

Last Exit To Sinai

A Rock Opera in One Act

Composed by
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Setting

The Sinai desert and Mt. Sinai.

Time

Just after the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt.

Cast of Characters

Moses. You know, *Moses*. Moses lives in a different plane than other people.

Zipporah. Moses' wife.

Joshua. Moses' trusted lieutenant.

Dathan. A rabble-rouser, leader of the nay-sayers.

Dan. Tribal leader.

Levi. Tribal leader.

Mannie. Tribal leader (a woman!).

Naomi. Tribal leader (also a woman!).

Ruthabel. Dan's wife.

Marayam. Levi's wife.

Loosah. Dathan's sidekick and foil.

Lessah. Loosah's twin.

Aaron. Moses' more articulate brother.

The Hebrew Tribes. Those Who Follow

Musical Numbers

"Prologue". *Joshua, Elders, Chorus*
"Last Exit To Sinai". *Chorus*
"What Do They Know?". *Moses*
"Passover". *Joshua, Elders, Chorus*
"Big Deal". *Dathan, Chorus*
"We're Free". *Chorus, Dathan, Loosah, Lessah*
"Manna". *Joshua, Elders, Chorus*
"Right Path". *Moses, Aaron, Joshua*
"Sinai". *Joshua, Elders, Moses, Dathan, Loosah, Lessah*
"Smoke and Thunder". *Moses, Dathan, Chorus*
"Go Up There". *Moses, Zipporah*
"Who Cares". *Dathan, Loosah, Lessah, Joshua*
"Back In Egypt". *Dathan, Loosah, Lessah*
"Forty Days". *Elders, Joshua, Aaron, Zipporah*
"What Is Needed". *Aaron, Zipporah*
"How Do You?". *Zipporah*
"Not Coming Back/What Happened Up There?". *Aaron, Dathan, Lessah, Joshua, Zipporah, Chorus*
"Top Ten". *Moses, Mannie, Levi, Dan, Naomi, Joshua, Chorus*
"Go Up There (Reprise)". *Moses, Zipporah*
"Gone Again/Gold". *Loosah, Lessah, Chorus*
"Golden Cow". *Joshua, Aaron, Levi, Dan, Chorus*
"The Accusation". *Moses, Chorus*
"Who Cares (Reprise)". *Dathan, Loosah, Lessah*
"A Matter of Trust". *Moses, Joshua, Zipporah*
"Walk to Canaan". *Moses, Joshua, Chorus*

Scene Synopsis

Scene 1. On the eastern shore of the Red Sea

Scene 2. Mt. Sinai, 40 days later

Scene 3. Mt. Sinai, another 40 days later

SCENE 1

1. "Preprologue"

Open Sky. ISRAELITES enter, fixing backpacks, stuffing stuff in sacks, drinking from gourds, drying out clothes, feeding little children. Some smaller kids play a game. There is a mixture of ancient and modern in their attire and their activities (backpacks + desert robes, gourds + sneakers, etc.) JOSHUA, DAN, LEVI and MANNIE and NAOMI, MARYAM meet down center. They are drying their robes, brushing their hair, etc.

2. "Prologue"

MARYAM
DID EVERYBODY SEE THAT?

LEVI
THAT GAVE EVERYBODY CHILLS

MANNIE
COULD ANYONE BELIEVE THAT?

DAN
WHO'D'VE THOUGHT HE HAD THOSE SKILLS?

JOSHUA
YEAH, MOSES HAD A WAY WITH A STAFF
WE ALL KNEW HE COULD DO A CLEVER TRICK

RUTHABEL
WITH THE FROGS AND THE LOCUSTS

LEVI
AND THE RIVER FILLED WITH BLOOD

NAOMI
AND THE HAIL AND THE BOILS

MARYAM
AND THREE DAYS WITHOUT THE SUN

JOSHUA
BUT THIS WAS SOMETHING WE COULD NOT PREDICT

ALL
 WHEN THE WATERS IN THE SEA
 MOVE ASIDE SO WE CAN PASS
 THAT WAS ALL THE PROOF WE NEED
 THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO ASK
 WE'RE PROUD TO TESTIFY
 THAT THIS MAN IS ON OUR SIDE
 YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT THIS GUY
 JUST LOOK AT THOSE WHO'VE TRIED

3. "Last Exit To Sinai"

CHORUS
 A PILLAR OF FIRE KEPT THE PHARAOH BACK
 THE RED SEA PARTED AND LET US PASS
 THE PHARAOH'S CHARIOTS CAME TO ATTACK
 THEN THE SEA CAME DOWN WITH A MIGHTY CRASH
 NOW WE'RE STRANDED HERE IN THE GREAT OUTBACK
 WE TOOK THE LAST EXIT TO SINAI
 THE SIGN POST SAID, "THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL
 FIND THE VERY LAST ROAD TO THE SINAI"
 YOU KNOW THE SINAI DESERT IS NOT THAT COOL

THIS MAN MOSES, IS MORE THAN A MAN
 A MIRACLE MAKER, THERE IS NO DOUBT
 HE'LL SAVE OUR PEOPLE IF ANYONE CAN
 LOOK HOW HE LED THE HEBREWS OUT
 NOW WE GOTTA NEW LIFE AND A BRAND NEW PLAN
 WE TOOK THE LAST EXIT TO SINAI
 SIGN SAID, "THIS IS A DESERT, YOU FOOL"
 THE VERY LAST ROAD TO THE SINAI
 YOU THE SINAI DESERT IS NOT THAT COOL, NOT THAT COOL

ON THE ROAD FROM CANAAN THERE'S ANOTHER SIGN
 SAYS "EGYPT'S NOTHING BUT A LIFE OF PAIN"
 WE DIDN'T PAY THAT SIGN NO MIND
 SO FOR MANY YEARS WE WERE HELD IN CHAINS
 NOW WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
 WE DON'T HAVE A CLUE
 BUT WE COULD NOT STAY BACK THERE
 WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
 WE TOOK THE LAST EXIT TO SINAI
 WENT ACROSS THE SEA LIKE A SWIMMING POOL
 THE VERY LAST ROAD TO THE SINAI DESERT
 YOU KNOW THE SINAI DESERT IS NOT THAT COOL
 THE SINAI DESERT IS NOT TOO COOL

IT'S MOSES WHO BROUGHT US HERE
 HE'S THE MAN WHO DID THIS DEED
 MOSES MADE IT CLEAR
 THAT WE CAN'T HELP BUT SUCCEED
 WE'VE GOT MOSES! MOSES! MOSES!
 WORKING FOR THE CAUSE
 WE'LL MAKE IT ACROSS THE SINAI DESERT

WE CAN'T FAIL TO WIN BECAUSE
 WE'VE GOT MOSES! MOSES! MOSES!
 MOSES IS ALL WE NEED!
 WE'VE GOT MOSES! MOSES! MOSES!
 WITH MOSES WE ARE GUARANTEED!
 WITH MOSES WE ARE GUARANTEED!
 WITH MOSES WE ARE GUARANTEED!
 WITH MOSES WE ARE GUARANTEED!

All exit during as MOSES enters

4. "What Do They Know?"

MOSES

OH GOD, WHAT DO THEY KNOW?
 OH GOD, WHAT DO THEY KNOW OF YOU?
 THEY SAW THE RED SEA PARTING
 ENDURED THE SEVEN PLAGUES
 AND NOW WE ARE DEPARTING
 BUT WHERE? AND WHO WILL SAY?

OH GOD, WHAT DO I KNOW?
 OH GOD, WHAT DO I KNOW OF YOU?
 I'VE SEEN YOUR BUSH A-BURNING
 YOU'VE TOLD ME WHAT TO DO
 AND NOW I AM RETURNING
 TO YOU, BUT WHO ARE YOU?

THEY'RE JUST PEOPLE
 THEY ACT LIKE CHILDREN
 THEY LOVE A FAIRY TALE
 THEY'LL BE CONFUSED
 AND THEY'LL BE ANGRY
 IF SOMEHOW THIS QUEST SHOULD FAIL

I'M THEIR LEADER
 BUT I'M NOT CERTAIN
 OF WHERE OR WHEN OR HOW
 I'M NOT AMUSED
 THIS IS NOT FUNNY
 TELL ME WHAT DO I DO NOW?

**MOSES paces back forth until his
 doubts are resolved**

OH GOD, WE'LL NEVER KNOW
 BUT GOD, I KNOW WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH
 I'M SURE YOU WILL BE WITH US
 UNTIL THE VERY END
 AND IF YOU WILL STAY WITH US
 IT'S TIME TO BEGIN
 IT IS TIME TO BEGIN

Moses exits. THUNDER rolls.
 JOSHUA, DAN, LEVI, MANNIE, NAOMI,
 MARYAM, JOSHUA, DATHAN, LESSAH &
 LOOSAH enter. LOOSAH shades DATHAN
 with an umbrella. LESSAH brushes
 his robe, etc.

5. "Passover"

DAN

DO YOU RECALL BEFORE WE STARTED
 JUST BEFORE THEY LET US OUT
 THAT NIGHT WHEN THINGS GOT CRAZY
 NOW WHAT WAS ALL THAT ALL ABOUT?

JOSHUA

WHEN THE SKY GOT GREEN AND UGLY
 AND THE FIRST-BORN DIED IN DROVES
 UNLESS THEY'D PAINTED BLOOD
 ON THE DOORS OF THEIR ABODES

DAN, LEVI & JOSHUA

WHATEVER ALL THAT MEANT
 IT SHOOK UP THE STATUS QUO
 'CAUSE RAMESES, HE RELENTED
 AND HE LET THE PEOPLE GO

ALL

YES HE LET THE PEOPLE GO

DAN

IT WAS STRANGE, IT WAS CREEPY

MANNIE

I CAN'T FORGET HOW IT WENT DOWN

JOSHUA

THAT NIGHT WHEN THINGS GOT CRAZY

LEVI

WHEN THE DESTROYER CAME TO TOWN

MARYAM

I WAS TOO

JOSHUA, MANNIE, LEVI, DAN, NAOMI

WE WERE PANICKED, HOW 'BOUT YOU?

To DATHAN

DATHAN

(spoken)

I rather liked it.

JOSHUA

WHAT?!

DATHAN

IT WAS EDGY, FULL OF DANGER
 NOTHING COULD HAVE BEEN STRANGER
 YOU WEREN'T SURE IF YOU WOULD MAKE IT
 IF IT CHASED YOU, COULD YOU SHAKE IT?

LOOSAH & LESSAH

DATHAN REALLY LOVES THOSE KINDS OF THINGS

DATHAN

OOOH, THE FEELING WAS DELICIOUS
 ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SUPERSTITIOUS
 SHIVERS DOWN YOUR SPINE
 AN EXCITING STATE OF MIND

LOOSAH & LESSAH

DATHAN REALLY DIGS THE DARKER MEMES

JOSHUA

DATHAN, YOU'RE TOO WEIRD
 THE DESTROYER SHOULD BE FEARED
 AND WE NEVER CAN FORGET
 WHAT OUR PEOPLE GOT FROM IT

CHORUS

FREEDOM! FREEDOM! FREEDOM!
 FREEDOM! FREEDOM! FREEDOM!

JOSHUA & ELDERS

WHEN THE DESTROYER PASSED ABOVE
 IT WAS FRIGHTENING TO SEE
 GAVE PHARAOH THE FINAL SHOVE
 AND HE SET OUR PEOPLE FREE

JOSHUA

WE NEED A NATIONAL HOLIDAY
 FOR WHEN WE OVERCAME THAT THREAT

DAN

WE NEED TO NAME THAT AWESOME DAY

LEVI

WE NEED A NAME WE WON'T FORGET

WHAT ARE WE GONNA CALL IT?
 THE DAY WHEN IT PASSED OVER
 DESTROYER DAY?

JOSHUA

THAT WON'T FIT

CHORUS
THE DAY WHEN IT PASSED OVER

MANNIE
MAYBE D-DAY?

JOSHUA
THAT'S NOT IT

CHORUS
THE DAY WHEN IT PASSED OVER

NAOMI
PASS IT ON DAY?

JOSHUA
NOT SO HOT

CHORUS
THE DAY WHEN IT PASSED OVER

RUTHABEL
FREE PASSAGE DAY?

JOSHUA
I THINK NOT

LEVI & DAN
HERE IT IS, JOSHUA, EASY TO SAY
A NAME WE'LL REMEMBER 'TIL OUR DYING DAY:
OVERPASS DAY!

(spoken)

Well?

JOSHUA
LET'S SLEEP ON IT, OKAY?
I'M SURE WE'LL FIND A WAY
TO COMMEMORATE THAT AWESOME DAY
THAT GREAT PASSOVER DAY

CHORUS
THAT GREAT PASSOVER DAY

6. "Big Deal"

MARAYAM
YEARS FROM NOW, I BET THEY'LL STILL TELL
HOW MOSES RAISED HIS STAFF AND GAVE THEM ALL HELL

LEVI
HE MADE SMOKE AND FIRE

JOSHUA
THE MAN IS A WHIZ

NAOMI & DAN
 AND WE WALTZ OUTTA TOWN
 LIKE NOBODY'S BIZ

ELDERS
 HE PARTED THE SEA AND LET US WALK THROUGH
 IS THERE ANYTHING THE MAN CANNOT DO

DATHAN
 BIG DEAL

LOOSAH & LESSAH
 YEAH, BIG DEAL

LEVI
 WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BIG DEAL?

DATHAN
 YOU THINK HE DID ALL THAT WITH HIS STAFF?

LOOSAH & LESSAH
 THAT STAFF OF HIS IS JUST A LAUGH!

DATHAN
 THE GUY CAN'T PUT TWO WORDS TOGETHER
 I'M TELL YOU IT WAS JUST FREAKY WEATHER

DAN & LEVI
 OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE

LEVI
 WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

DATHAN
 EARTHQUAKE, MAYBE OR A TIDAL WAVE.
 WHO KNOWS? BUT'S IT'S NO BIG DEAL,
 SO EVERY ONE HAD A REAL CLOSE SHAVE
 IT WAS DUMB LUCK, NO BIG DEAL

LOOSAH & LESSAH
 THE DUMBEST.

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH
 NO BIG DEAL, JUST A BUNCH OF CRAP
 NO BIG DEAL. YOU FELL INTO HIS TRAP

DATHAN
 ME, I WAS READY TO HEAD ON BACK
 MAKE AMENDS WITH PHARAOH'S FOLKS
 WE DIDN'T MEAN TO RUSH OFF LIKE THAT
 THAT WAS MOSES MAKING A JOKE

JOSHUA
 HELD IN BONDAGE FOUR CENTURIES, SIR

MARAYAM
IS NOT RUSHING OFF, IF YOU PLEASE, SIR

DATHAN
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL, SO WE WORE A FETTER
LOOK AT US NOW. IS THIS ANY BETTER?

JOSHUA
ABSOLUTELY! BECAUSE WE'RE FREE!

DATHAN
COME WITH ME. BACK ACROSS THE SEA

JOSHUA
THIS IS WHERE WE NEED TO BE
WHERE PHARAOH CAN NEVER FIND US
ALL THE BAD STUFF IS BEHIND US

LEVI
You can say that again.

JOSHUA
With pleasure.

7. "We're Free"

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
RAMESES' ARMY IS BEHIND US NOW
THERE'S NOTHING UP AHEAD TO FEAR

MANNIE, LEVI, DAN, NAOMI
TO FEAR

NAOMI
ALL THE BAD TIMES THAT WE'VE HAD TO FACE

NAOMI & JOSHUA
WILL NOT BOTHER US OVER HERE.

ELDERS
OVER HERE
WHATEVER IS OVER HERE

SAW US COMING OUT OF EGYPT
THE PHARAOH LET US FLY
SAW US COMING THROUGH THE RED SEA
GOT THROUGH THAT HIGH AND DRY
SAW US COMING TO THE SINAI
LORD, WE'RE COMING THROUGH THE RYE
WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR AND NOW WE'RE FLYING HIGH

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH
YEAH, WE'RE FREE
BUT WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

CHORUS

EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN IN BONDAGE
 AT LEAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS
 IT DIDN'T DO MUCH DAMAGE
 WE'RE NOT DROWNING IN OUR TEARS
 WE'RE NOT LOADED DOWN WITH BAGGAGE
 WE'RE NOT FROZEN BY OUR FEARS
 WE'RE FLYING HIGH, AND NOW WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH

YEAH, WE'RE FREE ALL RIGHT
 BUT WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

CHORUS

WHO CARES WHERE WE'RE GOING?
 WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE ARRIVE.
 WHO CARES HOW WE GET THERE?
 IT'S SO GOOD TO BE ALIVE!
 WE BELONG TO OURSELVES
 AND OUR HOPE HAS BEEN REVIVED
 WE'RE FREE, YES, NOW WE'RE FREE!

SAW US COMING OUT OF EGYPT
 THE PHARAOH LET US FLEE
 AND THEN HE TRIED TO CATCH US
 NOW HE'S SWIMMING IN THE SEA
 AND HERE WE ARE, WHEREVER
 THIS MAY BE IS WHERE WE'LL BE
 WE'RE FLYING HIGH AND NOW WE'RE FINALLY FREE

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH

YEAH, WE'RE FREE ALL RIGHT
 BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

CHORUS

WHO CARES WHAT WE'RE DOING?
 SOMETHING NEW WILL COME ALONG.
 WHO NEEDS AN AGENDA?
 WE'LL JUST SING OUR SONG
 A WHOLE WORLD IS WAITING
 BUT IT WON'T BE WAITING LONG
 WE'RE FREE, YES, NOW WE'RE FREE!

SAW US COMING OUT OF EGYPT
 WE SWAM ACROSS THE NILE
 SAW US COMING THROUGH THE RED SEA
 MADE IT THROUGH THE TIME OF TRIAL
 SAW US COMING TO THE SINAI
 AND WE MIGHT BE HERE A WHILE
 BUT WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR
 WE'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO SMILE
 WE ARE FREE, YES, NOW WE ARE FREE!

MOSES and ZIPPORAH enter

JOSHUA

Come on, people! Next stop, Canaan.

8. "We're Free" underscoring

The PEOPLE, all smiles and enthusiasm, follow MOSES. Music continues as people cross the stage. A DANCE sequence is part of the movement. The PEOPLE go behind the drop, re-emerge and then recross the stage several times. They are less enthusiastic and more footsore as they make each successive lap. This involves rubbing feet, limping, frowning. Music stops. People stop & rest.

9. "Manna"

LEVI

JOSHUA, ARE YOU HUNGRY?

JOSHUA

I'M STARVING. DAN?

DAN

ME TOO

MARYAM

WHAT WOULD THE GENTLEMEN LIKE FOR DINNER?
BAKED ROCKS OR SCORPION STEW?

DAN

I'LL BE HONEST, MARYAM
NONE OF THAT SOUNDS FINGER-LICKIN'

NAOMI

I'VE HEARD SCORPION'S NOT SO BAD

LEVI

SCORPION TASTES LIKE CHICKEN

MARYAM

WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT THE FOOD?
THERE'S SO MANY MOUTHS TO FEED

JOSHUA goes to MOSES.

JOSHUA

MARYAM'S POINT IS UNDERSTOOD
SOLID FOOD IS WHAT WE NEED

DATHAN

LETS GO BACK TO EGYPT
RAMESES WON'T LET US DIE
WE WORK FOR HIM, HE GIVES US FOOD
HE'S NOT THAT BAD A GUY

CHORUS

THERE'S A THOUGHT, LET'S GO BACK
SLAVERY'S NOT THAT BAD A DEAL
WE BUILD A PYRAMID OR TWO
THEN SIT DOWN FOR A MEAL
WE NEED SOME FOOD TO EAT
PROTEIN AND CARBOHYDRATE
AND WATER, TOO, WOULD BE REAL SWEET
WE'RE ALL ABOUT TO DEHYDRATE

MOSES

(spoken)

Very well.

MOSES raises his staff.

CHORUS

IT'S THE STAFF! IT'S THE STAFF!
IT'S THE STAFF! TAKE COVER!

MOSES

PLEASE STAY CALM

CHORUS

BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU POINT THAT THING
HE'S A WALKING, TALKING BOMB!

**PEOPLE shield their eyes. MOSES
twirls the staff. Nothing happens.
People peek. LEVI rubs his eyes
and looks around**

LEVI

SO, WHERE'S THE FOOD?

MOSES

IT'S ON THE GROUND

DAN

ON THE GROUND?

MOSES

JUST TAKE A LOOK, SCROUNGE AROUND

**MOSES scrapes the ground with his
staff, and raises it to JOSHUA's
face.**

Not too sure of himself, JOSHUA
uses his finger to scrape
something from the staff.

MOSES (CONT'D)
GO AHEAD, IT'S REALLY GOOD

JOSHUA touches it to his lips.

JOSHUA
IT'S NOT JUST GOOD, IT'S REALLY GREAT!

JOSHUA offers MARYAM some

MARYAM
YES IT IS, A TASTY TREAT
EVERYBODY, GRAB A PLATE

All the PEOPLE scrabble on the
ground, licking up the food.

MOSES
EVERY DAY FROM HERE ON OUT
THIS FOOD CAN BE FOUND
EVERY MORNING FROM NOW ON
GET YOUR BREAKFAST OFF THE GROUND

DAN
EVERY MORNING? THAT'S FANTASTIC!

RUTHABEL, NAOMI, MARYAM & MANNIE
WE ARE SO ENTHUSIASTIC!
NO NEED TO COOK OR CLEAN OR SCRUB
JUST GATHER UP SOME MAGIC GRUB

LEVI
WHAT IS THIS STUFF CALLED?

MANNIE
IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

MOSES
IT'S CALLED MANNA, IT'S A GIFT
A GIFT FOR ALL OF YOU

CHORUS
ALL OF US!
MOSES GAVE US MANNA

MOSES
IT'S FROM HEAVEN, NOT FROM ME

CHORUS
MOSES GAVE US MANNA

MOSES

IT'S A GIFT FROM GOD, DON'T YOU SEE?

CHORUS

MANNA, MANNA, MANNA, FOOD FIT FOR A KING
 MANNA, MANNA, MANNA, AND WE DON'T PAY A THING
 MANNA, OH MAN, IT'S GOOD
 MANNA IS THE PERFECT FOOD
 THAT IS WHY WE SING
 MOSES GAVE US MANNA
 BETTER THAN BANANA
 MANNA, MANNA, MANNA
 SING A LOUD HOSANNAH
 WE ALL LOVE YOU, MOSES
 YOU'VE GIVEN US OUR MANNA!

MOSES

(to ZIPPORAH)

IS THERE NO WAY TO MAKE THEM SEE
 MANNA DID NOT COME FROM ME?

ZIPPORAH

THERE'S NO WAY THAT THEY COULD KNOW
 THEY JUST SEE YOU, AND EVEN THOUGH
 YOU TRY TO TEACH THEM, YOU CAN'T SHOW
 WHAT ONLY YOU CAN TRULY KNOW

MOSES

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
 ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

10. "We're Free" underscoring

PEOPLE begin marching again. After a while, the music ceases, people stop, many collapse onto packs, leaning on each other, wiping brows with bandanas, etc. MOSES, JOSHUA and AARON meet downstage

11. "Right Path"

AARON

YOU SURE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH?

MOSES

I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING
 AARON, I'VE BROUGHT THEM WHERE
 THE LORD SAID I SHOULD BRING

AARON

BRING THEM HERE? IS THAT WHAT YOU CLAIM?

MOSES
HE PUT A MAP IN MY MIND, THAT'S THE SAME

JOSHUA
THERE'S NO MILK AND HONEY HERE

AARON
PEOPLE THINK THIS IS DEAL IS WEIRD

MOSES
THE LORD MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

JOSHUA
THE PEOPLE DON'T LIKE A MYSTERY

MOSES
IT'S TIME WE RETURN TO OUR ANCIENT WAYS

JOSHUA
THE PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR HISTORY

AARON
SOME SAY WE SHOULD GO BACK TO EGYPT
CAN YOUR STAFF DO THAT TRICK AGAIN?
CAN YOU SPLIT THE RED SEA ONE MORE TIME?
GET US BACK TO EGYPT LAND?

JOSHUA
DATHAN IS THE ONE WHO IS STIRRING UP THE TROUBLE
WE NEED TO SHUT HIM UP, AND DO IT ON THE DOUBLE
HE'S A SLIMY LITTLE MAN

MOSES
FORGET HIM, WE NEED A PLAN

**MOSES, AARON and JOSHUA huddle
resume talking. MANNIE, LEVI,
NAOMI, MARYAM, RUTHABEL, DAN meet.
DAN shades eyes, peers out**

12. "Sinai"

LEVI
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE CANAAN, DAN?

DAN
WELL, LEVI, DOES IT LOOK LIKE IT TO YOU?

MARYAM
IT MUST BE NEAR
I THINK WE'RE OVERDUE

NAOMI
IS CANAAN ALWAYS SO HOT?

LEVI
IS DESERT ALL WE HAVE GOT?

RUTHABEL
IT ALL LOOKS THE SAME, THAT IS TRUE

DAN points out over audience.

DAN
WELL, THAT MOUNTAIN OVER YONDER IS NEW

PEOPLE crowd around, looking

LEVI
NEVER SEEN SO MUCH SMOKE

MANNIE
NEVER SEEN SO MUCH FIRE

DAN
IT'S BURNING ON TOP
LIKE A FUNERAL PYRE

a RUMBLING SOUND, the PEOPLE shake

NAOMI
DID YOU FEEL THAT? THE EARTH SHOOK BELOW

RUTHABEL
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? I'M TERRIFIED

MOSES crosses to them

MOSES
DON'T WORRY, CHILDREN
THIS PLACE IS CALLED MOUNT SINAI

loud THUNDER, everyone jumps

JOSHUA
IS GOD UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN TOP?

Another THUNDERCLAP

MOSES
IN A WAY HE KIND OF LIVES UP THERE
ABOVE THE CLOUDS, UP ABOVE THE WORLD

MARYAM
(an odd look on her face)
I HEAR A VOICE UP IN THE AIR

LEVI
GET REAL

MARYAM
NO, REALLY: "I AM"

LEVI
GET REAL, NO REALLY, YOU'RE NOT

MARYAM
I HEAR A VOICE THAT SAYS "I AM"

DAN
AM WHAT?

MOSES
(hearing it too)
"I AM GOD", IT SAYS "I AM"

DATHAN
GIVE ME A BREAK, THERE HE GOES AGAIN
WILL SOMEONE PLEASE DELIVER US?
NOW HE THINKS HE'S GOD, THAT HE'S MORE THAN MAN
DELIVER US FROM OUR DELIVERER

HE'S MAD!

LOOSAH
HE'S BONKERS

LESSAH
HE'S INSANE

DAN
I HEAR IT NOW

NAOMI
YEAH, ME, TOO

LOOSAH & LESSAH
HEY! WE HEAR THE SAME

MARYAM
(spoken)
There *is* a voice.

12. "Smoke and Thunder"

CHORUS
SMOKE AND THUNDER
FIRE AND CLOUD
UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN
IT'S REALLY LOUD
UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN
RIGHT NEAR THE TOP
THE SMOKE AND THE THUNDER
THEY NEVER STOP

WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
 WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
 WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE HEAR, "I AM"

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING
 FIRE AND SMOKE
 VOICES OF THUNDER
 THE VOICES SPOKE
 THE VOICE ON THE MOUNTAIN
 IS MUCH TOO NEAR
 WHAT IS IT SAYING
 TO US DOWN HERE?

WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
 WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
 WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE HEAR, "I AM"
 "HERE I AM"
 "HERE I AM"

DATHAN

THIS THEOPHANY IS A MYSTERY
 IT'S CACOPHONY, NOT A SYMPHONY
 SURELY GOD COULD MAKE IT PLAIN TO SEE
 WHAT HE MEANS FOR US TO DO
 BUT WHAT WE HEAR IS ALL UNCLEAR
 WHY ARE WE HERE? AND NOW WE FEAR
 THAT'S NO GOD UP THERE
 NO GOD UP THERE
 NO GOD FOR ME OR YOU

CHORUS

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING
 FIRE AND SMOKE
 VOICES OF THUNDER
 THE VOICES SPOKE
 A VOICE ON THE MOUNTAIN
 A VOICE TO FEAR
 BUT WHAT IS IT SAYING
 TO US DOWN HERE?

WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
 WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
 WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE HEAR, "I AM"
 "HERE I AM"
 "HERE I AM"

MOSES

NOW I HEAR THE VOICE THAT I'VE HEARD BEFORE
 BUT IT'S CLEARER NOW, AND WHAT IS MORE
 IT IS CALLING ME, I CAN'T IGNORE
 IT'S A VOICE I MUST OBEY
 THIS IS THE PLACE I'VE LED YOU TO
 HERE WE'LL LEARN WHAT WE ALL MUST DO
 THAT'S OUR GOD UP THERE,

AND THIS IS WHERE
WE MEET OUR JUDGMENT DAY

CHORUS

SMOKE AND THUNDER
FIRE AND CLOUD
UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN
IT'S REALLY LOUD
UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN
RIGHT NEAR THE TOP
THE SMOKE AND THUNDER
THEY NEVER STOP

WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE HEAR, "I AM"
"HERE I AM"
"HERE I AM"

**The PEOPLE exit, leaving MOSES &
ZIPPORAH.**

13. "Go Up There"

MOSES

ZIPPORAH, I'VE GOT TO GO UP THERE

ZIPPORAH

I KNOW THAT, MOSES, BUT I'M SCARED

MOSES

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FRIGHTENED OF
I'M GOING UP TO TALK WITH GOD
I'VE TRIED TO BE PREPARED
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WILL BE SPARED
BUT HE'S CALLING THEM, HE IS CALLING ME,
HE'S CALLING US BECAUSE WE DARED
TO BE FREE

ZIPPORAH

I'M AFRAID FOR YOU, BUT MORE AFRAID FOR THEM
THEY NEED YOU, THEY'RE LIKE CHILDREN
I'M AFRAID OF ALL THAT THEY MIGHT DO
WITHOUT YOU HERE TO GUIDE THEM

MOSES

THEY'VE GOT AARON AND THEY'VE GOT YOU
THEY HAVE THE ELDERS WHO WILL LEAD
THEY HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD ON SINAI

ZIPPORAH

WITHOUT YOU, THEY WILL NEVER SEE
HOW TO BE FREE

MOSES
ZIPPORAH, I'VE GOT TO GO UP THERE

ZIPPORAH
I KNOW, BUT I'M STILL SCARED

MOSES
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FRIGHTENED OF
I'M GOING UP TO TALK WITH GOD
I'LL ONLY BE GONE A LITTLE WHILE
I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE, YOU KNOW
AND NOW I MUST GO THE EXTRA MILE
I MUST GO
THERE ARE THINGS THAT I MUST LEARN

MOSES starts off.

ZIPPORAH
MOSES?

MOSES
YES, MY LOVE?

ZIPPORAH
I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU RETURN

MOSES
I KNOW THAT, MY LOVE
I COULDN'T LEAVE UNLESS I KNEW
I COULD COME BACK HOME TO YOU

**MOSES exits. JOSHUA, AARON, NAOMI,
MANNIE, LEVI and DAN enter**

NAOMI
WHY HAS MOSES GONE AWAY?

ZIPPORAH
THE MOUNTAIN CALLED, HE COULDN'T STAY

LEVI
BUT WHY, IN THE NAME OF GOD, WHY?

ZIPPORAH
THAT'S THE REASON WHY
THE VERY REASON WHY

**ZIPPORAH and NATHAN exit as
DATHAN, LOOSAH and LESSAH enter.**

JOSHUA
What did she mean by that?

14. "Who Cares?"

DATHAN

WHO CARES?
 IF THAT SILLY FOOL HAS GONE UP THERE
 WHO CARES?
 WE WON'T SEE HIM AGAIN DOWN HERE
 HE'LL BE TOAST BEFORE YOU KNOW IT
 HE'LL NEVER COME BACK DOWN
 WHO CARES?
 IF YOU'RE WAITING ON MOSES YOU'RE
 THE ONLY ONES WHO CARE

JASON

DATHAN, EVERY TIME YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH
 YOU MAKE ME WONDER WHY YOU HAVE ONE

DATHAN

WHY, TO TELL THE TRUTH, COURSE

LOOSAH shakes her fist at AARON

LOOSAH & LESSAH

YEAH, TO TELL THE TRUTH OF COURSE!

DATHAN

THAT'S ALL THIS HUMBLE MAN HAS EVER DONE

Preaching to the TRIBES

MOSES HAS DESERTED US
 HE'S CLIMBING THAT VOLCANO
 WE WON'T EVER SEE HIS FACE AGAIN
 WAS IT REALLY WORTH THE FUSS
 TO "LET MY PEOPLE GO"
 LET'S GO BACK TO HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN
 BACK IN EGYPT, THINGS WERE NICE BACK THEN

MARYAM

WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO EGYPT
 I GUESS YOU'RE OUTTA LUCK

JOSHUA

SO KEEP YOUR YAPPER ZIPPED
 DON'T BE SUCH A SCHMUCK

DATHAN

WHO CARES?
 I'M JUST OFFERING MY OPINION
 MERELY WANT TO LEND A HELPING HAND

LOOSAH & LESSAH

WHO CARES?
 IT'S JUST ONE MAN'S OPINION

DATHAN

WE'D BE BETTER OFF IN EGYPT LAND
SO YOU DON'T LIKE MY SOLUTION?
THEN KEEP ON EATING BREAKFAST ON THE GROUND

DATHAN, LOOSAH & LESSAH

YOU'RE ALL LIVING IN DELUSION
WHO CARES IF YOU KEEP GOING ROUND AND ROUND
ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND
ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND
TILL EVERYONE IS SIX FEET UNDERGROUND

JOSHUA

WHO CARES?
NO ONE WANTS YOUR OPINION
SO KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

JOSHUA and others exit

15. "Back In Egypt"

DATHAN

IF WE EVER GET TO CANAAN
JOSHUA WILL BE THE MAN IN CHARGE
BUT WE AREN'T IN CANAAN YET
IF WE'D JUST GO BACK TO EGYPT
THEN I WOULD BE IN CHARGE
RAMSES IS NOT LIKELY TO FORGET
THAT DATHAN WAS THE PHARAOH'S PET

BACK IN EGYPT I WAS THE BOSS

LOOSAH & LESSAH

THE BOSS

DATHAN

OVER EVERY HEBREW SLAVE
BACK IN EGYPT I CALLED THE SHOTS

LOOSAH & LESSAH

THE SHOTS

DATHAN

THEY OBEYED EVERY ORDER I GAVE
I GOT TREATED WITH RESPECT

LOOSAH & LESSAH

RESPECT

DATHAN

I WAS CARRIED ON A LITTER
PHARAOH KNEW MY NAME
HE'D SAY

DATHAN

WHEN I MEET HIM FACE TO FACE
MOSES WILL BE DEAD OR WRAPPED IN CHAINS
HIS NAME WILL MEAN NOTHING
HE'LL BE DISGRACED FOR ETERNITY
THEY'LL JUST REMEMBER ME
THE MAN WHO BROUGHT THEM BACK TO EGYPT
THE MAN WHO SAVED THE PEOPLE FROM THIS GODAWFUL PLACE

SO, NO ONE WANTS MY OPINION?
WHO CARES?
SO I'LL KEEP IT TO MYSELF
BUT FOR THE TWO OF YOU HE DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE
YOU CAN SHARE MY OPINIONS WITH EVERYBODY HERE
THESE FOOLS WILL FOLLOW A MAN WITH A PLAN
THEY'LL SOON FORSAKE THAT AMATEUR

DATHAN, LESSAH & LOOSAH
WE'LL BE BACK IN EGYPT BEFORE YOU CAN SAY
"DATHAN THE DELIVERER"

SCENE 2

15a. Underscore - "Smoke & Thunder"

DATHAN, LOOSAH & LESSAH exit. The PEOPLE pass back and forth, excited among themselves, but becoming less enthusiastic as time passes. Music reflects this shift.

Eventually, ZIPPORAH, JOSHUA, AARON, LEVI, MARYAM, NAOMI & DAN meet downstage

16. "Forty Days"

LEVI

HE'S BEEN ON THAT MOUNTAIN FOR FORTY DAYS
FORTY DAYS, FORTY DAYS
IN THE SMOKE AND THUNDER FOR FORTY DAYS
WHEN WILL THAT MAN COME DOWN?

DAN & NAOMI

HOW COULD HE LAST FOR FORTY DAYS?
BY HIMSELF FORTY DAYS

LEVI & MARYAM

IS HE STILL ALIVE? IS HE GONNA STAY
TILL THE END OF DAYS COMES ROUND

DAN, NAOMI, LEVI & MARYAM

TILL THE END OF DAYS COMES ROUND

JOSHUA

THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR FORTY DAYS
SOME ARE SAYING THAT'S TOO LONG

AARON

SOME ARE SAYING THAT WE SHOULDN'T STAY
THAT SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG

ZIPPORAH

IF HE HAD TO STAY FOR FORTY YEARS
STAY UP THERE FOR FORTY YEARS
WE'D HAVE TO SIT AND WAIT RIGHT HERE
TIL HE LEARNS WHAT HE HAS TO LEARN

AARON

ZIPPORAH, WE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEARS
IF YOU LOSE YOUR MAN, YOU'LL SHED SOME TEARS
BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SOME PLANS DOWN HERE
IN CASE HE CAN'T RETURN

ZIPPORAH

OF COURSE HE'S COMING BACK YOU'LL SEE
 BACK TO US, BACK TO ME
 JUST HAVE A LITTLE FAITH AND EVENTUALLY
 HE'LL COME BACK TO US
 HE'LL COME BACK TO ME

JOSHUA

WE MUST DO SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY
 WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANOTHER DAY
 BEFORE THE PEOPLE RISE AND SAY
 THEY'LL FOLLOW DATHAN'S WAY

ALL

FORTY DAYS IS FAR TOO LONG
 FOR THEM TO HAVE TO BE THAT STRONG
 EVERYTHING IS GOING WRONG
 WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A PLAN
 HE'S BEEN GONE FOR FORTY DAYS
 FORTY DAYS, FORTY DAYS
 WE MUST DECIDE IF WE WILL STAY
 OR GO BACK THE OTHER WAY
 IS IT TIME FOR US TO SAY
 WE'LL FORGET ABOUT CANAAN LAND
 JUST FORGET ABOUT CANAAN LAND

17. "What Is Needed"

AARON

GATHER ALL THE PEOPLE
 CALL THEM ALL TOGETHER
 WE MUST DO WHAT IS NEEDED
 AND DO IT NOW

**JOSHUA nods and he and DAN,
 MANNIE, NAOMI and LEVI exit.**

ZIPPORAH

WE CAN'T ABANDON MOSES!
 WE CAN'T GO OFF AND LEAVE HIM

AARON

WE MUST DO WHAT IS NEEDED
 THAT'S ALL I WILL ALLOW

ZIPPORAH

YOU THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER
 OF WALKING UP THE MOUNTAIN
 PULLING UP A CHAIR AND
 HAVE A CHAT WITH GOD?
 HE'S DOING WHAT IS NEEDED
 IT TAKES PREPARATION
 TO PURIFY THE SOUL
 TO FACE THE FIRE AND ROD

AARON
 THAT SHOULDN'T TAKE THIS LONG

ZIPPORAH
 AARON, YOU DON'T KNOW GOD
 YOU'RE TOO NAIVE

AARON
 WHO KNOWS GOD, NO ONE'S THAT STRONG
 THAT'S WHY WE BELIEVE

ZIPPORAH
 Aaron! Please don't do this! Please!

AARON
 YOU HAVE CRIED AND YOU HAVE PLEADED
 NOW WE MUST DO WHAT IS NEEDED

AARON exits

18. "How Do You?"

ZIPPORAH
 WHAT IS NEEDED?
 I NEED TO KNOW HE'LL COME BACK
 I NEED TO SEE HIS FACE AGAIN
 I NEED TO KNOW HE LOVES ME
 HE'S NOT AN EASY MAN TO LOVE
 BECAUSE HE LOVES HIS GOD ABOVE

HOW DO YOU LOVE A MAN WHO
 LOVES A GOD?
 WHAT TO SAY? HOW CAN YOU PRAY
 HE LOVES YOU TOO?
 HIS PRAYERS ARE TO HIS GOD

HOW CAN HE GIVE HIS HEART TO ME?
 HE LOVES A GOD
 I AM OUT OF PLACE, THIS IS NOT A RACE
 THERE'S NO WAY
 I CAN REPLACE HIS GOD

CAN I EVER BE A PART OF HIS DREAMS?
 CAN I EVER UNDERSTAND WHAT SEEMS
 TO TAKE UP EVERY MOMENT
 HIS EVERY WAKING MOMENT?

EVEN THOUGH TIME WILL SHOW
 THAT I HAVE HIS LOVE
 THE LOVE HE BEARS I MUST ALWAYS SHARE
 WITH HIS GOD ABOVE
 OUR GOD

CAN I EVER COMPREHEND WHAT HE SEES?

DO THOSE VISIONS NEED TO COME TO ME?
 WE'RE TOGETHER EVERY MOMENT
 TOGETHER EVERY MOMENT

I KNOW HE MUST LOVE ME
 AND HIS GOD ABOVE
 AND OUR GOD ABOVE
 OUR GOD

**JOSHUA, AARON and PEOPLE enter,
 assemble around AARON & ZIPPORAH.**

19. "Not Coming Back"

JOSHUA
 THE PEOPLE ARE ASSEMBLED

AARON
 YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE
 WE ALL KNOW MOSES HAS BEEN GONE FOR DAYS
 UP ON THAT MOUNTAIN, IN THE SMOKE AND HAZE

DATHAN
 HE'S NOT COMING BACK!

JOSHUA
 DATHAN, HOLD YOUR TONGUE!

LOOSAH
 JUST LET HIM SPEAK!

LESSAH
 HE'S GOT A RIGHT

DATHAN
 THANK YOU LESSAH. THANK YOU, LOOSAH.

**LOOSAH tries to hold her tongue
 while talking.**

LESSAH
 HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO HOLD YOUR TONGUE?

LOOSAH & LESSAH
 IT'S GROSS

DATHAN glares at them.

DATHAN
 Do you mind?!

DATHAN (CONT'D)

MOSES IS DEAD,
OR ELSE HE'S JUMPED THE SHIP
THIS WHOLE THING'S A FARCE
HE'S GONE BACK TO EGYPT
WHERE WE NEED TO GO
MAKE AMENDS WITH PHARAOH
WE'D BE SAFER EVEN THOUGH
WE'D HAVE TO EAT CROW

Many in the CROWD shout agreement

WE'LL ASK FORGIVENESS
FOR FOLLOWING THAT CLOWN
UNLESS YOU'D RATHER STAY
ON THIS SO-CALLED HOLY GROUND

AARON

YOU'VE SPOKEN TOO SOON
YOU ARE THE CLOWN
THERE COMES MY BROTHER
HE'S FINALLY COME DOWN!

A great gasp goes up from the crowd, which parts to allow MOSES to enter. His hair is completely white. ZIPPORAH runs to him, but falls back from his face.

20. "What Happened?"

ZIPPORAH

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE--

JOSHUA

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE--

AARON

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE

ZIPPORAH, JOSHUA, AARON

TO YOU MOSES?

ZIPPORAH

SOMETHING HAS CHANGED

AARON

YOU'RE NOT THE SAME
IN YOUR FACE

ZIPPORAH

AND YOUR EYES

JOSHUA

AND YOUR HAIR

ZIPPORAH

SOMETHING IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT
AND I FEEL LIKE ITS DEEP DOWN INSIDE
YOU'RE NOT THE MAN WHO LEFT US BEFORE

ZIPPORAH, JOSHUA, AARON

MOSES, WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

CHORUS

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

MOSES

I HAVE LOOKED UPON THE FACE OF GOD
WHERE NO MAN SHOULD TURN HIS GAZE
I HAVE HEARD HIS VOICE INSIDE MY SOUL
I HAVE STOOD IN HIS DWELLING PLACE
AND HE GAVE TO ME TO GIVE TO YOU
HIS COMMANDMENTS TO BE OUR GUIDE
THAT WE MIGHT WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND BE FOREVER SANCTIFIED

The PEOPLE bow their heads

JOSHUA

OKAY, WHAT ARE THE COMMANDMENTS?

AARON

WHAT SHOULD WE DISALLOW?

MOSES

WELL, THERE ARE TEN
THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR NOW

JOSHUA

COME ON EVERYBODY, GATHER ROUND!
MOSES GONNA TELL US
WHAT IS GOING DOWN

21. "Top Ten"

MOSES

HEAR ME, HERE'S A LIST OF TEN
LAWS FOR YOU, SO LISTEN, FRIEND
HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO
A WAY OF LIFE, LAID DOWN FOR YOU
SOME THINGS ARE FINE, SOME THINGS ARE SIN
WE'LL START IT OUT WITH NUMBER TEN

CHORUS

TEN!

MOSES

I'LL START IT OUT WITH NUMBER TEN
 LET'S SAY YOU'VE GOT A REAL GOOD FRIEND
 WHO'S GOT SOME THINGS YOU WISH YOU HAD
 IT'S JUST ABOUT TO DRIVE YOU MAD
 IF ALL HIS STUFF LOOKS WAY TOO NICE
 HERE'S OUR MIGHTY GOD'S ADVICE
 DON'T COVET WHAT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOT
 GOD ABOVE SAYS YOU SHOULD NOT

CHORUS

NINE!

MOSES

LAW NUMBER NINE IS HARD TO DO
 IF YOU'RE NOT USED TO TALKING TRUE
 DON'T EVER LIE, NOT ONE BIT
 GOD SAYS DON'T, SO GET OVER IT

CHORUS

EIGHT!

**MAN sneaks off with a pack. LEVI
 apprehends him.**

LEVI

WHAT'S ON THE PLATE FOR NUMBER EIGHT?
 IT'S WRONG TO STEAL GOD WANTS TO STATE
 YOU MIGHT THINK YOU NEED IT BAD
 AND NOT TO HAVE IT MAKES YOU SAD
 BUT IT'S NOT THERE JUST FOR THE TAKIN'
 IF YOU DO, YOU'LL BE FORSAKEN
 MAKE THIS PART OF YOUR BELIEF:
 GOD GETS MAD WHEN YOU'RE A THIEF

CHORUS

SEVEN!

JOSHUA

THE SEVENTH LAW IS FOR YOU ALL
 THE RICH AND POOR AND GREAT AND SMALL

JOSHUA warns a MAN, then a WOMAN.

NOW BOYS, THE GIRL IS REALLY HOT
 YOU WANT HER BAD, BUT YOU BETTER NOT

NAOMI

AND GIRLS, HE EVEN THOUGH HE'S A HANDSOME MAN
 YOU NEED TO WAIT FOR A WEDDING BAND

**NAOMI & JOSHUA join the MAN and
 WOMAN's hands.**

NAOMI & JOSHUA
 IF YOU'RE NOT MARRIED, AIN'T NO DOUBT
 ADULTERY? FORGET IT!

CHORUS
 SIX!

DAN
 NUMBER SIX IS NO SURPRISE
 "YOU SHALL NOT KILL" IS EASY, GUYS.

**DAN breaks up a fight between two
 MEN, one of whom raises a knife.**
 DON'T POKE THAT SPEAR OR STAB THAT KNIFE
 GOD SAYS NOT TO TAKE A LIFE

CHORUS
 FIVE!

LEVI & NAOMI
(pointing up)
 YOUR MOM AND DAD WILL BE THANKING HIM

**JOSHUA shows an American Gothic
 MAN & WOMAN surrounded by children**
 THEY DESERVE WHAT YOU GIVE TO THEM
 SO HONOR THEM WITH HONOR TRUE
 THAT'S A GOOD THING GOD SAYS TO DO

CHORUS
 FOUR!

The PEOPLE assume prayerful hands

MANNIE & DAN
 NUMBER FOUR, HERE'S WHAT IT'S FOR:
 ONCE A WEEK IT'S SABBATH DAY
 AND WHEN IT COMES, CLOSE UP THE STORE
 REST AT HOME, HIT THE HAY
 KEEP IT HOLY LIKE HE WANTS YOU TO
 ANOTHER THING GOD SAYS TO DO

CHORUS
 THREE! HE'S COME TO NUMBER THREE

AARON
 BIG NUMBER THREE YOU'RE ABOUT TO HEAR
 WHICH HAS TO DO WITH WHEN YOU SWEAR
 DON'T USE GOD'S NAME, IT MAKES NO SENSE
 'CAUSE IF YOU DO, HE'LL TAKE OFFENSE

CHORUS
 TWO! HE'S DOWN TO NUMBER TWO

JOSHUA
ADVICE FOR YOU AT NUMBER TWO:

JOSHUA picks up an Egyptian idol
THERE'S ONE THING YOU SHOULD NEVER DO
DON'T CARVE A STONE, OR PAINT A FACE
TO TRY AND TAKE YAHWEH'S PLACE
GOD WON'T FIT INSIDE A BOX
HE'S BIGGER THAN A PILE OF ROCKS
MINIMIZE YOUR SPIRIT'S DAMAGE

**He tosses it to AARON, who tosses
it away**
GOD WON'T ABIDE A GRAVEN IMAGE

CHORUS
NUMBER ONE! HERE'S NUMBER ONE!

MOSES is now in the swing of it

MOSES
HERE IT COMES, BIG NUMBER ONE!
TO WORSHIP GOD, HERE'S HOW IT'S DONE.
THERE MAY BE OTHER GODS, THAT'S SO,
BUT HERE'S THE THING THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
YAH-WEH IS THE ONLY ONE
FOR ALL OF US, THE ONLY ONE
FOR ALL OF US, THERE ARE NO MORE
ONE GOD IS ALL WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

CHORUS
ONE GOD IS ALL WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
ONE GOD IS ALL WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

**The PEOPLE cheer and exit.
ZIPPORAH and JOSHUA go to MOSES**

22. "Go Up There (Reprise)"

MOSES
I'VE GOT TO GO BACK UP ALONE
ONE LAST TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINTOP
TO GET THESE LAWS CARVED INTO STONE

ZIPPORAH
IS THERE NO WAY TO MAKE YOU STOP?

MOSES
I HAVE TO GO, I HAVE NO CHOICE

JOSHUA
BUT THE PEOPLE

MOSES

THEY'LL BE FINE
EVERYONE HAS HEARD HIS VOICE
IN TIME THEY'LL UNDERSTAND THE GRAND DESIGN

DON'T YOU SEE THERE'S A PLAN FOR US
HOW TO LIVE FOR AGES TO COME
BUT WE MUST OBEY THE WILL OF GOD
IT'S CLEAR WHAT MUST BE DONE
DON'T YOU HEAR THAT THUNDER?
KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING BRIGHT
AND IF ANYBODY WONDERS WHY
REMINDE THEM GOD IS
RIGHT THERE IN THEIR SIGHT

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW I AM GONE
BEFORE YOU KNOW I'M GONE

MOSES kisses her and exits

ZIPPORAH

I'LL KNOW YOU'RE GONE, MY LOVE
AND I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT THROUGH

JOSHUA

WHY DOES HE NEED TO GO UP THERE?
ALL THE PEOPLE WILL DESPAIR
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WILL DO?

ZIPPORAH & JOSHUA

WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WILL DO?

23. "Gone Again"

ZIPPORAH & JOSHUA exit. Groups pass back and forth, as LOSSAH & LESSAH talk to them. DATHAN & AARON pass a couple of times, DATHAN obviously arguing something to AARON. LOOSAH and LESSAH appear with baskets, as people donate gold jewelry and other golden items (pitchers, etc).

CHORUS

GONE AGAIN, GONE AGAIN, GONE AGAIN
MOSES HAS GONE AGAIN

LOOSAH & LESSAH

HE JUST CAN'T STICK AROUND

CHORUS

LEFT US HERE, DISAPPEARED, LEFT US HERE
 MOSES HAS DISAPPEARED
 HE'S NO WHERE TO BE FOUND

LOOSAH & LESSAH

SO MOSES IS GONE AGAIN
 WE SEE THAT AS A WIN
 IT'S NO FUN WHEN HE'S AROUND
 HE BRINGS EVERYBODY DOWN

NOW HERE'S A THOUGHT, JUST THINK THIS THROUGH
 SOMETHING FUN FOR US TO DO
 WHY NOT BUILD AN IDOL TO
 DANCE AND SING AROUND

CHORUS

DANCE AND SING AROUND

LOOSAH & LESSAH

WHAT CAN WE BUILD THIS IDOL FROM?
 DON'T FORGET WE CARRIED SOME
 GOLD THAT PHARAOH LET US TAKE
 AWAY FROM EGYPT LAND
 AND WHO CAN MAKE OUR TOY OF GOLD?
 WELL, AARON KNOWS, SO WE'VE BEEN TOLD
 SO GO AND GET THAT SO-AND-SO
 SO HE CAN LEND A HAND

LESSAH

BRING YOUR GOLD

LOOSAH

GO GET AARON

They fill the baskets with gold.

CHORUS

BRING YOUR GOLD, GO GET AARON
 BRING YOUR GOLD, GO GET AARON
 BRING YOUR GOLD, BRING YOUR GOLD,
 BRING YOUR GOLD, BRING YOUR GOLD
 GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!!

**DATHAN drags Aaron in, who is
 surrounded by the crowd**

WE GOT GOLD, WE DON'T NEED MOSES
 WE GOT AARON, WE DON'T NEED MOSES
 WE GOT GOLD, WE DON'T NEED MOSES
 WE GOT AARON, WE DON'T NEED MOSES
 WE GOT GOLD! WE GOT GOLD!
 WE GOT GOLD! WE GOT GOLD!

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3

AARON and DATHAN exit. During underscore, PEOPLE bring more gold, becoming wilder and more and more wanton. Eventually, AARON, LEVI and JOSHUA enter

24. "Golden Cow"

JOSHUA

AARON, THIS IS SO BAD!
DID YOU GO SUICIDAL?

LEVI

THERE'S A LAW AGAINST THIS
DON'T PRAY TO AN IDOL

JOSHUA

NUMBER TWO ON THE HIT PARADE
YOU'VE LAID THE COMMANDMENTS IN THE SHADE

AARON

(holding his head in his hands)

ALL THAT GOLD, JUST SO MUCH GOLD
THEY TALKED ME INTO THIS

LEVI

THAT VIOLATES "DON'T COVET"
TOSS ANOTHER ONE OFF THE LIST

The PEOPLE enter with a golden cow, twirling and dancing

AARON

I ADMIT IT IS BLASPHEMY
I ADMIT IT'S SINFUL VICE
BUT IN TURN YOU MUST ADMIT
THE WORKMANSHIP IS NICE

CHORUS

THIS IS OUR GOLDEN COW
WE HAVE A GOLDEN COW
WE'LL ALL BEND AND BOW
BEFORE OUR GOLD COW
THIS IS OUR COW OF GOLD
OUR COW OF PUREST GOLD
SHE'LL NEVER GROW OLD
NOT THIS COW OF GOLD
WE'VE NEVER HAD A GOLDEN COW
WE'D NEVER THOUGHT WE'D NEED IT
WE MIGHT NOT NEED ONE EVEN NOW
BUT NOTHING CAN EXCEED IT

WE LOVE OUR GOLDEN COW
 SHE'S MORE THAN JUST ENOUGH
 WE LOVE, OH AND HOW
 OUR GOD ON THE HOOF
 SHE'S SMOOTH AS SILK TO TOUCH
 AND EASY ON THE EYES
 WE LOVE HER OH SO MUCH
 IT'S HARD TO DISGUISE
 WE'VE NEVER SEEN A GOLDEN COW
 WE NEVER THOUGHT WE'D SEE ONE
 AND THOUGH WE HAVE OUR GOLD COW NOW
 WE'D RATHER SEE THAN BE ONE

PLAY TAMBOURINE AND HORN
 MORE THAN THE LAWS ALLOW
 AND DANCE UNTIL MORN
 AROUND OUR GOLD COW
 WE'LL LEAP AND JUMP AROUND
 AND FALL DOWN IN A PILE
 SO WATCH US ALL FALL DOWN
 AND WATCH US GO WILD!
 SO WATCH US ALL FALL DOWN
 AND WATCH US GO WILD!

A wild dance ensues, growing more feverish and lusty. JOSHUA and AARON try to restrain the dancers, but are brushed aside like leaves before the wind. At the end of the dance, MOSES appears, bearing two tablets of stone. ZIPPORAH is at his side. MOSES stands for a moment, taking in the scene, then casts the tablets down. They break with a crash, which is amplified by one long crash of thunder from the mountain.

25. "The Accusation"

MOSES
 YOU'RE ALL STIFF-NECKED FOOLS
 THERE LIES YOUR BROKEN LAW
 YOU'VE SHATTERED EVERY RULE
 THIS WAS THE FINAL STRAW

AARON
 MOSES, I CAN EXPLAIN—

MOSES
 THERE IS NOTHING TO EXPLAIN
 THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE CHOSE

LEVI
I SWEAR IT ISN'T SO

MANNIE
WE CHOOSE THE LAW

DAN & RUTHABEL
WE CHOOSE OUR LAND

NAOMI
WE ALL WANT TO GO HOME

ALL
PLEASE TAKE US HOME

MOSES
GOD KNOWS YOU DON'T DESERVE IT
YOU'VE BLOWN EVERY CHANCE TO GO
BUT BECAUSE OUR GOD ORDAINS IT
BECAUSE OUR GOD ORDAINS IT
BECAUSE OUR GOD ORDAINS IT
I WILL LEAD YOU TO YOUR HOME

26. Who Cares (Reprise)

DATHAN
WHO CARES?
GO HOME, WHEREVER THAT MAY BE
WHO CARES?
DESERT IS THE ONLY THING YOU'LL SEE
DON'T YOU GET IT? IT'S A LIE
NOTHING BUT A CHEAP MIRAGE
THERE'S NO PROMISED LAND, JUST PROMISES
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT HE HAS DONE?
YOU THINK YOU'RE HEADING HOME
THAT'S NOTHING BUT CAMOUFLAGE
HE'S DOOMED YOU TO THIS DESERT
IT'S HIS BRILLIANT SABOTAGE

WHO CARES?
STAY WITH THIS STUBBORN OLD MULE
WHO CARES?
HE'LL DESTROY YOU IF YOU PLAY THE FOOL
THIS WILL NOT END WELL
THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO DIE
YOU'LL BE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS
AND YOU'LL NEVER FATHOM WHY

Everyone turns away.

DATHAN (CONT'D)
GOOD LUCK, YOU'LL NEED IT
LOOSAH COME WITH ME

LOOSAH
 IF IT'S ALL THE SAME WITH YOU
 I'LL STAY ON THIS SIDE OF THE SEA

DATHAN
 WHO CARES? LESSAH, LET'S GO

LESSAH
 I THINK I'LL HANG WITH LOOSAH
 SHE'S MY BESTIE PAL YOU KNOW

DATHAN
 YOU, TOO? THE TWO OF YOU?

MARYAM
 YEAH, LOOSAH AND LESSAH, TOO.

DATHAN
 WHO CARES?
 YOU CAN ALL HANG YOURSELVES FOR ALL I CARE

**DATHAN starts off. MOSES motions
 to AARON, who calls after DATHAN**

AARON
 Oh, Dathan.

**AARON points him in the opposite
 direction. DATHAN glares, and then
 exits. JOSHUA approaches MOSES.**

27. "A Matter of Trust"

JOSHUA
 WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?
 WE'LL NEVER GET TO CANAAN
 NOT AFTER THIS

MOSES
 WE'LL GET TO CANAAN
 EVEN AFTER THIS
 ALL THIS IS ONLY OUR GENESIS

JOSHUA
 HOW WOULD GOD ALLOW
 THESE TRIBES INTO CANAAN
 HE SHOULD CONDEMN EVERYONE
 WE MADE THE IDOL
 IGNORED HIS COMMAND
 NO ONE IN THE WORLD
 WOULD FORGIVE WHAT WE'VE DONE

MOSES

GOD'S NOT OF THE WORLD
AND GOD HAS CHOSEN US
WE'LL ALL GET TO CANAAN
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TRUST

BUT YOU DISAPPOINT THE LORD
IF YOU GET YOUR SIGNALS CROSSED
WHEN GOD GETS IGNORED
IT'S NOT WITHOUT A COST

WE WON'T WALTZ ACROSS THE WILDERNESS
AND STROLL INTO CANAAN LAND

LEVI

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

NAOMI

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

MOSES

I'VE LOST THE WAY TO CANAAN
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO
WE'LL HAVE TO WANDER IN THE WILDERNESS
FOR A WHILE UNTIL I KNOW
UNTIL I FIND OUT WHERE TO GO

CHORUS

YOU MUST BE JOKING US!
YOU ARE JUST PROVOKING US!

JOSHUA

NOW WAIT, WAIT A MINUTE, PEOPLE
SO WE HAVE TO PAY SOME DUES

MOSES

(spoken)

Joshua-

JOSHUA

ITS NOT LIKE WE'VE BEEN ANGELS
SOME DEBTS HAVE BEEN ACCRUED

MOSES

Joshua-

JOSHUA

ATONEMENT FOR MISTAKES
WILL DO THE CHOSEN PEOPLE GOOD
WE'LL APPRECIATE THE PROMISED LAND-

MOSES

Joshua!
I DONT THINK YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD

IT'S GONNA TAKE A LONG, LONG TIME
TO FIND OUT WHERE WE'RE BOUND
A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG TIME
'TIL WE COME TO CANAAN GROUND

There is a silence

JOSHUA

CANAAN CAN'T BE FAR
IT'S NOT IN OUTER SPACE
HOW LONG MUST WE WANDER
IN THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE?

ZIPPORAH

WE'RE NOT FORSAKEN
GOD'S ALL AROUND
BUT NOW IT IS ALL UP TO US

MOSES

WE'RE NOT ABANDONED
WE'RE NEVER ALONE
IT'S ALL A MATTER OF TRUST

JOSHUA

I DID NOT MAKE THAT GOLDEN COW
YOU WEREN'T THERE WHEN IT WAS MADE
IT'S NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND
(pointing at mountain)
MAYBE GOD NEEDS A HEARING AID

MOSES

WE CANNOT SAY
WHO'S PUNISHED AND WHO GOES FREE
THESE ARE THE RULES THAT'S HOW IT IS
THIS IS THE WAY THINGS MUST BE

JOSHUA

(broken)

WE'RE STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND
OUR FEET AND FACES SCARRED
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LIVE LIKE THIS
THIS IS JUST TOO HARD
MOSE, THIS IS JUST TOO HARD

MOSES

IT'S A MATTER OF TRUST
THAT THE LORD WILL MEET ALL OUR NEEDS
JUST A MATTER OF TRUST
IF WE FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS

DAN
BUT YOU'RE THE LEADER, MOSES

MARYAM
YOU'RE THE MAN WHO WIELDS THE STAFF

MANNIE
WE ALL TRUST IN YOU

LEVI
WE KNOW YOU WORK ON OUR BEHALF

ZIPPORAH
THIS IS THE WAY IT WILL HAVE TO BE
THE PEOPLE CANNOT SEE ALL THAT YOU SEE
ALL THEY CAN SEE IS YOU

MOSES
THEN THAT WILL HAVE TO DO

**PEOPLE lie dejected. ZIPPORAH
hands MOSES his staff**

28. "Walk to Canaan"

MOSES (CONT'D)
I'M GONNA STAND UP AND WALK TO CANAAN
IT'S A HARD ROAD, I KNOW
I'M GONNA STAND UP AND WALK TO CANAAN
FOR MY GOD HAS TOLD ME SO

MOSES, ZIPPORAH, LEVI, MANNIE,
NAOMI, DAN, RUTHABEL, MARYAM
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND WALK TO CANAAN
GOD WILL SHOW US THE WAY
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND MARCH TO CANAAN
THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO STAY
WE'VE GOT TO BE ON OUR WAY
HEY, HEY, HEY!
WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE TODAY

MOSES extends his hand to JOSHUA

MOSES
(spoken)
Come, Joshua. You're not a man for sitting.

JOSHUA rises, walks to MOSES

MOSES, ZIPPORAH & JOSHUA
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND WALK TO CANAAN

JOSHUA
EVERYBODY, MOVE OUT!

PEOPLE begin to rise up

ADDITIONAL VOICES
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND MARCH TO CANAAN
WE'RE GONNA GET THERE, THERE IS NO DOUBT

CHORUS
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND MARCH TO CANAAN
THERE'S NO TIME TO TALK
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR WAY TO CANAAN
THE ONLY WAY IS TO WALK
WE'RE BOUND TO LEAVE TODAY
HEY, HEY, HEY! IT'S TIME TO BE ON OUR WAY

WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND WALK TO CANAAN
WE'VE GOT A STORY TO WEAVE
GOD WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO CANAAN
ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS BELIEVE

WALK ON, WALK ON, WALK ON, GOT TO WALK ON
WALK ON, WALK ON, WALK ON, GOT TO WALK ON

WOMEN
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND WALK TO CANAAN
EVERYBODY

CHORUS
MOVE OUT!
WE'RE GONNA STAND UP AND MARCH TO CANAAN
WE'RE GONNA GET THERE, THERE IS NO DOUBT
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, NO
NO, NO, NO, IT'S TIME FOR US TO

WALK ON, WALK ON, WALK ON, WALK ON
WALK ON, WALK ON, WALK ON, WALK ON
IT'S TIME TO GO, WE'RE MARCHING ON!
IT'S TIME TO GO, WE'RE MARCHING ON!

CURTAIN AND CURTAIN CALLS

29. Curtain Call Music - "Smoke and Thunder"-

After all bows, CAST sings.

CHORUS (CONT'D)
WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE KEEP HEARING, "I AM"
WHAT IS HIS NAME? WE HEAR, "I AM"