**Ahimelech** Abiathar I'm in the middle of a ceremony with Doeg.  
*(The words of Abiathar hit him)* Abiathar are you sure that it is David? The festival of the New Moon was last night, he would have had to travel all through the night to get here.

**Abiathar** It's him father. He says that it's urgent.  
**Ahimelech** *(Taking his son aside)* Urgent or not, priests are never to be interrupted during a ceremony. If I didn't love you so much my son, I'd let you get away with breaking rules of the counsel. We will talk about this later, my *(In a whisper)* "favorite" son.

**Abiathar** He says that his visit is regarding King Saul.  
**Ahimelech** Bring him in. Excuse me, Doeg. Please excuse me.  
**Doeg** *(Knowing that this is not the right response)* Not at all.  
*(Doeg stands to the back of the stage. Abiathar exits and then escorts David in. David is acting nervous and more so as he lies to Ahimelech)*

**Ahimelech** David, it is great to see you. Abiathar, please usher his men in as well.  
**David** *(Nervously)* I have no men with me, kind Ahimelech.  
**Ahimelech** You've journeyed here alone?  
**David** I'm on a secret mission sent by Saul. *(Spotting Doeg)* I need to speak with you alone. It's concerning a matter of great importance.  
**Ahimelech** Abiathar, please escort Doeg out. *(To Doeg)* I'm sorry to trouble you. I'll see you in a moment. *(Doeg is helped out, Abiathar sneaks back inside)*  
*(Getting nervous)* Saul has sent you on a mission by yourself?  
**David** It is a secret mission, one of great significance.  
**Ahimelech** Then why has he sent you alone? I'm worried for you. Something is terribly wrong, isn't it?  
**David** The troops are being put together as we speak. I will meet with them in a few days time. Until then no one can know a single detail about it.  
**Ahimelech** I will do anything to help King Saul and you. David why have you come to me? What can I do to help?  
**David** I need provisions. I left so quickly that I was not able to care for...  
**Ahimelech** There is nothing here.  
**David** Nothing?  
**Ahimelech** Except for the bread that is used for our holy sacrifices. Surely I couldn't use that.  
**David** It's for the service of the King.  
**Ahimelech** Even if I let you use it, there are only five loaves.  
**David** That is better than nothing.  
**Ahimelech** I will give you the consecrated bread. May the Lord bless us both as we decide what is right in His eyes.  
**David** Thank you. May the Lord bless you and your people for helping King Saul this day.  
**Ahimelech** Thank you, David.  
**David** May I ask of you one more thing?  
**Ahimelech** Of course, David.  
**David** I need weapons.  
**Ahimelech** We here in Nob use the greatest weapons of war: prayer and worship. If you are looking for something more tangible you are in the wrong city.  
**Abiathar** There is something here. It's the sword of...  
**David** Goliath of Gath. I used it to cut off his head the day the Lord wiped his disgrace from Israel. I pray the Lord will again wipe disgrace from our nation.  
**Ahimelech** I pray that disgrace would be far from us in the first place.  
**David** May I take the sword?  
**Ahimelech** It is yours. David, continue to fight the Lord's battles and the Lord will bless you. Continue saying the Lord's words and He will be in your heart.

**David** *(Feeling great conflict)* Always, Ahimelech. Now I must be going. Matters are dire.  
**Abiathar** I'll get the holy bread for David, Father.  
**Ahimelech** Please do, my son.  
*(Abiathar leaves. David feels the weight of his new sword, putting his faith in his ability)*  
**David** *(Confidently)* I have a feeling our troubles will be over soon.  
*(David exits with speed under his feet)*  
**Ahimelech** *(Under his breath)* Then why do I feel as though trouble is just beginning?

## SCENE 2: THE PALACE OF GATH, DAY

*(A Fanfare is heard as King Achish, a wise King, enters and sits while attendant and servants wait on him. Servant enters hurriedly)*

**Servant** King Achish, David of Israel is here to see you.  
**Achish** *(To servants)* Bring in David of Israel. *(The servant exits and brings in David)*  
**Servant** *(With greatness)* O great King of Gath, King Achish, powerful and mighty, may I humbly present David of Israel.

*(David enters with confidence. He charges in the room sword first. His confidence fades as he sees the many guards standing with spears around him. He fears that he is outnumbered. He knows that carrying the sword of Goliath wasn't a good idea)*

**Achish** David of Israel. What is your business? *(David is speechless)*  
**Servant** David of Israel you must speak when spoken to.  
*(David is still speechless)*  
**Achish** David. What has brought you here this day to my great presence?  
*(David is speechless. With all eyes on him, he begins to act like a madman. Drooling, shaking and scratching the floor are actions he performs during the following)*  
**Achish** *(To Guards)* Get him out of here. I have enough mad men around me as it is! Get him out of my presence. *(To servant, although David hears)* It's too bad, he was such a great leader. I longed to learn the secret of his passion. He will no doubt kill himself. What a waste.

## SCENE 3: CAVE OF ADULLAM, DUSK

*(David runs onto stage to the cave of Adullam. It is here that he becomes a leader again. He's greatly distressed)*

**David** *(Breaking before the Lord)* Lying to Your holy priest. Acting like a madman in front of a man who has seen Your power working through me? Fearing men more than You. O Lord, I'm not worthy of the anointing that you've placed upon me. I'm not big enough to finish the work you've started. My flaws are too numerous. I'm too deep in sin to still be used by you.

## **SONG: "IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY" (Psalm 34: 1-22)**

**David** I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise will make its home on my lips  
My soul will boast in the Lord  
The humble will hear it and rejoice  
Let us make a joyful noise  
Glorify the Lord with me,  
Let's praise His name together

**David** *(Spoken as a leader encouraging a crowd)* I sought the Lord, and he answered me;

He delivered me from all my fears.  
Those who look to Him are radiant;  
Their faces are never covered with shame.  
This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;  
He saved him out of all His troubles.  
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,  
And he delivers them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.  
Fear the Lord, you His saints,  
For those who fear Him lack nothing.  
The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
But those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

**David** (Sung) I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise will make its home on my lips  
My soul will boast in the Lord...

**David** (Spoken) Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Whoever of you loves life  
And desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil  
And your lips from speaking lies.  
Turn from evil and do good;  
Seek peace and pursue it.  
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous  
And his ears are attentive to their cry;  
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
To cut off the memory of them from the earth.  
The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;  
He delivers them from all their troubles.  
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted  
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**David** (Sung) I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise will make its home on my lips  
My soul will boast in the Lord  
The humble will hear it and rejoice  
Let us make a joyful noise  
Glorify the Lord with me,  
Let's praise His name - - -  
Together - - - -

**Mother** David.

**David** Mother?

**Mother** (Hugging David) David. You're safe!

**Jesse** David.

**David** Father!

**Jesse** (Slowly walking towards David and whispering in his ear almost crying) My son.

(Jesse embraces David. David, stunned, takes a moment before he hugs back) Israel is dark without you.

You are to be King not Saul.

**David** Until that day, we are to honor King Saul. We are to serve Saul wholeheartedly. He, too, has been anointed King over Israel.

**Mother** Jesse, tell David what Samuel had told us the day he was anointed King, before David arrived and received the anointing.

**David** What did Samuel say?

**Jesse** We still don't understand what it means, but we knew you would. Forgive us for not telling you sooner. He said, "The Lord's anointing doesn't move a man to great places.

The Lord's anointing can only rest upon a man. It's what's in a man's heart, his character, that moves the anointing to great places."

**David** *(They embrace)* It isn't safe for you to be here. I'll send word to the King of Moab and ask that you would be able to stay in his region until it is safe for you to return home. We must find out as soon as is possible.

#### SCENE 4: NOB, AHIMELECH'S TENT, DAY

*(Saul is seen walking with Abner into the city of Nob, Abiathar greets them)*

**Abiathar** *(Bowing with great respect)* O great King, King Saul. On behalf of the city of Nob, and the counsel of priests, welcome.

**Saul** *(Sharply)* Where is Ahimelech? Bring him to me at once.

**Abiathar** Yes, your majesty.

**Saul** *(To Abner and Doeg)* It's never the ones you expect. Is it?

**Abner** Betrayal wears many different types of masks, O King.

**Saul** Indeed. Abner, did you bring your sword?

**Abner** Yes, your majesty. But I don't see the need for it here.

**Saul** *(Coldly)* You don't see many things, Abner.

**Abner** *(Hurt)* Yes, your majesty. *(Ahimelech enters with Abiathar)*

**Ahimelech** *(With respect, bowing before King Saul)* O King Saul, blessings be yours in the Lord.

**Saul** Save it, priest.

**Ahimelech** Your majesty?

**Saul** Ahimelech. You have betrayed Israel.

**Ahimelech** Your majesty, I do not know what you are...

**Saul** You have plotted against me with my enemies.

**Ahimelech** I do not know what you are...

**Saul** *(Growing rate)* You have harbored my greatest enemy. Sought the Lord for him and given him and his men food.

**Ahimelech** Never have I helped your enemies.

**Saul** That's not what he says... *(Doeg enters in a haughty manner)*

**Ahimelech** Doeg. What is the meaning of this?

**Doeg** I was here Ahimelech, curtains are thin. Everything that Saul is accusing you of is true.

**Ahimelech** Doeg, what are you talking about?

**Saul** You helped David.

**Ahimelech** David is your enemy?

**Saul** He seeks my throne. He is a traitor. His heart is full of treason.

**Ahimelech** I didn't know my lord, that David is opposing you. I did give him food; I sought the Lord for him and gave him a sword.

**Saul** You armed him as well?

**Ahimelech** Please your majesty. He told me he was on a mission for you. He told me by helping him I was helping you.

**Saul** You expect me to believe that?

**Abner** He's a priest Saul, why would he lie?

**Saul** Quiet, Abner.

**Abner** My lord, why would he lie to you now?

**Saul** *(Hardened)* Because his heart has sided with David's heart. He and all here are against me.

**Ahimelech** No, O King; David said that he was on a secret mission sent by you to do your work.

**Saul** Abner, seize him. *(Abner grabs the priest)*

**Ahimelech** Abiathar, get out of here.

**Abiathar** No, Father. I'm going to stay.

**Ahimelech** *(Yelling)* Get out of here!!

**Abiathar** Father! *(Abiathar runs)*

**Saul** Abner, kill him.

**Abner** *(Shocked at Saul)* I won't kill a holy man of the Lord.

**Saul** You refuse my orders? *(Saul draws Abner's sword and holds it to Ahimelech's throat)*

**Abner** You'd kill a holy man?

**Saul** *(Dropping Abner's sword)* Let him go. *(Abner lets Ahimelech go. Abner grabs his sword. Ahimelech stares Saul in the eyes)*

**Ahimelech** My whole counsel has sought the Lord for both you and David before. I've given both you and he provisions in the past. Why is it hard for you to believe that I'd do it again? My character has been seen. And now yours has been seen as well.

*(Ahimelech walks off confidently)*

**Saul** Abner, kill them all. Every priest. Every man, woman, and child.

**Abner** *(Defiant)* I will not kill the innocent people of Nob, they do not even have weapons to defend themselves. You've gone too far, *(Largely)* O great King.

*(Abner slowly walks away from Saul)*

**Doeg** I will do everything you've asked. These people are against you. They've helped, harbored, armed, and fed your greatest enemy. They, therefore are deserving of the punishment of those who betray a King.

**Saul** Kill them.

**Doeg** Yes, O great King.

*(The words sting Saul's ears as he exits. Doeg runs off in the opposite direction with hate in his heart. The priests scream, which transition to the sound of David's men talking loudly)*

### SCENE 5: CAVE OF ADULLUM, EVENING

**David** *(Playful, but with importance)* Quiet men, attention! Our favorite fearless brothers have returned from surveying the area. They, watching their language, will now give a report of the condition of Judah.

**Joab** Men, my brother Asahel and I, Joab, the better looking of the two, *(Asahel takes a swing at Joab)* bring you good news tonight. This news could be the turning point of our hiding in caves. We have brought news of a potential end of this living.

**Asahel** Think of warm beds.

**Joab** Think of warm food.

**Asahel** Think of anything but rocks! *(All men chuckle)*

**Joab** Think of new life. *(Mighty men murmur with excitement)*

**Asahel** But there is a great risk involved.

**Joab** And because of this you're probably not interested.

**Mighty Man 1** Tell us.

**Mighty Men** Tell us or we'll kill you. We want out of this cave. Speak up. Tell us the plan. We're sick of rocks. Etc.

**Asahel** Our freedom is being held in the hands of the small city of Keilah.

**Mighty Man 2** How can Keilah help us? They are only a small city!

**Joab** Our freedom comes in helping them.

**Asahel** You see, our enemies, the Philistines, are stealing grain from their threshing floor.

**Joab** Keilah needs protection.

**Asahel** The Philistines need to be taught a lesson.

**Mighty Man 1** *(In protest)* You're not suggesting that our band of men go after the Philistine nation?

**Asahel** *(Cheeky)* We're not suggesting we go after the Philistine nation, we're suggesting that we put a stop to the Philistine nation.

**Joab** *(Adding in quickly)* There's a difference.

**Mighty Man 2** If we were to go and help Keilah, what's in it for us?

**Asahel** They have agreed to give us a home in their city. A place of honor.

**Joab** But only if we wipe out their enemies.

**Mighty Man 3** There are only six hundred of us.

**Mighty Man 4** We already have Saul trying to attack us, we don't need anymore enemies, especially the Philistines.

**Mighty Men** Yes, what about our safety? How would we survive? Do you think it's the Lord's battle? Etc.

**David** *(Getting control of the men and passionately guiding)* Men! I have sought the Lord and He has said "go." But I can see that we are divided. It's true, we are not the strongest army we're a group of outcasts hiding in a cave, we don't amount to much. But are we going to let fear keep us where we are? Are we going to make those who oppress us stronger than our God? *(With fire)* Let me be the first to say as the Lord lives,

“No!” *(Beat, none join in)* Where's our compassion for outcasts like us? *(Softly)* Again, I will seek the will of the Lord in this matter.

*(David drops to his knees in silence. All the mighty men watch with curious minds. Behind David, Abiathar, the high priest's son, enters the cave wearing a worn priest's robe. In his hands he holds the high priest's ephod. On it are the Urim and Thummim. His countenance is one of shock and revenge)*

**Asahel** *(Shouting)* David! Behind you! *(David runs. He and his men scurry to “almost off” positions. David turns and sees that it is the young priest Abiathar)* *(With care)* Abiathar? What has happened to you? *(Abiathar remains wide-eyed and silent)*

**Joab** Who is he David? Can he be trusted?

**David** Yes, Joab. This is Abiathar, a fine young priest from the city of Nob, and the counsel of priest...

**Abiathar** The only priest in Nob.

**David** What do you mean by...

**Abiathar** *(Loudly)* The only priest left in Nob.

**David** Abiathar?

**Abiathar** They're dead.

**David** Who?

**Abiathar** *(Bursting)* Everyone! My father! The whole counsel of priests! My father! *(From floor)* My father.

**David** Death will come to the man who's responsible for the deaths of these holy men. Who's responsible for this? Who has caused these innocent, holy men to die? *(Beat)*

**Abiathar** You. *(Beat)* You have killed eighty-five priests today with your lies.

**Asahel** Lies? David, what is he talking about?

**Joab** David.

**David** *(To Abiathar)* Lies?

**Abiathar** *(Talking passionately in fragmented sentences)* There was no secret mission from Saul. No men. There were no men. You lied to my Father.

**David** *(Trying to explain)* I was...

**Abiathar** *(Broken)* ...trying to kill my father with your lying tongue? King Saul had my father killed. Doeg, the shepherd used his sword. King Saul killed the priests at Nob.

**David** King Saul? King Saul is trying to kill me. You have my word before the living Lord that I will protect you. You are safe with me. I will make right the wrong I've committed against you.

**Abiathar** *(Quietly, but pointed)* Because of your lies my family is dead. Why should I trust you now?

**David** *(Almost in realization)* You shouldn't. Men will only let you down. Trust is meant for the Lord.

**Abiathar** *(With great wisdom)* Then I will trust you only as long as I see you trusting the Lord.

**David** The Lord is my witness; you have my word. *(Beat)*

*(Abiathar curls up on the floor weeping. David grabs a blanket and places it on him)*

**David** We are to protect those we can.

**Mighty Man 1** We need to protect the people of Keilah!

**Mighty Men** Yes. Agreed. Let's be ready in the morning. Let the Lord lead us!

#### SCENE 6: MAON, NABAL'S TENT, DAY

*(Nabal, a portly drunk man waddles on stage. He has obviously had too much wine. He speaks and burps often. His servant tries to steady him and report about his unguarded flocks)*

**Servant** Master, the preparations have been made for tonight.

**Nabal** *(Slowly, as if great wisdom were pouring out of his mouth)* Preparations are of importance.

**Servant** Yes, master Nabal, preparations are important, and the preparations that you have requested for tonight's banquet...

**Nabal** Banquets are nice. *(Beat)*

**Servant** Yes, Nabal, banquets are nice. And the preparations for your banquet tonight have...

**Nabal** Preparations are not easily made, a...ahhh...are they?

**Servant** *(Referring to their communication)* Sometimes it's harder than you might realize, master.

**Nabal** Realizing things is of importance. *(Nabal falls to the floor and his head piece falls off)*

**Servant** Abigail! Abigail!

*(Abigail, a graceful woman in thought and deed, enters. She has bruises on her arms)*

**Abigail** What is it? Oh, Nabal.

**Servant** *(Politely)* He's having one of his "moments" again.

**Abigail** Yes. Have some of the others help you get him to his bed. He'll be better there.

**Servant** Of course, ma'am.

**Abigail** *(Reaching for his head piece)* Get his head piece for me would you? *(She exposes her bruised arms)*

**Servant** Did he do this to you?

**Abigail** *(Directly avoiding)* Get the other servants to help you get him to his bed.

**Servant** It isn't right that you go through this.

**Abigail** *(Sternly)* Get the other servants.

*(The servant exits and shortly re-enters with two male servants who help hoist Nabal off stage. Abigail, looks off in the distance and ponders life without Nabal. The servant enters again)*

**Servant** Ma'am?

**Abigail** Yes?

**Servant** I needed to tell Nabal something very important earlier

**Abigail** Can you share with me?

**Servant** His northern flocks are unprotected. I'd hate to see his neglect cause you both more loss.

**Abigail** What's our best option?

**Servant** I'm not sure...hire some men to guard the flocks? Maybe re-arrange the household servants duties.

**Abigail** I'll give it careful thought.

**Servant** *(Implying)* His flock isn't the only thing I worry about. *(Beat)* Why do you...

**Abigail** *(Gently)* I've promised before God to be a certain person. I will keep that promise, regardless of Nabal. You have a watchful eye, but the eye of the Lord is already mindful of my situation. I wouldn't want to regret the actions of today, if blessings were to come tomorrow. My trust is in the Lord and His timing. He'll keep watch; He won't leave me unguarded.

**Servant** *(Bolder than expected)* Bruises by your husband's hand isn't my idea of guarding.

**Abigail** *(Knowing that protection is necessary)* I will continue to be who I am supposed to be so the Lord can work through me.

**Servant** *(Harmfully)* I imagine if the Lord were working through you, Nabal would treat you differently.

**Abigail** *(With courage)* Regardless of what you imagine, I will treat Nabal as if he were the king.

**Servant** *(Pointed)* But he's not the king!

**Abigail** You're right. And he'll never be a king if I don't treat him like one. And besides, if I don't treat him like a king, I'll never know what it feels like to be a queen.

#### SCENE 7: INSIDE KEILAH

*(David and his men joyfully celebrate Philistine victory at a tavern in Keilah. The leader of Keilah, Jethrome, addresses the people.)*

**Jethrome** *(Toasting David and his men)* To David and his mighty, mighty men!  
*(All cheer with celebration)* Mighty in battle. Mighty in war...and mighty in smell!  
*(All laugh and cheer)* As the leader of the people of Keilah, I Jethrome, want to extend to you David and your men dwellings of honor within our city. We, now, offer you protection from your enemies because you've protected us from ours! *(Abiathar slips out of the tavern, the thoughts of his family's death are still on his mind, and the talk of killing seems "too close to home")* You've made our city stronger, fortified walls, strong gates, bars protection our dwellings. Here's to David and his mighty, mighty men. *(All cheer)*  
 Here's to our future and safety!

**Joab** *(Grabbing everyone's attention)* Here's to no more rocks! *(All cheer wildly again)*



**David**

Men, let's show the kind people of Keilah how we celebrate!

**SONG: "THE GLORY OF GOD" (Psalm 19)**

**David**

The heavens declare the glory of God  
The skies proclaim the work of His hands  
Day after day they pour forth speech  
across this grateful land.  
Night after night they display their knowledge  
There is no place where they are not heard  
Their voice goes out unto the earth  
Their words to the ends of the world

The glory of God; the glory of God  
Let the heavens declare  
The glory of God; the glory of God  
That we could be aware  
Of the glory of God; the glory of God  
Let the skies proclaim  
The glory of God; the glory of God  
The glory of God's name.

The heavens declare the glory of God  
The skies proclaim the work of His hands  
Day after day they pour forth speech  
across this grateful land.  
Night after night they display knowledge  
There is no place where they are not heard  
Their voice goes out unto the earth  
Their words to the ends of the world

The glory of God; the glory of God  
Let the heavens declare  
The glory of God; the glory of God  
That we could be aware  
Of the glory of God; the glory of God  
Let the skies proclaim  
The glory of God; the glory of God  
The glory of God's name.

*(David's mighty men start to lead the people of Keilah in a charged dance of celebration. Jethrome excuses himself from the dance. Abiathar follows. A joyous dance of praise and joy is underway, during which Joab and Asahel battle for glory in a brotherly manner. They continue in the dance of celebration during the following)*

**Joab**

Well, Asahel, I hope that you learned a few things from watching me in battle.

**Asahel**

I learned a lot.

**Joab**

While watching my greatness what did you learn?

**Asahel**

I learned what not to do!

**Joab**

Obviously, you didn't see me gutting the Philistines.

**Asahel**

I must have missed that. I was pretty busy.

**Joab**

Doing what?

**Asahel**

Chopping off their heads.

*(The celebration dance continues. Abiathar who has re-entered gets David's attention)*

**Abiathar**

*(Worried)* David, I need to speak with you. Something is terribly wrong.

**David**

*(Not understanding)* Wrong?

**Abiathar**

I just overheard Jethrome telling the city officials that Saul and his men are waiting to attack us. They are just outside of the city's walls.

**David** I don't understand, we've just risked our lives to help them.  
**Abiathar** *(Filling in the details)* And now they are putting our lives at risk.  
**David** Why would they do this? We just saved them from their enemies.  
**Abiathar** They're under the impression that, like the Philistines, we are Saul's enemies too.  
**David** *(Logic kicking in)* We just fortified their city, we've nothing to worry about.  
**Abiathar** *(Urgently)* David, don't you understand? We've made for them a city with walls and bars. And in so doing have made ourselves prisoners. There's no way out except through the city's gate. We must leave now.

**David** *(Crying out to the Lord)* O Lord go before us...again. *(To Abiathar)* We must leave discreetly, the people of Keilah must not know that we know of Saul's plans of attack. Let our people know. I'll go now and secure a place in the desert of Ziph for us. No one must know where we're heading. Don't even tell our men. Just tell them to follow you.

**Abiathar** Yes.  
**David** I'll see you in a few days time.  
**Abiathar** How will I know where you are hiding?  
**David** Use the Urim and Thummim of your father. You brought it with you right?  
**Abiathar** Yes, but it's only for the high priest to use.  
**David** *(Playfully but honest)* You're the highest priest we have.  
**Abiathar** What if it doesn't work?  
**David** You're a high priest, it will work. *(David exits with a flourish. Abiathar whispers in Joab's ear. Joab instantly gets overly paranoid. His eyes connect with David who nods. Joab gives "the look" to Abishai, who upon getting "the look" runs out of the room. Abiathar prays)*

**Abiathar** *(Praying)* O Lord go before us and behind us...hem us in.

#### SCENE 8: CAVE IN ZIPH

*(It is early morning. David enters a cave in Ziph alone. He's tired and raw; he's been traveling all night. He cries out to the Lord)*

**David** Lord, why do my enemies pursue me? Why do they seek my life? What have I done wrong? Teach me your ways O Lord, that I may walk in your paths. Why does Saul pursue me? Why does he want me dead? *(Getting angry)* Is this what it's like to be your chosen one, your anointed? Running from enemy from enemy, cave to cave? If this is what you've chosen for me I don't want it. I was happy as a shepherd. I was happy serving the King. *(Honestly)* I'm running. I'm scared. I must have heard you wrong. I'm not supposed to be king. Kings don't have to run. I don't want to run anymore. I don't want to hide.

*(David exhales to a lower position. Jonathan enters the cave. David doesn't see him. Jonathan is strong, but could break at any moment)*

**Jonathan** You are to be king.  
**David** Who's there?  
**Jonathan** You are to be king.  
**David** Jonathan?  
**Jonathan** David! *(They run and embrace)*

#### **SONG: "WHO THE LORD SAYS YOU ARE" (Reprise)**

**Jonathan** I never thought I'd see you again  
 My heart soars to see your face  
 To touch your arm, to see your scars  
 To share again, embrace

A million questions I long to ask you

A million and three stories to tell  
But staring at God in your eyes again  
I cannot think of one

But in your eyes I see trouble  
In your eyes I see doubt  
The pain of waiting, hoping, and daring  
To trust that the Lord knows what He's about

You're not a failure, David  
Do not be ashamed of what waiting will bring  
You're not beaten, David, you're not weak  
You are the King!

You are who the Lord says you are  
Don't listen to any voice but His  
You are what the Lord says you are  
You are what the Lord says

You're not what your doubt says you'll be  
You're not what your pride or the people say  
You're not what the world has labeled you  
You're not a lie that will betray  
And I'm standing here holding your hand  
I know that believing is hard  
You're not what your doubt says you'll be  
You are who God says you are — — —

**David** How did you find me?  
**Jonathan** I feel like I know you better than I know myself.  
**David** Let's hope that Saul doesn't.  
**Jonathan** David, he's a ruthless man. Nothing will put an end to his pursuit.  
**David** (*With strength*) He is my king and I will honor him. (*Beat*) I wanted to see you so badly?  
**Jonathan** I wanted to remind you of your own words. I know that the wisdom we know is often the first wisdom we doubt.  
**David** Jonathan, I feel like I'm losing. I'm confused. I'm in the fire.  
**Jonathan** In the fire? The Lord has led you here to Ziph, the refining place, and when you have been put through the fire you'll come out purer, more valuable. The Lord who began this good work in you will complete it.  
**David** If Saul doesn't get me first.  
**Jonathan** Don't be afraid. Saul seeks to destroy you, but you will be King. (*Hoping it's true*) And I will be by your side. For even now I'm standing, not with a doubting man in a cave, but with the King of Israel.

**Jonathan** (*Song resumes*)  
You're a king, chosen, anointed, and grand  
Powerful and fair  
Cherished, beloved, appointed and planned  
Valued, important and rare  
You're the work of the Master's fingertips  
You're splendid, a winner, strong and bold  
The Creator's delight in a woven masterpiece  
You're brave and more precious than gold

**Both** You are who the Lord says you are  
Don't listen to any voice but His

You are what the Lord says you are  
You are what the Lord says  
I know that our time is now at an end  
And soon we'll be friends from afar  
But our friendship will continue to grow  
Because I know who the Lord says you are – – –

### SCENE 9: ZIPH, DAY

*(Saul is giving his men a pep talk. He has just met with the men of Ziph who have told him where David and his mighty men are hiding)*

**Saul** *(Excitedly)* This is the moment we have been waiting for, men.  
**Abner** *(Chiming in)* The Ziphites have spotted David and have turned him in.  
**Saul** He is in our clutches.  
**Abner** They've not only helped us know where to look for David...  
**Saul** *(Correcting)* Call him "the traitor."  
**Abner** ... "The Traitor," but they have sent out search parties as well, ensuring that he and his men do not escape.  
**Saul** So men, here are the mission's details.  
**Abner** He and his men are heading south toward the wilderness of Maon. The mountains will be right before them and we'll be ready behind them.  
**Saul** *(With zest)* Trapped. It's almost too good to be true. Now men, go!  
*(The men exit as Abner and Saul are left behind)*  
**Abner** *(Honestly)* You were great with the men of Ziph. You almost sounded like you really believed all the things you were saying.  
**Saul** *(Confused)* What do you mean?  
**Abner** *(Impersonating a grand Saul)* All your "Blessings to you in the Lord for you have had compassion on me!" You really know how to speak like a real holy man.  
**Saul** *(Defensively)* What makes you think that it's just talk?  
**Abner** You only talk that way when you want something. And it's working. You are getting what you want!  
**Saul** *(Not sure what to make of Abner)* It's great, isn't it?  
**Abner** Keep it coming *(Grandly)* "Your most distinguished-ness." Ha. Ha. Ha.  
**Saul** Abner?  
**Abner** Yes Saul?  
**Saul** Shut up.  
*(Transition to David and his men)*  
**Asahel** They're on our trail.  
**Joab** Does David know?  
**Abiathar** No, he's been in prayer all morning.  
**Asahel** I'll get him. *(Abishai exits)*  
**Joab** The mountains are straight ahead.  
**Abiathar** I don't understand; the Urim and Thummim led us here.  
**Joab** *(Really discouraged)* Are you sure? Why would they lead us to a place where we'd be trapped.  
**Abiathar** Joab, the Lord is still with us.  
**Joab** I don't understand why it would be wrong.  
**Abiathar** It's not wrong, it's just different than we would plan.  
**Joab** Why isn't the Lord honoring the fact that we're seeking him?  
**Abiathar** What makes you think He isn't honoring our seeking?  
**Joab** We have mountains in front of us and enemies behind us.  
**Abiathar** And the Lord with us in the middle.  
*(David enters with Asahel)*  
**David** *(Commander mode)* Men. News?  
**Joab** No.

**Abiathar** Yes. *(Beat)* The Lord is still with us.

**David** Abiathar, did you consult the Urim and Thummim?

**Abiathar** Yes, it confirms our being here.

**David** Then we will put our trust in the Lord and not in our circumstances. Joab, gather our men. We'll hide in the crags. Meet us here as soon as possible.

**Joab** Yes, David. *(Transition to Saul and Abner)*  
*(David's men join him in "crags." Saul and Abner shout)*

**Saul** David. We know you're here. Escape is not an option.

**Abner** You are surrounded. Saul's army, the army of the Ziphites...

**Saul** The Lord has handed you over to me. Finally, judgment is upon you.

**Abner** There is no way out.  
*(David's men start to panic. David motions for them to remain calm)*

**David** *(In whisper)* The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and they are saved.

**Abner** *(To Saul)* How could six hundred men be hiding here?

**Saul** Like I told the *(Shouting)* armies of Ziph who are here with us now, David is not to be trusted. He's wretched of heart and evil to the center of his being.

**David** *(Quietly to his men)* The Lord is our defense.

**Abner** Let's check in the crags. *(One of Saul's warriors runs to him)*

**Warrior** O great, King! The Philistines are attacking our home land. You must return. The people need you and your finest warriors.

**Saul** We will go at once. Abner, inform the troops of a change in plans.

**Abner** Yes, your majesty.

**Saul** We'll thwart the Philistines once again.  
*(As he's exiting, he talks knowing that David can hear him. Where Saul is positioned only David can hear)*

**Saul** Oh, Abner.

**Abner** Yes, your majesty?

**Saul** It's a shame about Michal isn't it?

**Abner** What about Michal, your majesty?

**Saul** It's too bad she's married another.

**Abner** But you forced...

**Saul** *(Asking Abner to play along)* It's too bad she's married another.

**Abner** *(Playing along)* It's too bad. If only David had acted differently.

**Saul** Well, it is nice to see her happy for a change. It's wonderful to have a son-in-law I can trust.  
*(They exit, leaving David confused. The men celebrate the victory that the Lord has made for them by freeing them from the hand of their enemy)*

**Abiathar** The Lord has led us to victory and without a fight! The mountains were against us...

**Warrior 1** So was King Saul.

**Asahel** But the Lord has delivered us.

**Warrior 2** And without dulling our weapons!

**All** Praise the LORD! He saves! Jehovah Nissi!

**Asahel** David?

**David** *(Heavy in thought)* Let us prepare and be off to En-gedi.

**Asahel** Aren't you thrilled?

**David** *(In shock, being responsible, but not feeling it)* Yes. The Lord's provided peace again for me and my mighty men!  
*(David runs off stage broken over the news of Michal)*

## SCENE 10: DESERT OF MAON, NABAL'S TENT, DAY

*(Nabal is on stage lounging with another woman at lights up)*

**Nabal** *(Shouting)* Abigail! Abigail! *(Abigail enters with large basket of bread in hand)*

**Abigail** You called for me, dear?

**Nabal** Tell me what you know about my northern flocks.

**Abigail** Well, dear, we have two of our attendants now guarding your flocks near the gates of Carmel.

**Nabal** *(Accusing)* And where did “we” get these attendants?  
**Abigail** *(Nervous)* They were part of “our” vineyard staff. I worked out an efficient schedule where “our” staff...  
**Nabal** *(Enraged)* “My”...staff! “My” staff! “My” staff will do as I say! I’m their boss. They work for me. You work for me.  
**Abigail** I’m your wife, Nabal.  
**Nabal** Which means I pay you for nothing. I’m in charge of my staff.  
**Abigail** I know this dear, but I had gotten word that our, I mean, your flocks were unguarded, so I rearranged the staff until you could figure something...  
**Nabal** And when were you going to inform me of my problem?  
**Abigail** As soon as you were sober enough to make...  
**Nabal** *(With violence, shoving)* You prostitute! You think I’m a lush? You think I drink too much? You’re the reason I drink. *(Nabal grabs Abigail harshly)*  
**Abigail** Nabal. I’m not saying that I’m perfect. I should have gotten your permission, but you had gone into one of your “shocks” again. I did the best I knew how...  
**Nabal** *(Cutting with words)* The best you knew how? The best you knew how? Your best is never good enough! Get out of my sight, woman. And never use “my” staff behind my back again. If you do...you’ll be more than sorry.  
**Abigail** Yes, dear. I will honor the Lord...and you.  
**Nabal** *(Done)* The Lord.  
*(Nabal exits. Abigail is left alone)*  
**Abigail** *(Holding on)* The Lord. *(Sigh)* O Lord, may I not regret the decision I make today, if I were to be queen tomorrow.

#### SCENE 11: DESERT CAVE IN EN-GEDI, NOON

*(Joab pulls David into a secluded section of the Cave of En-gedi)*

**Joab** *(Whispering)* You are not going to believe this!  
**David** Joab?  
**Joab** This is rich!  
**David** Joab, how can you be so happy? Saul has deployed three-thousand of his men to find us and kill us. *(Joab laughs)* Three-thousand men is a lot! *(Unsettled)* Joab! What’s going on?  
**Joab** Follow me. *(Joab leads David through caves and tunnels. They reach the mouth of the cave and see Saul there, sleeping, unguarded and without a weapon. Joab laughs)*  
**David** Joab! It’s Saul!  
**Joab** All by himself. Sleeping.  
**David** Are there others?  
**Joab** Ten guards at the mouth of the cave! But they never thought to guard him from those already inside! David, today is the day the Lord has spoken about. Look, he’s delivered your enemy into your hand, to do with as you see fit.  
*(Joab hands David his sword. David takes the sword and approaches Saul. David then quickly and quietly cuts the hem of Saul’s robe off. David creeps back to Joab. David looks at Joab with wide eyes)*  
**Joab** *(Disappointed)* With all due respect, master, that is not quite what I had in mind.  
**David** Let’s show the others what the Lord has done for us today!  
**Joab** *(Dry)* Let’s.  
*(David and Joab journey back to their common room. There, the warriors, Abiathar, and Asahel are washing clothes, preparing food etc. David makes an announcement)*  
**David** Men! Today the Lord has done something great in our presence.  
**All** What? Tell us? Can we go back to our homes? Etc.  
**David** The Lord has brought Saul into our hands!  
*(David presents the hem of Saul’s robe. It is blue and knotted)*  
**Mighty Man 1** I’ve never seen a hem so large.  
**Mighty Man 2** It must’ve cost a fortune.  
**Abiathar** *(Worried)* How did you get it?

**All** Yes. Did you steal it? How did you get it? Where is it from? Etc.  
*(The mighty men pass around the "Zitsiot" and "ooh" and "ahh.")*

**David** *(Getting into the story)* Today, Saul, while trying to capture and do me harm, fell asleep in the very cave in which we have been hiding. Joab found him and brought me to the unguarded king.

**Asahel** Did you cut off his head?

**Mighty Man 1** No. He didn't need to. He got the hem of Saul's robe.

**Egyptian Man** What's the big deal? So he cut his robe?

**Mighty Man 2** That's worse than killing a man; David stole his position.

**Abiathar** I've never seen the like of a hem like this.

**Asahel** The detail of the knots.

**Mighty Man 2** The color of the dye.

**Abiathar** David might as well have killed him. *(David grabs the hem and runs towards the entrance of the cave)*

**David** I've sinned against the Lord's anointed! I've sinned against King Saul.

**Joab** Where are you going? *(David is on his way out)*

**David** I have to make it right!

**Joab** You'll be killed!  
*(David runs through the tunnels to the mouth of the cave and to his horror, Saul is gone. Only the marks of a sleeping man remain)*

**David** No. Nooo.  
*(David runs to the mouth of the cave and yells for King Saul)* My lord the King!  
*(David lies full face to the floor)*

**Saul** Who's there?

**David** David, your son.

**Saul** David, the traitor. *(David boldly holds out Saul's hem)*

**David** This day may I prove to you that I am not opposing you. I have not wronged you, but you seek to take my life. May the Lord judge between us who is right and who is wrong.

**Saul** David...my son. *(Saul falls to his knees, weeping)*

**David** Father.  
*(The two men embrace)*

**Saul** May the Lord reward you for your kindness towards me, kindness that I do not deserve. Israel will be established in your hands.

**David** Father.

**Saul** Now promise me that when you're King you will not cut off my descendents or wipe out my name.

**David** You have my word.

**Saul** *(Touched)* The words of a righteous man.

## SCENE 12: RAMAH, FUNERAL OF SAMUEL

*(A droning/dirge is heard. A procession of people in clothes of mourning enter. A covered cot is brought on draped with beautiful fabric. On top of the fabric is Samuel's ephod)*

### **SONG: "BALM OF THE NATIONS"**

**Solo 1** Lord, our Lord,  
 Why do we desire the things you don't desire  
 Why do we delight in the things that 'cause you grief

**Solo 2** Lord, my Lord  
 My heart is troubled, for the trouble  
 On our nation; be relief.

**Duet** Oh Balm of the Nations  
 Soothe and smooth away  
 The pride we've come to love  
 All our sinful ways

Oh Balm of the Nations  
Come and gently pour  
Your judgment on the people  
You've chosen to be Yours

**All** Oh Balm of the Nations  
Soothe and smooth away  
The pride we've come to love  
All our sinful ways

**Duet** Oh Balm of the Nations  
Come and gently pour  
Your judgment on the people  
**All** Your chosen, stubborn people  
The people that you've chosen to be Yours

**Priest** Israel, be reminded of the last words Samuel spoke as the leader of Israel. These are the words of Samuel our leader, prophet, priest, and judge:

*(During the following, "Israel" makes a line on both sides of Samuel's cot. Abner "hears" the words "serve the Lord with all your heart" for the first time. David and Saul are the last people on each side. They both grieve for Samuel, look up, and see each other. They then stare at each other over Samuel's body; tension mounts)*

**Priest** Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.

**Samuel's voice** And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing. For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people. I will teach you the good and the right way. Fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.

**Samuel & P.** But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.  
*(Saul turns his back on David)*

**David** You can turn your back on me, but don't turn your back on the Lord.  
*(David exits, Samuel is carried out and the people follow, only Saul and Abner remain)*

**Saul** *(Amazed)* Of all the words Samuel spoke not one of them ever fell to the ground. He was the greatest man to ever rule Israel.

**Abner** *(Turning his heart)* He led the people back to the Lord.

**Saul** He told David he would be King. *(Beat)* Perhaps, I can kill two enemies with a single stone, Abner.

**Abner** Master?

**Saul** If we kill David then he'll never become King.

**Abner** It isn't proper to discuss murder...

**Saul** And if David never becomes King, then Samuel was a false prophet and not the great leader of Israel that everyone makes him out to be.

**Abner** Saul, you're not suggesting that...

**Saul** I will be the greatest leader Israel has ever known. Get three thousand of Israel's finest men. David will die!. *(Saul storms off)*

**Abner** Saul! *(Softly)* Don't turn your back on the Lord.

### SCENE 13: DESERT OF MAON, ABIGAIL'S TENT

*(Abigail is preparing food for a banquet. She's making the most of her situation)*

**Servant** Abigail! Abigail!

**Abigail** *(Surprised to see this servant)* What are you doing here?

**Servant** Your family is going to be killed!



**Abigail** What?  
**Servant** Your family is going to be killed!  
**Abigail** How do you know...  
**Servant** *(Helping Abigail put away food)* I have just come from the gate of Carmel. The men who were protecting Nabal's northern flocks have requested payment for their services and Nabal has refused them.

**Abigail** The men who've been watching his flocks are going to kill Nabal?  
**Servant** Yes, they've been refused payment of any kind. Nabal not only refused to give them payment, but he also spoke against their master.

**Abigail** What is their master's name?  
**Servant** These men are the men of David, son of Jesse.  
**Abigail** David, son of Jesse?!  
**Servant** Yes ma'am. Do you know him?  
**Abigail** Yes. One day he is to be our King. He's been the leader of Saul's military campaigns. I need to work out a plan...  
**Servant** And quickly. I'll go tell master Nabal.  
**Abigail** Master Nabal doesn't know of this yet?  
**Servant** No.  
**Abigail** Don't tell him. I will tell Nabal. Now, go – please gather some of the other female servants and then bring them back to me.  
**Servant** But how can we, simple women, protect Nabal and his family against the leader of Saul's military campaign?  
**Abigail** I'll ask the Lord to go before us. If he could use a sling in the hand of a boy to stop the Philistine army, he can certainly use us. Now go.  
*(The servant exits. Abigail lays/bows before the Lord in prayer)*  
*(Transition to David and his men)*

#### SCENE 14: DESERT OF MAON, OUTSIDE OF NABAL'S PROPERTY

*(David and his men are getting prepared for battle. They are getting on their battle clothes and sharpening their swords)*

**Abiathar** David, is fighting really necessary?  
**David** We have been wronged, Abiathar. We will seek revenge.  
**Abiathar** *(Trying to reason)* Let the Lord avenge your enemies.  
**David** The Lord avenges, but He gives us swords.  
**Abiathar** We are making a great mistake.  
**Joab** A greater mistake would be to let this offense go unpunished.  
**Abiathar** Joab, the Lord is the only one who can punish.  
**Joab** *(Coldly)* Well, where is the Lord now? We don't have provisions.  
**David** The Lord is still with us, Joab; He will help us as we right this wrong.  
**Abiathar** I agree that it was wrong of this man, Nabal, not to give us provisions in payment for the protection we gave to his flocks.  
**David** Flocks are income. He has an obligation to pay us for our services. And if you still object, look at the words he used in his refusal.  
**Abiathar** *(Reading scroll)* "Who is David? Who is this son of Jesse? I hear that he's an enemy of the King. Why should I give a portion of my wealth to men who come from who knows where?"  
**Joab** The offense has been made, and revenge is set.  
**Abiathar** *(To David)* Perhaps this man, Nabal is just as his name means, "a fool." Please, my lord, don't do this thing.  
**David** We must set a precedent for the wrong behavior of others. If I am to be King, people must know the things which are just, proper, and right. Let us go with force and purpose. No one in Nabal's camp is to be left alive. It is time to take back what is ours!  
**Abiathar** No David! *(Abiathar chases after them)*

*(David leads the men in a hurried scramble "to Nabal's camp," as they reach the edge of the property they are met by a group of women who, with large amounts of provisions in their hands, stand*

*there peacefully. The women proceed to present their provisions to the men who stand with drawn swords)*

- Woman 1** For David, the son of Jesse, one hundred loaves of bread.  
**Woman 2** *(Almost speaking at the same time)* For David, the son of Jesse, one skin of wine.  
**Woman 5** A bushel of roasted grain, O great son of Jesse.  
**Woman 3** For David, the son of Jesse, another hundred loaves of bread.  
**Woman 4** For David, the great son of Jesse, another skin of wine.  
**Woman 6** One hundred cakes of raisins, for you, son of Jesse.  
**Woman 7** One hundred cakes of pressed figs, for you, brave son of Jesse.  
**Woman 8** One hundred cakes of pressed figs, to be yours, mighty son of Jesse.  
*(The women surround the men with their provisions. Abigail slowly enters and bows low before David. Abiathar enters and observes)*
- Abigail** Please, my lord, hear your servant. Let the blame of my husband be on my head alone. Master, receive these provisions on behalf of Nabal. When the Lord has done for my master every good thing He has promised concerning you and has appointed you leader of Israel, may you not have innocent bloodshed on your hands. Do not do today that which you would regret, if you were made King tomorrow.
- David** *(After a pause)* Praise be to the Lord, who has sent you to today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Go in peace...
- Abigail** Abigail.  
**David** *(Continuing)* ...Abigail. I have heard your words and granted your request.  
*(The women hand the provision to the soldiers who have put away their swords. The women exit)*
- David** Men, take these provisions back to the others and tell them of the wonders of the Lord.  
*(The men exit, leaving David, Abigail and Abiathar. David and Abigail gaze deeply into each other's eyes)*
- Abigail** *(After a long pause, still gazing deeply into his eyes)* Thank you my lord.  
**David** Thank you my lady. *(David leans in for a kiss. Abigail leans in and then pulls away)*  
**Abigail** May I not do today, that which I would regret, if I were made queen tomorrow.  
*(She exits)*
- Abiathar** *(Trying to get David out of a trance)* David...David? David! Your men will be waiting for you. Tonight there will be a great celebration in our camp. We must go.
- David** Yes.  
**Abiathar** *(Speaking of bloodshed)* You did the right thing.  
**David** *(Speaking of refusing his kiss)* So did she.

#### SCENE 15: SAUL'S CAMP, MIDNIGHT

*(Saul and Abner enter along with some other warriors. Abner is carrying Saul's water jug, Saul carries his spear. They, along with the warriors prepare for bed. They roll out mats, take off their sandals, etc.)*

- Abner** Do you really think the reports from the Ziphites are accurate?  
**Saul** They've surrendered David into our hands once before, I believe that they would do it again.  
**Abner** Even if they are telling the truth master, do you think that it is wise to take your best warriors away from their military positions to help you to find and kill David?  
**Saul** David must be stopped.  
**Abner** At the expense of what?  
**Saul** David will be stopped. Or I will die trying.  
**Abner** That's what I am trying to prevent, my lord.  
**Saul** O Abner, relax your brow. We're closing in on David. We have three thousand choice men of Israel on our side.  
**Abner** *(Under his breath)* But on David's side is the Lord.  
**Saul** *(Sleepily)* Let us dream, now, Abner. Let us dream.  
*(There is a moment of hush throughout their camp. Saul and his men sleep soundly. David, Asahel, and Joab enter, sneaking all the way)*
- David** *(Excitedly)* We're here.

**Joab** David, you must be insane.  
**David** What can I say, adventure loves me.  
**Asahel** So does trouble.  
**David** Now who is going in the camp with me?  
**Both** In the camp!?  
**Asahel** David!  
**Joab** You'll surely be killed.  
**David** Who is going in with me?  
**Joab** *(Quickly)* I'll stand guard.  
**Asahel** *(Playfully to his brother)* If I come out of this alive, you're dead.  
**Joab** Thanks brother.  
**Asahel** Anytime.  
**David** Come on Asahel, it looks like it's the two of us.

*(Joab exits leaving David and Asahel crouching and sneaking into Saul's camp. They wander around a little, surveying the camp's layout. Asahel and David laugh at some of the positions of Saul's men. Asahel spots Saul)*

**Asahel** *(Quietly)* David. Saul. Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Let me pin him to the ground with my sword. I won't need to do it twice.  
*(Asahel goes to lift his sword)*  
**David** Don't destroy him! The Lord forbid that we should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed.  
**Asahel** Then I'll get Abner. *(He raises his sword above the sleeping Abner)*  
**David** *(Playfully)* Tempting...but no.  
**Asahel** What happened to the adventure you always talk about?  
**David** I want adventure, not trouble! Now grab that jug of water and Saul's spear.  
*(Asahel does so, and David motions for them to get out of the camp. They exit)*  
**David** *(Yelling from offstage)* Abner!!!!  
*(All of Saul's men wake tiredly not quite sure what's going on)*  
**David** You are a man, aren't you?  
**Abner** Who is threatening me?  
**David** Why aren't you guarding the King?  
**Abner** *(Checking to see if Saul is alright)* My lord?  
**Saul** *(Groggy)* What is it Abner?  
**David** As surely as the Lord lives you and your men deserve to die for you have not protected Saul.  
**Abner** What are you talking about? The king is safe here in his bed.  
**David** Look around you.  
**Abner** Everything is in order.  
**David** Oh, really? Where is the King's spear and water jug?  
*(Abner looks around and, to his horror, he sees that the spear and water jug are indeed gone. David holds them high above his head)*  
**Saul** Is that your voice, David my son?  
**David** Yes it is, my lord my king.  
**Saul** *(To Abner)* Get him, Abner. *(To David)* What do you want of me David?  
**David** Why is my lord pursuing me? What have I done, and what am I guilty of? I could have taken your life today, but I spared you. I am not against you. O king, do not let my innocent blood fall to the ground. Do not do today what you will regret tomorrow.  
**Saul** *(Knowing the right words)* I have sinned. Come back. David my son. Because you spared my precious life today, I will not harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly. *(Softly to Abner)* Prepare to strike. We have him outnumbered.  
**David** *(Peacefully)* Here is your spear.  
**Saul** Bring it to me, David, my son.  
**David** Let an unarmed servant come over and get it with his back turned.  
**Saul** I will do as you say and send an unarmed servant with his back turned. *(Tense but quiet)*  
**Abner** Abner go get my spear. Take your sword.  
**Saul** *(Shocked)* But Saul, David said "unarmed."  
**Saul** *(Threatening)* Do not fail me like you did that day in Nob.

**David** Pull your troops back, O master and I will give your spear to an unarmed servant of yours.

**Saul** Of course David. It will be as you have said. *(To his men)* Pull back men. *(To Abner)* Now is our chance. *(King Saul and his men exit stage)*

**Asahel** Let me go David, instead of you.

**David** I got us into this trouble. I'll get us out.

**Asahel** David, what if it's a trap?

**David** Asahel, the King has given us his word.

**Asahel** *(Hastily)* You are the king. I won't let you.

*(Asahel grabs the spear and jug away from David. He runs onto the main playing space facing the direction he came. He has Saul's spear and jug in his hands)*

*(Abner enters running, not facing backwards as they had agreed)*

**Abner** *(Drawing sword to drop it)* I come in peace.

**David** *(Yelling to save Asahel)* Asahel, behind you!!!

*(Asahel quickly turns around right into Abner's sword. It plunges deep within him. Abner pulls it out and drops it surprised that he has killed a man, and that it was not David. Asahel hands Saul's spear and jug to Abner. He stares Abner in the eyes)*

**Asahel** *(To Abner with great effort)* I brought honor to the king. *(Asahel falls to the ground dead. Joab is screaming)*

**Joab** *(Shouting, running on stage)* You killed my brother. No one kills my brother.

*(Joab stops, completely stunned, as he sees his brother dead on the ground. He gags. Abner stares into his eyes. Joab makes eye contact with Abner who runs off stage with spear and jug in hand)*

**Joab** *(To Abner)* No one kills my brother. *(There is silence. David enters not knowing what to say. He stands behind Joab and places a hand on Joab's shoulder. Joab flinches David's hand off)* No one kills my brother.

**David** Joab, get the men together. If we can't find peace in Israel, we shall go to Philistia!

#### SCENE 16: THE THRONE ROOM OF KING ACHISH, GATH, DAY

*(King Achish and his guards/warriors enter the throne room of Gath)*

**Advisor 1** But he's a madman. Didn't you see the drool dripping down his cheeks?

**Achish** Drool can dry.

**Advisor 2** This boy, David, who used to lead the people of Israel has cracked.

**Achish** Cracked or not, we have a common enemy: King Saul. There has been, shall we say, conflict between the two of them.

**Advisor 1** What do you know about this conflict?

**Advisor 2** I've heard that Saul has rallied three thousand of Israel's finest men against David.

**Achish** It's time to join forces with David. Let's let Saul's greatest enemy, become our closest friend. *(Clapping his hands)* Bring him in.

**Achish** *(To Warriors)* Let's see what we can learn from this former leader of Israel, this boy David.

**Advisor 1** *(David is brought in)* Bow before King Achish.

**Advisor 2** Bow before the King of the Philistines. *(David bows)*

**Achish** *(Being smooth)* David, son of Jesse, what brings you back to enemy territory?

**David** I come in peace, O King. I come seeking a favor from you.

**Achish** You approach a great king and ask of him a favor?

**David** Yes, my lord.

**Achish** Bold. *(Beat)* I like that, David.

**David** My lord, if I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned for me and my men within your region. In return, we will fight for you and expand your borders.

**Achish** You wish to live in Philistine land? And fight Philistine battles?

**David** Yes, my lord. The King of Israel seeks my life. And only here on enemy ground will my men and I be safe.

**Achish** *(Singing)* "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands..."

**David** Please do not mock me.

**Achish** *(Getting riled)* Those were my men that you killed!

**David** I will fight for you now.

**Achish** You'll fight for me, the enemy? Why?  
**David** I'll train your men. I'll teach them war.  
**Achish** How can I know that you won't turn on me and my men?  
**David** You can't. *(Beat)* How do I know that you won't kill me here?  
**Achish** You don't. If, I agreed to this union, how do you know that you can trust me?  
**David** I can't even trust my king, King Saul.  
**Achish** Trust is to be earned...or broken.  
**David** Let me earn your trust in battle. My men and I will fight your battles.  
**Achish** Your men? Last time you came before my throne you had no men, you were alone.  
**David** I now come with a band of over six hundred loyal followers. We've never lost a battle. Allow us to live in the outskirts of your land and we will fight for you.  
**Achish** *(Delighted)* Your proposition fascinates me. Earn my trust, David, and then you will earn my land.  
**David** Do I have your word?  
**Achish** Yes, you have my word, but not my trust. *(David starts to exit)* Raid the Geshurites.  
*(David exits completely. He is joined by Abiathar, Joab, and a few men)*  
**David** We're off to battle. *(The men cheer)*

#### SCENE 17: DAVID IN PHILISTIA (MONTAGE)

#### SONG: "OUR ENEMIES" (Reprise)

**All** Our enemies are larger --

**Advisor 1** King Achish, David has just returned from the land of Geshurites.

**Achish** And?

**Advisor 1** There is not one of them standing!  
*(Musical interlude)*

**All** They're stronger and more fierce  
 Our swords are staying sharpened  
 Our swords no longer pierce -- --

**David** Men, let us continue to fight the battles of the Philistine people.

**Warrior** Where is our next mission, master?

**David** Achish has said to raid the Amalekites.  
*(Musical interlude)*

**All** Our greatest plows have been destroyed

**Advisor 2** Did you see the victory report for today?

**Advisor 1** No.

**Advisor 2** The Gezrites were completely wiped out!

**Advisor 1** David is actually killing his own people.

**Advisor 2** As long as he's killing our enemies what does it matter?  
*(Musical interlude)*

**All** And we can't catch our breath...

**David** Thank you for the land of Ziklag, King Achish.

**Achish** This land will be yours David. You have made me and my people proud.

**David** The Lord is to be praised.

**Achish** But I thought that Israel was still against you.

**David** Israel is, but not Israel's God. We will cherish our new land, the land of Ziklag!  
*(Musical interlude)*

**All** Our enemies are standing, grand, and fond of death