

# THE TRAGEDY OF KING SAUL

A drama in two acts

By  
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CHARACTERS

First WITCH OF ENDOR

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

SAMUEL, CHIEF JUDGE OF ISRAEL

SAUL, KING OF ISRAEL

JONATHAN, SAUL'S SON

DAVID, FUTURE KING OF ISRAEL

JESSE, DAVID'S FATHER

MICHAL, SAUL'S DAUGHTER AND DAVID'S WIFE

GENERAL ABNER, SAUL'S UNCLE

Abiathar, the Prophet

JOEL, SON OF SAMUEL

ALICH, SON OF SAMUEL

ENSEMBLE

ACTORS NEEDED Six

SCENE 1 EPILOGUE

Two witches of Endor face audience.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Greetings. I'm the Witch of Endor .

ENSEMBLE

HELP! HELP! HELP!

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

The people speak. But don't ever trust the crowd!

ENSEMBLE

WE WANT A KING. WE WANT A KING. WE WANT A NATION.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Today they want a king!

ENSEMBLE

SAMUEL ! SAMUEL! SAMUEL!

WITCH OF ENDOR

Today they love the Judge Samuel! Humans are fickle. Even the chosen ones! We are not one of them. They have their God, and we have our own source of power. Some judges have tried to banish us, others jail use. But somehow we survive. Indeed, in times of peril those leaders have been known to need our service. You are about to witness a complicated story about a man chosen to be king and the dangers he has had to take. And if someone asks you to be a king, beware of them. I see one of my worst enemies, now. Abner. An untrustworthy skunk.

ABNER

Oh Witches of Endor what do you do here?

WITCH OF ENDOR

What business is this of yours!

ABNER

Just asking!

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

You've made life miserable for us.

ABNER

Not with my knowledge!

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

You're like the rest of them Yet when you need something you always come too us.

ABNER

I have never set out to get you.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

What do you want!

ABNER

Will we get a king?

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

That will cost you 2 sheckels.

ABNER

No thanks.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Then get lost!

ABNER

How about 1 shekel?

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Get lost!

## SCENE 2 RAMA SAMUEL'S HOME

He looks outside his balcony window as the ensemble cheers on. He waves to the ensemble

ENSEMBLE

Samuel! Samuel! Samuel!

SAMUEL

BLESSED BE GOD! THE ARK IS RECOVERED! THE ARK IS Recovered

ENSEMBLE

YES!

SAMUEL

Long live Israel!

ENSEMBLE

Samuel! Samuel! Samuel!

SAMUEL

A day of celebration. The Ark is returned!

ENSEMBLE

Samuel the Prophet! Samuel the Prophet.

SAMUEL

I only serve at God's Will.

ENSEMBLE

Samuel, the Seer! Samuel, the Seer! Samuel, the Seer!

SAMUEL

I lead my people in the absence of God.

ENSEMBLE

SAMUEL! SAMUEL! SAMUEL. Samuel the Judge!

Loud knocking at the door.  
Samuel closes the window.



SAMUEL

Yes but you did not ask what kind of Judges.

JOEL

What kind of judges?

SAMUEL

Guess.

JOEL

We wait for your answer?

SAMUEL

That you are the most corrupt judges in all Israel.

JOEL

WHAT!

ALICH

We are shocked!

JOEL

Who made this up!

SAMUEL

Some have called for an investigation?

ALICH

We are innocent!

SAMUEL

The investigation?

ALICH

No need! We are your sons.

SAMUEL

Once I laughed at the Eli's misfortune.

ALICH

Eli your predecessor?

SAMUEL

Yes. I did not have the right to be the next Seer of Israel. But as fate would have it, I was chosen. You know why?

JOEL

Of course. Corruption of Eli's sons.

SAMUEL

Exactly. And when I smirked at Eli and his corrupt sons. Your Grandmother Hannah is turning over in her grave. NOW LEAVE.

JOEL

WE GO!

ALICH

MAY THE ONE YOU CHOOSE TO BE KING TURN ON YOU AS YOU HAVE TURNED ON US.

SAMUEL

I only Choose God to be king. He is our only king.

ALICH

The people want a human king.

SAMUEL

Judges have worked well. When not corrupt.

JOEL

You say that only because YOU want to be king.

SAMUEL

I do not want to be king.

JOEL

You are the king in fact!

SAMUEL

God is the king.

ALICH

But you claim God speaks through you!

SAMUEL

God Does. I have know that since birth.

ALICH

Presumptuous!

SAMUEL

Get out of this room

ALICH

We leave gladly.

JOEL

YOU ARE AN UNFIT FATHER

ALICH

And a jealous one,

SAMUEL

Leave this room.

They exit.

SAMUEL

Come to my rescue, Lord.

He opens the window.

ENSEMBLE

We want a king! We want a king!

SAMUEL

You have a king.

ENSEMBLE

Who!

SAMUEL

God!

ENSEMBLE

We want God's representative as our king

SAMUEL

JUDGES WON'T DO!

ENSEMBLE

We want a king!

SAMUEL

Have I not ruled you well!

ENSEMBLE

You are a great seer. But you are too old.

SAMUEL

Have I not been a good judge!

ENSEMBLE

The Best! You are an even greater prophet. But we want a young king.

SAMUEL

God is the only king I will accept.

ENSEMBLE

We want a divinely chosen human king.

SAMUEL

God has told me he does not want a King

ENSEMBLE

Tell God that we want a young king.

SAMUEL

How about my Sons?

ENSEMBLE

They are not like the father.

General Abner enters the  
room. Samuel closes the window

SAMUEL

General Abner! My faithful general. You asked to see  
me.

ABNER

How do we handle the people's demand for a king!

SAMUEL

Have I not governed well.

ABNER

So well!!!

SAMUEL

Then why do they want a king?

ABNER

You have heard them. Every street and housetop  
hears cries the demand for a king.

They see the Philistines win victory after victory.  
They want law and order. We want a Nation

SAMUEL

Perhaps I should crown myself.

ABNER

I will support you.

SAMUEL

Tell me what you really think.

ABNER

May you live many years but now that you are old and your sons do not follow your example, appoint a king over us as other nations do not have judges.

SAMUEL

We are God's chosen people. Can we not govern ourselves!

ABNER

Of course not. You hear them, don't you!

Samuel opens window.

SAMUEL

In anticipation of your demand for a king, I have prayed to God and he has answered me.

ENSEMBLE

YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!

SAMUEL

Hearken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you. For they have not rejected you, but me, that I should not reign over them.

ENSEMBLE

We love the Lord!

## SAMUEL

The Lord then said: "According to all their works, they have done from the day that I brought them out of Egypt until this day: as they have forsaken me, and served strange gods, so do they also unto you.

## ENSEMBLE

Forgive us, Lord. But we need a king.

## SAMUEL

And then the Lord said: Now, therefore, hearken to their voice: but yet testify to them, and foretell them the right of the king, that will reign over them.

## ENSEMBLE

Yes! Yes! Yes! We will hear you!

## SAMUEL

God also said. This will be the right of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and put them in his chariots, and will make them his horsemen, and his running footmen, to run before his chariots, and he will appoint of them to be his tribunes, and his centurions, and to plough his fields, and to reap his corn, and to make him arms and chariots. Your daughters also he will take to make him ointments, and to be his cooks, and bakers.

## ENSEMBLE

We still want a king. We still want a king. We still want a king

## SAMUEL

Let me continue: He will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your best olive yards, and give them to his servants.

## ENSEMBLE

We want a king!

SAMUEL

Moreover he will take the tenth of your corn, and of the revenues of your vineyards, to give to his eunuchs and servants. Your servants also, and handmaids, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, he will take away, and put them to his work. Your flocks also he will tithe, and you shall be his servants.

ENSEMBLE

We want a king.!

SAMUEL

And you shall cry out in that day from the face of the king, whom you have chosen to yourselves: and the Lord will not hear you in that day, because you desired unto yourselves a king.

ENSEMBLE LEADER

Nay: but there shall be a king over us, and we also will be like all nations: and our king shall judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles for us.

SAMUEL

I will Hearken to your voice, and give you a king.

ENSEMBLE

RAH! RAH! RAH! RAH!

ENSEMBLE LEADER

We must be like every other nation and have a leader to defeat our enemies, and lead us into and fight our battles

SAMUEL

Very well! You shall have your king.

ENSEMBLE

Rah! Rah! Rah!

ABNER

Let me speak for them.

SAMUEL

Find me a king.

ABNER

God will provide. Some young girls have brought us a young man named Saul of a minor Benjamite tribe. He is the handsomest and strongest man in all of Israel.

SAMUEL

(Aside to Abner)

You know him

ABNER

He is my nephew.

SAMUEL

What can you tell me about him?

ABNER

He's the son of my brother Kish. He is the handsomest man in the land, a great fighter, very bright.

SAMUEL

A kingship is for a lifetime.

ABNER

Meaning?

SAMUEL

Looks disappear and strengths shrivel.

ABNER

If he is the wrong man, the people will depose him.

SAMUEL

Easier said than done. And if he is weak we could have a civil war.

ABNER

You must see him.

SAMUEL

Where is the youth?

ABNER

I have been told that my nephew is hiding behind some baggage.

SAMUEL

Tell me about him first. I have been told that he suffers from melancholy.

ABNER

So you know him already!

SAMUEL

In a dream, I received a revelation from God. And I was led to this son of Kish. I made some inquiries from my inner voice. God is leading us both.

ABNER

My nephew is the one you heard in your inner voice. He is personable. He is a great soldier. He is bright. The people will learn to love him.

SAUL

What they love today they can hate tomorrow.

ABNER

He approaches us now

SAMUEL

He does meet one criterion. We must select from the smallest tribe.

ABNER

Why?

SAMUEL

Because we will be overpowered by the largest tribe—Judah.

ABNER

All the more reason we must select from the tribe of Benjamin. I say this not because I am his uncle and a Benjamite. But we know we can not trust the tribe of Judah.

SAMUEL

They are too large to trust. The monarchy will be a disaster

ABNER

We think alike. O Seer.

SAMUEL

Now about his curse, ---the melancholy!

ABNER

Because he always wants to do right in God's eyes.

SAMUEL

You know I heard our fisherman repeat an adage they heard once in Greece.

ABNER

Yes?

SAMUEL

Those whom the gods would favor, they first make mad.

ABNER

The second adage is also interesting.

SAMUEL

Yes?

ABNER

Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make proud.

SAMUEL

Fear not. God has selected him.

ABNER

What!

SAMUEL

Yesterday, I had a dream Here is what a voice said to me "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel; and he shall save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked on my people, because their grief.

ABNER

Then if God has told you to select him, how can you go wrong?

SAMUEL

God often changes his mind.

ABNER

Are you second guessing God?

SAMUEL

We have many examples.

ABNER

Such as.

SAMUEL

Noah. God made a mistake with Adam and Eve.

ABNER

I can not understand.

SAMUEL

You will.

ABNER

Then Can God make mistakes!

SAMUEL

A voice in me says--"Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! This same shall have authority over my people.

Suddenly Saul appears.

SAUL

I have come to look for two donkeys, oh Mighty Judge and Seer Samuel.

ABNER

Do you not acknowledge your Uncle?

SAUL

My uncle, my uncle I did not see you.

SAMUEL

I have heard many fine things about you.

SAUL

I bow humbly to you, Sir.

SAMUEL

Worry not about the donkeys. They will be found for you

SAUL

Yes your judgeship.

## ENSEMBLE

Saul! Saul! Saul!

## SCENE 3 SAMUEL'S HOME THE NEXT DAY

Samuel takes a little vial of oil, and pours it upon Saul's head, and kisses him.

## SAMUEL

Behold, the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his inheritance, and you shall deliver his people out of the hands of their enemies, that are round about them. And this shall be a sign unto you, that God has anointed you to be prince.

## SAUL

Yes my Lord.

## SAMUEL

When you shall depart from me this day, you shall find two men by the sepulchre of Rachel in the borders of Benjamin to the south, and they shall say to you: The asses are found which you went to seek: and your father, thinking no more of the asses, is concerned for you, and says: What shall I do for my son?

## SAUL

Yes, Lord.

## SAMUEL

And when you shall depart from thence, and go farther on, and shall come to the oak of Thabor, there shall meet you three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine. And they will salute you, and will give you two loaves, and you shall take them at their hand.

SAUL

Yes, O Seer.

SAMUEL

After that you shall come to the hill of God, where the garrison of the Philistines is: and when you shall be come there into the city, you shall meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place, with a psaltery, and a timbrel, and a pipe, and a harp before them, and they shall be prophesying.

SAUL

Yes, My Lord.

SAMUEL

And the Spirit of the Lord shall come upon you, and you shall prophesy with them, and shall be changed into another man. When therefore these signs shall happen to you, do whatsoever your hand shall find, for the Lord is with you.

SAUL

My Lord, My Lord. I am unworthy.

SAMUEL

And you shall go down before me to Galgal, (for I will come down to you), that you may offer an oblation, and sacrifice victims of peace: seven days shall you wait, till I come to you, and I will show you what you are to do.

SAUL

Oh my Lord

SAMUEL

And you will prophesies among them.

ENSEMBLE

Saul! Saul! Saul! THE KING! THE KING! THE KING!

The Witches of Endor walk in

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

It starts well. But then he finds out what it takes to become a king. And remain one.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Was there any one more pious than he for when he ascended the throne he was as pure as a child, and had never committed sin He was marvelously handsome; and the maidens talked so long with him that they might observe his beauty the more

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

In war he was able to march 120 miles without rest. But he was deemed unworthy. It was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs happened that day.

SCENE 4      15    YEARS LATER

The witches appears

ENSEMBLE

Saul Our King!! Saul our King!!!!

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

They are happy.

ENSEMBLE

Jonathan! Jonathan! Jonathan

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Like father like son.

We hear the Philistines in  
the background

## ENSEMBLE

THE PHILISTINES MUST DIE! ISRAEL MUST LIVE! THE  
PHILISTINES MUST DIE!

## FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

And now a new generation will speak.

## JONATHAN

Attack with force. Slay with force!

## SAUL

Together we will have three thousand men, my son  
Jonathan! You are only twenty and you already lead  
an army. You will have two thousand men.. I will go  
to Michmashand in the mount of Bethel, and you to  
Giveah of Menjamin,

## JONATHAN

I will strike down the Philistines.

## SAUL

They have thirty thousand chariots and six thousand  
horsemen.

## JONATHAN

We shall overcome them.

## SAUL

The rest of you go to your tents.

## ENSEMBLE

Kill the Philistines! Kill the Philistines! Kill the  
Philistines!

## JONATHAN

All thirty thousand!

ENSEMBLE

We will win.

JONATHAN

I will kill them all.

SAUL

My son Jonathan. You are a soldier! And a future king!

We hear loud clanging of the battle and screaming.

JONATHAN

Father father we have won!

ENSEMBLE

The Philistines are dead.

JONATHAN

They flee from you father.

ENSEMBLE

SAUL! SAUL! SAUL!

SAUL

Let us sacrifice! Samuel has obviously been delayed.

ENSEMBLE

Saul! Saul!! Saul!

SAUL

We have won. And now we await Samuel who crowned me king

ENSEMBLE

Rah! Rah! Rah!

SAUL

Where are my other children.

JONATHAN  
Waiting for you.

SAUL  
Israel live forever.

JONATHAN  
Israel live forever. Surely Samuel will be  
impressed.

SAUL  
He has been behaving strangely lately.

JONATHAN  
What!

SAUL  
He resents me.

JONATHAN  
Why?

SAUL  
YOU TELL ME!

JONATHAN  
Take courage my father. Being king is not easy.

SCENE 5 SAMUEL'S HOME A WEEK AFTERWARD

Samuel stands before his  
window. We hear the  
ensemble offstage.

ENSEMBLE  
SAUL! SAUL! SAUL! OUR KING! OUR KING! OUR KING!

SAMUEL  
The people are deceived! But no one fools God.

## ENSEMBLE

JONATHAN! JONATHAN! JONATHAN! OUR PRINCE! OUR  
PRINCE! OUR PRINCE!

Saul enters.

SAUL

You asked for me.

SAMUEL

Saul! Saul!! Saul!

SAUL

Yes my Lord.

SAMUEL

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!

SAUL

Don't you hear the roar of victory!

SAMUEL

Yes, but it is a day of sadness!

SAUL

Why!

SAMUEL

You have disobeyed and lost God's favor.

SAUL

What!

SAMUEL

YOU HAVE COMMITTED GRAVE SIN!

SAUL

What sin. I am the King!

SAMUEL

Kings commit the worst atrocities. Abominations to  
God!

How! SAUL

By your disobedience. SAMUEL

Disobedience! !SAUL

Disobedience. SAMUEL

I won the battle! SAUL

What did God command you to do to the Amalakites after you won! SAMUEL

Destroy them, which I did! SAUL

All of them? SAMUEL

Almost. SAUL

Almost is not enough! SAMUEL

I destroyed all the men even the women and children. Some may have escaped. SAUL

And the king? SAMUEL

He surrendered to me. SAUL

But is he still alive! SAMUEL

SAUL  
And in chains.

SAMUEL  
Why did you not kill him?

SAUL  
Why destroy the spoils!

SAMUEL  
Because this is what God Wants!

SAUL  
What can I do now!

SAMUEL  
Bring me Agag.

SAUL  
Why?

SAMUEL  
So that I can kill him with my own hands!

SAUL  
I am the King!

SAMUEL  
Behave like one!

SAUL!  
And what do we have to gain by killing one lonely  
king who has lost his total empire. tony

SAMUEL  
If he lives he can rise again. EVEN NOW YOU QUESTION  
GOD'S COMMAND.

SAUL  
I did not get God's Command.

SAMUEL  
Nor will you!

SAUL  
Why!

SAMUEL  
Because God wants no part of you!

SAUL  
Says who?

SAMUEL  
Have you heard the Voice of God calling you .

SAUL  
I have not.

SAMUEL  
Therein lies your answer.

SAUL  
Pleas have pity. I ask your forgiveness.

SAMUEL  
Only God can forgive

SAUL  
Have you abandoned me!

SAMUEL  
I must inform you of something that will cause you even more distress.

SAUL  
Have you no mercy. Please, I suffer from melancholy already!

SAMUEL  
That is between you and God.

SAUL

Have pity!

SAMUEL

You are not a king!

SAUL

You once said I was chosen by God.

SAMUEL

That was years ago. A whole generation has come by since you were chosen.

SAUL

Can God make mistakes!

SAMUEL

That is a long lengthy discussion. You are not a King. I say no more.

SAUL

I shall kill the Amalakite king?

SAMUEL

The one you were not kingly enough to murder.

SAUL

Yes

SAMUEL

I have murdered already murdered him with my own hands. I told him : Your sword has made women childless, so yours mother will be childless among women! I now cut you to pieces before the Lord.

SAUL

What!

SAMUEL

Yes. Saul.

SAUL

Then remove me from office!!

SAMUEL

I can not

SAUL

Why!

SAMUEL

You were consecrated king. I can not remove you since that was a religious consecration.

SAUL

I shall stay on as king

SAMUEL

But from this day on, you will never hear nor see me again.

SAUL

So be it.

SAMUEL

When this is coupled with the sacrifices offence.

SAUL

I had to make the sacrifices.

SAMUEL

Why!

SAUL

Because you had not arrived!

SAMUEL

Because I had not arrived!

SAUL

Yes!

SAMUEL

So what!

SAUL

My men were beginning to leave. They were becoming impatient. And leaving.

SAMUEL

I DID come.

SAUL

After another week.

SAMUEL

Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

SAUL

Have pity!

SAMUEL

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.

SAUL

I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and your words, because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord.

SAMUEL

God will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel."

Samuel turns to go away, Saul grabs the skirt of his robe, and it tears.

SAUL

Have mercy!

SAMUEL

Get away from me for YOU ARE not a man to repent.

SAUL

I have sinned-- yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people-- and before Israel, and come back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.

SAMUEL

The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you.

SAUL

What! Are you God's interpreter on earth!

SAMUEL

I AM.

SAUL

How do you know!

SAMUEL

God appeared to me!

SAUL

I don't believe that story! You are jealous of me! You are jealous of me Yet you ...



SAUL

Which are?

SAMUEL

Jealousy, disobedience and lack of faith!

SAUL

Look at the glimmer in your own eye before judging others

SAMUEL

Detestable.

SAUL

I will never speak to you from this day forward

SAMUEL

Neither I nor God will have anything to do with you.

Samuel leaves the room. Saul  
prostates himself.

SAUL

Do not abandon me, my Lord! Do not abandon me. What  
have I done wrong. Will I ever hear you voice.

He begins sobbing  
mercilessly. Jonathan enters  
the room, unnoticed by Saul.

JONATHAN

Father!

SAUL

I only have my son by my side.

JONATHAN

Samuel has abandoned us. But I am with you.

SAUL

Yes my son.

JONATHAN

As is your whole family.

SAUL

Help us, O Lord.

SCENE 6     JESSES HOME A WEEK LATER

Jesse stands in the room.  
Samuel enters.

SAMUEL

Jesse, my friend.

JESSE

Welcome!

SAMUEL

On the most important mission of mine and yours.

JESSE

I understand that you have examined each of my ten sons. Why?

SAMUEL

A handsome lot.

JESSE

Yes, even if I say so myself.

SAMUEL

Now I must share with you what God has told me.  
Under the strictest confidence. I have been chosen  
to make a divine selection

JESSE

What!

SAMUEL

The Lord said to me "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided a king for myself among his sons.

JESSE

Indeed!

SAMUEL

I said: "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." The Lord said, Go to Bethlehem, and I will show you what to do. You shall anoint to me one of his sons.

JESSE

You did that which the Lord spoke, and came to Bethlehem.

SAMUEL

The elders of your town came to meet me trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

JESSE

Can you blame them?

SAMUEL

What did I say?

JESSE

And then you examined each of my sons .

SAMUEL

And you recall that I looked at Elizb first.

JESSE

I do.

SAMUEL

And my Lord said that he was not the one. Then I called number two son, equally handsome. But he was not the right one. Then Shammah, and then others.

JESSE

Finally you asked for my youngest son.

SAMUEL

And I knew then and immediately that he was God's Chosen! But I could hear the Lord say to me. "Don't look on his face, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for [the Lord sees] not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

JESSE

Then we called five others Abinadab, Shammah, and all the others. And all were rejected by God.

SAMUEL

Now is that all of them.

JESSE

There remains yet the youngest, and has been keeping sheep.

SAMUEL

Send and get him; I we will not sit down until he comes here.

David enters.

JESSE

Well here is my youngest son.

SAMUEL

Arise, for this is he!

JESSE

What do you mean?

SAMUEL

He will be the next king.

JESSE

What! So be it. If you say so.

SAMUEL

So you are David?

DAVID

Yes, O Seer Samuel.

SAMUEL

And you are a shepherd here in Bethlehem?

DAVID

Yes.

SAMUEL

And what else do you like to do.

DAVID

I like to wrestle, and write poetry, shoot my sling,  
pierce my bow and arrow, play the harp and worship  
God.

SAMUEL

That's a lot.

DAVID

With God my side I can do anything I want.

SAMUEL

You sound like a king.

JESSE

He lacks no confidence.

SAMUEL

Come here my son.

DAVID

Yes sir.

Samuel takes the horn of oil  
and anointed him

SAMUEL

You, David son of Jesse, are hereby chosen by God to  
become the next king of Israel. Blessed Be you in the  
Eyes of the Lord

DAVID

I feel that the spirit so the Lord has come upon me.

SAMUEL

So be it.

JESSE

What happens to the Son of Kish.

SAMUEL

You must swear to me by God. You must not say a word  
or he will kill me.

JESSE

No one would dare kill Samuel!

SAMUEL

He is a crazed man, suffering from melancholia

JESSE

I swear to you by God.

SAMUEL

He is now replaced. With one son! Your youngest!

JESSE

Again can you not remove Saul from office?

SAMUEL

I can not because he is consecrated by God, and therefore we must wait until he dies.

JESSE

But Surely God...

SAMUEL

God has told me to consecrate a new king.

JESSE

No word will ever come from me.

SAMUEL

Tell me about him.

JESSE

He is a great fighter. A runner swifter than a Gazelle, a harpist, a poet, and was born without fear.

SAMUEL

What else?

JESSE

He was born with a want of power, lust, women, and fighter.

SAMUEL

He will make a fine King

JESSE

And his strongest attribute!

SAMUEL

Which is?

JESSE

His deep abiding faith in God. His faith is greater than that of all his brothers combined.

SAMUEL

Then, surely, he IS God's chosen

JESSE

So my son will be King!

SAMUEL

Consecrated at Noon. A new day.

SCENE 7 SAUL'S ROOM EARLY AFTERNOON.

Saul has his head buried in his hands, crying. Jonathan enters the room.

JONATHAN

Father! Why do you weep!

SAUL

I am destroyed!

JONATHAN

Father, You are king!

SAUL  
Samuel has destroyed me.

JONATHAN  
How!

SAUL  
By removing his blessing.

JONATHAN  
But you are king!

SAUL  
He wants to dismiss me.

JONATHAN  
He can not!'

SAUL  
HE CANNOT! BUT HE CAN WITHDRAW GOD'S BLESSING. AND HE HAS! And the power is gone from me.

JONATHAN  
What power!

SAUL  
The power I have had for twenty years.

JONATHAN  
You still have the power

SAUL  
No it is gone!

JONATHAN  
Gone!

SAUL  
I am abandoned by God.

JONATHAN  
This makes no sense.

SAUL  
I am depressed.

JONATHAN  
I know who can help you.

SAUL  
Who?

JONATHAN  
The son of Jesse.

SAUL  
He has 10 sons

JONATHAN  
The youngest David.

SAUL  
How can he help.

JONATHAN  
He plays the harp to sooth you.

SAUL  
Whatever works.

JONATHAN  
See now, an evil spirit from God troubles you.  
Let our lord now command your servants who are before  
you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on  
the harp. It shall happen, when the evil spirit from  
God is on you, that he shall play with his hand, and  
you shall be well."

SAUL  
Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him  
to me."

JONATHAN

Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a comely person; and the Lord is with him.

SAUL

How have you done this so quickly.

JONATHAN

I have heard from the servants that you can not sleep. I made inquires and heard that the son of Jesse plays the harp so well that he can put any one to sleep.

SAUL

If you say so.

JONATHAN

He is here.

Young David enters

SAUL

So you have arrived.

DAVID

As soon as your son called for me.

SAUL

Can you play the harp?

DAVID

Yes I can, your majesty.

SAUL

How long have you been playing?

DAVID  
Since I was in my mothers womb.

SAUL  
A bright young man

DAVID  
Shall I begin playing?

SAUL  
Begin now.

DAVID  
Yes your highness.

SAUL  
Since you have come into the room I feel that my  
power has returned.

DAVID  
Yes, Sir.

SAUL  
Are you God's gift to me?

DAVID  
I am your humble servant sir.

SAUL  
Begin playing.

DAVID  
Yes your Highness.

David sits at Harp and begins  
playing beautiful harp music

SAUL  
That is the most beautiful music I have ever heard.

DAVID  
Thank you, your Highness.

SAUL  
I am beginning to fall asleep.

DAVID  
Pray Sir.

SAUL  
You are God's gift to me.

Saul falls asleep and  
Jonathan enters the room  
while David continues to play  
the harp.

DAVID  
Sleep well, my king.

JONATHAN  
David! David!

DAVID  
Prince Jonathan

JONATHAN  
It is you who is a prince.

DAVID  
No not I Sir I am abut a shepherd boy.

JONATHAN  
Look up. My father is asleep. You have helped cure  
him. You can stop playing. He is relaxed.

DAVID  
He seems at peace now.

JONATHAN  
More than he has in months.

DAVID  
I am pleased to help.

JONATHAN

My father has never seemed so relaxed.

DAVID

Thank you.

JONATHAN

I understand you are a fighter.

DAVID

I love to fight. And wrestle with lions.

JONATHAN

We shall see. Can you sleep by his side through the night

DAVID

Yes I can.

He plays for another minute .

SCENE 8 SAUL'S PALACE WEEK LATER

Jonathan, Abner, and Saul  
stand by the window.

ENSEMBLE (O.S.)

HELP US, O LORD, TO DEFEAT GOLIATH

ABNER

The people fear. There is no way we can defeat the  
philistines now

ENSEMBLE

WE NEED HELP! WE NEED HELP! CAN SAUL SAVE US.!

ABNER

If this man is not killed, we can not. (He closes the  
window.)

JONATHAN

He has murdered thousands of our people.

SAUL

Can we find no solution!

David runs into the room.

JONATHAN

David. You have arrived so early.

DAVID

Yes Sir. I want to do it.

SAUL

Do What!

DAVID

O king, be not cast down, nor afraid, for I will depress the insolence of this adversary, and will go down and fight with him, and will bring him under me, as tall and as great as he is, till he shall be sufficiently laughed at, and thy army shall get great glory, when he shall be slain by one that is not yet of man's estate, neither fit for fighting, nor capable of being intrusted with the marshalling an army, or ordering a battle, but by one that looks like a child, and is really no elder in age than a child."

SAUL

I wonder at your boldness and alacrity. I am concerned that you have too much confidence. How old are you.

DAVID

Fourteen.

SAUL  
How old are you? The Truth?

DAVID  
I will be fourteen shortly.

SAUL  
You will be killed.

DAVID  
You think I am too weak to fight?

SAUL  
Yes. He is 8 feet tall and weigh 400 pounds.

DAVID  
I will slay him. I am skilled in the art of war.

SAUL  
You are but a shepherd.

DAVID  
I undertake this enterprise, in dependence on God's being with me, for I have had experience already of his assistance; for I once pursued after and caught a lion that assaulted my flocks, and took away a lamb from them; and I snatched the lamb out of the wild beast's mouth, and when he leaped upon me with violence, I took him by the tail, and dashed him against the ground. In the same manner did I avenge myself on a bear also; and let this adversary of ours be esteemed like one of these wild beasts, since he has a long while reproached our army, and blasphemed our God, who yet will reduce him under my power.

SAUL  
But..

DAVID  
I will save our kingdom.

SAUL

Then go thy way to the fight." Here I s this s  
breastplate, sword, and helmet to protect your  
head. .

DAVID

I am on my way and will come back with Goliath's  
head.

SCENE 9 SAUL'S PALACE TWO DAYS LATER

Saul and Jonathan wait. We  
hear the ensemble in the  
background offstage.

ENSEMBLE

Goliath is Dead. Goliath is dead. Goliath is dead.  
DAVID! DAVID! DAVID! DAVID KILLED THE EVIL GIANT!

David enters. He carries the  
head of Goliath. He is  
embraced by Saul.

SAUL

You are a great warrior!

DAVID

I do this to save our people!

SAUL

You will dine at my table this evening. I must go  
now to prepare a feast.

DAVID

But I must return to my father's house.

SAUL

You will stay with me. You have saved a nation.

DAVID

I am your loyal subject.

SAUL

You have saved a nation.

JONATHAN

You saved God's Chosen people.

SAUL

I must leave now. (Exits)

ENSEMBLE (O.S.)

SAUL! SAUL! SAUL! SAUL!

JONATHAN

I LOVE YOU, David!

DAVID

AND I LOVE YOU!

JONATHAN

My total allegiance is to you.

DAVID

But you are the king's son and heir.

JONATHAN

I pale compared to you.

DAVID

I love you too.

JONATHAN

I will give my life for you.

DAVID

Thank you.

JONATHAN

I will kneel at your feet.

DAVID

No.

JONATHAN

I give all my allegiance to you now and forever!

DAVID

But you are destined to be king.

JONATHAN

You must lead.

DAVID

I love you.

JONATHAN

I love you, too. The end as I love my own soul.

DAVID

Let us make a covenant.

JONATHAN

Now and forever.

DAVID

Our souls are united.

Jonathan throws off his  
garments, sword, and to his  
bow, and girdle to David's  
feet. And prostates himself  
to David.

JONATHAN

You must wear the royal robes. I prostate myself to  
you now and forever.

DAVID

My Jonathan, My Jonathan.

SCENE 10 SAUL'S BEDROOM TWO WEEKS LATER

Jonathan enters the room  
sits and glances at Saul  
who seems asleep.

SAUL

I have not slept at all.

JONATHAN

Sunrise is almost with us.

SAUL

I need some rest

JONATHAN

The harpist David has arrived, the son of Jesse.

SAUL

Who?

JONATHAN

David.

SAUL

He's part of the reason I can not sleep.

JONATHAN

He will relax you.

SAUL

Send him away.

JONATHAN

As you wish Father.

SAUL

No let him stay. Leave me alone with him.

JONATHAN

Yes Father.

David enters

JONATHAN

Please help my father. He must sleep

DAVID

Leave me alone with him.

Jonathan exits. David  
begins playing his harp.

SAUL  
Stop!

DAVID  
Yes, your highness.

SAUL  
I do not want to sleep.

DAVID  
As you wish.

SAUL  
They say you are a strong man.

DAVID  
I am big like my father.

SAUL  
So now you are an arm bearer.

DAVID  
Yes, your highness.

SAUL  
I have heard some rumors.

DAVID  
Yes , sir

SAUL  
So you are the next king?

DAVID  
Oh, Sir.

SAUL  
Have you been anointed by Samuel?

DAVID  
Why do you ask?

SAUL  
Answer my question.

DAVID  
Yes, Sir.

SAUL  
Have you been anointed by Samuel.

DAVID  
Anointed to what, Sir?

SAUL  
To be the next king.

DAVID  
Why do you ask this question?

SAUL  
Have you been anointed by Samuel?

DAVID  
No your highness.

SAUL  
Do you swear by it?

DAVID  
I do.

SAUL  
About the rumors?

DAVID  
You must ask the Prophet Samuel, Your Highness.. I  
am but a shepherd boy.

SAUL  
Swear by it.

DAVID

I can not swear. May I play my harp so that his Majesty can sleep?

SAUL

You may.

DAVID

Yes your Majesty.

David begins playing the most beautiful harp music.

SAUL

These are sounds from heaven.

DAVID

Sleep your highness.

He continues playing for a minute and Saul falls asleep.

SCENE 11 SAME ROOM THE NEXT DAY

Abner walks into the room.  
Saul is seated

ABNER

MY KING!

SAUL

What is so urgent!

ABNER

Your kingdom.

SAUL  
Why!

ABNER  
The son of Jesse!

SAUL  
He has cured me of my insomnia.

ABNER  
Before he kills you!

SAUL  
What!

ABNER  
You heard me! My allegiance to you is total, my cousin.

SAUL  
He has saved my life, and he has saved the nation.

ABNER  
No doubt!

SAUL  
Then why will he kill me?

ABNER  
Because he will be the next King of Israel.

SAUL  
What!

ABNER  
No, that is wrong. He IS the king of Israel

SAUL  
I AM THE KING OF ISRAEL

ABNER  
What say you, Cousin?

SAUL  
I am the King of Israel! You commit treason.

ABNER  
You are wrong. We now have two kings of Israel

SAUL  
What!

ABNER  
David is also a king!

SAUL  
By whose crowning

ABNER  
Samuel did it

SAUL  
David denied it.

ABNER  
He did?

SAUL  
Why has no one told me!

ABNER  
Fear. I am your kinsman!

SAUL  
And lead general!

ABNER  
Therefore I MUST tell you!

SAUL  
What do I do?

ABNER  
Kill him!

SAUL  
KILL HIM?

ABNER

The nation can not have two kings!

SAUL

But he is the most popular man in the land!

ABNER

Right. Therefore you must control yourself and find a way for him to be killed.

SAUL

How?

ABNER

You know how to do it.

SAUL

I will offer him my daughter in marriage.

ABNER

Now you're thinking!

SAUL

Not so fast.

ABNER

Of course not.

SAUL

But first he must bring me the heads of fifty Philistines.

ABNER

Excellent thinking. Surely he will be killed in the process!

SAUL

Now we are both thinking!

ABNER

But remember do not kill him yourself. He is too popular with the people. And keep your patience.

David enters the room

DAVID

You called for me.

SAUL

What can I do without you, my son David.

DAVID

I am so honored that you would call me your son. I thank of you as another father.

SAUL

As are Jonathan, Abinadab, Melchishua,  
ishbosheth. Armoni, Mephibosheth And my Daughters  
Merab, Michal.,

DAVID

God has bestowed your blessing upon me.

SAUL

And now I would want to offer my daughters in  
marriage to you.

DAVID

They are the two most beautiful women in the land.

SAUL

Which do you prefer Merob the older or Michal the  
younger?

DAVID

Both Women are beautiful, but I will choose the elder  
daughter, Merob.

SAUL

She will be yours.

DAVID

Oh thank you. Jonathan is already my brother. We have made vows to one another. I have nine blood brothers, but only Jonathan I truly love.

SAUL

Welcome to the family, my son.

DAVID

I must go now. How much time do I have to bring you 100 Philistine heads?

SAUL

A month.

DAVID

I shall be back in a week or less.

SAUL

Your bride awaits you!

ACT 2

SCENE 1 THREE DAYS LATER SAUL'S BEDROOM

Saul has his head buried in  
his hands

SAUL

O let this pain leave me O Lord! Why have you  
abandoned me!

Abner runs into the room

ABNER

My Kinsman! What have you done?

SAUL

What do you mean!

ABNER

Have you not heard the news!

SAUL

What news?

We hear horses drawing a  
wagon.

ABNER

What you hear outside.

Saul opens the window, .

ENSEMBLE

DAVID! DAVID! DAVID!

ABNER

You hear them!

SAUL

I have heard them before.

ABNER

Not like this time!

DAVID

(Shouting) I have a surprise for you, Your Highness.

SAUL

What surprise, my son.

DAVID

Skulls. TWO HUNDRED of them.

SAUL

Leave them outside and come in, my son-in law to be.

DAVID

Coming!

ABNER

What! You are welcoming him into the family. The man who will overthrow you.

SAUL

I'm not finished with him yet. Trust me.

David walks in. Carrying two skulls

DAVID

Your Majesty, and General Abner. Here are two hundred skulls, I have 198 more in my cart.

SAUL

In only 6 days!

DAVID

Several got away from me.

ABNER

How did you do it?

DAVID

I hav God by my side.

ABNER

You are a remarkable young man.

DAVID

Only when God is my side.

SAUL

Your bride awaits. My Son-in-law to be.

DAVID

I am unworthy.

SAUL

Nonsense!

DAVID

I am but shepherder.

SAUL

You will get what I promised.

DAVID

I will be a worthy son to you.

SAUL

Welcome to our house. Now I shall bring your bride.

DAVID

So Merob is mine!

SAUL

Merob!

DAVID

Yes, your majesty.

SAUL

You are mistaken. I never promised you Merob.

What.  
DAVID

SAUL  
You are mistaken. Instead Michal is your wife.

DAVID  
But you...

SAUL  
Michal is your wife to be. I hope you are grateful

DAVID  
I am!

SAUL  
My precious son-in-law.

Suddenly Michal appears.

MICHAL  
My father.

ABNER  
Princess Michal.

MICHAL  
I await my husband.

SAUL  
Let us open the window . You can both wave to the  
ensemble.

Opens the window

ENSEMBLE  
DAVID! DAVID! DAVID! FUTURE KING! FUTURE KING!

MICHAL  
MY HUSBAND!

DAVID! DAVID!  
ENSEMBLE

My husband!  
MICHAL

DAVID! SON OF SAUL!  
ENSEMBLE

I am so proud.  
MICHAL

MICHAL! MICHAL! MICHAEL! DAVID! DAVID! DAVID!  
ENSEMBLE

And I am so proud.  
SAUL

Saul and Abner look at one  
another with hatred in their  
eyes.

SCENE 2 SAUL AND JONATHAN SHORTLY AFTERWARD

Saul lays in his bed.  
Jonathan stands beside him

Let me sleep , oh Lord  
SAUL

Perhaps music would let you fall asleep  
JONATHAN

I am in misery.  
SAUL

You are the King, Father.  
JONATHAN

Yet abandoned by both God and Samuel his seer.  
SAUL

JONATHAN  
 Father, you have a nation that adores you

SAUL  
 And declining.

JONATHAN  
 What

SAUL  
 They love this David

JONATHAN  
 I do too.

SAUL  
 They want him to be the next king.

JONATHAN  
 I do too

SAUL  
 What!

JONATHAN  
 He MUST be the next king

SAUL  
 And you?

JONATHAN  
 I will be obedient to him.

SAUL  
 What?

JONATHAN  
 He will be the next king!

SAUL  
 And my first born son Jonathan!

JONATHAN  
 I shall serve him.

SAUL

What. Have you gone mad!

JONATHAN

No. He is designated to be our next king.

SAUL

And my first born son!

JONATHAN

I will be his chief follower. I think of the our nation, Not myself. Until you die I will follow you. In fact I will die with you if necessary

SAUL

Get away from me! You have already killed me!

JONATHAN

No father.

SAUL

You give up your birth right!

JONATHAN

Yes! To God's chosen!

SAUL

I will kill you.

Saul takes out his sword and brings it to Jonathan's nick.

JONATHAN

I will gladly give up my life for my father, my God, and my Country.

SAUL

And for the usurper?

JONATHAN

You mean your adopted Son David, your new Son-in- Law David, and my brother David!

SAUL

I have heard abut your perverted love for him!

JONATHAN

Not perverted.

Michal enters

MICHAL

My husband is your son. He is Jonathan's brother. And he loves you Father.

SAUL

Now even my daughter is against me.

MICHAL

Father, I would give my life for you.

SAUL

You do not see that your husband is a traitor and will be the destruction of the House of Kish. The house of Benjamin. Our family!

MICHAL

He loves you.

SAUL

Begone!

MICHAL

Father!

SAUL

Begone. I HAVE BEEN BETRAYED.

MICHAL

BUT

GO!  
SAUL

They rush out! Saul buries  
his face in his hands.

SAUL  
Have pity on me, O God.

He opens the window.

ENSEMBLE  
DAVID! DAVID! DAVID! DAVID! DAVID!

SCENE 3 MICHAL AND DAVID'S BEDROOM A WEEK LATER

David appears on stage

ENSEMBLE  
David! David! David!

JONATHAN  
The entire nation loves you.

DAVID  
It is your support I count on.

MICHAL  
My husband! My husband!

JONATHAN  
I love you both

MICHAL  
And we love you

DAVID  
Now and forever

JONATHAN  
Now and forever.

DAVID  
Your father tried to kill me.

JONATHAN  
We will protect you

Knock on door

SAUL  
Open this door I know he is in there!

MICHAL  
(Whispering )  
David, get into bed . I will hide you under the  
cover.

JONATHAN  
And I?

MICHAL  
Escape through the back

SAUL (O.S.)  
Open this door, daughter

MICHAL  
I am sleeping

David hides under the sheet.  
Jonathan flees.

SAUL  
I am coming in.

MICHAL  
Wait!

SAUL  
Why

MICHAL  
I am naked and need to get into my gown on.

David quickly slips into her bed and Michal unlocks door.  
Saul enters.

SAUL

Where is your husband?

MICHAL

I do not know. I have not heard from him in days.

SAUL

He was seen in the vicinity.

MICHAL

He has not stopped here.

SAUL

My soldiers saw him come in.

MICHAL

Check all around.

SAUL

I believe you.

MICHAL

What has he done?

SAUL

He has collaborated with the Philistines.

MICHAL

But he killed 200 of them to get me.

SAUL

This man is totally untrustworthy.

MICHAL

Why would he collaborate with the Philistines.

SAUL

After killing them he is so shrewd

Jonathan knocks on door

JONATHAN

It is I, your brother

SAUL

Come in.

JONATHAN

Father what are you doing here.

SAUL

Looking for David.

JONATHAN

Why?

SAUL

He is a traitor!

JONATHAN

Father!

SAUL

You love him more than me.

JONATHAN

Father I love you!

SAUL

Word has that you postrated yourself before him!

JONATHAN

Yes I have.

SAUL

Have you no shame!

JONATHAN

What shame!

SAUL

You are to be king, and yet you hand it to him. This is outrageous!

JONATHAN

But he is destined to be king!

SAUL

Says who?

JONATHAN

It is written in the air.

SAUL

So your are giving up your birthright!

JONATHAN

But father.....

SAUL

My own blood and heir saying this!

JONATHAN

We must accept the inevitable!

SAUL

I will kill that man!

JONATHAN

Why

SAUL

He is attempting to overthrow me.

JONATHAN

Father let us go out to discuss this.

SAUL

We will find him first.

JONATHAN

Let us go.

Saul and Jonathan exit

MICHAL

Hurry you must flee.

DAVID

I will love you forever.

MICHAL

And ever.

SCENE 4 SAUL'S PALACE SIX MONTHS LATER

Saul looks out the window.  
Abner enters.

ABNER

My uncle.

SAUL

Any luck?

ABNER

He is elusive.

SAUL

I have gone after him myself.

ABNER

But I did kill his cousin ---the brother of Joab in self defense. He and his two older brothers were following me and attempting to do kill me. I killed the younger young, and my two arm bearers sent the other two in flight, each claiming they would get their revenge someday.

SAUL

What bravery on your part!

ABNER

Done in self defense!

SAUL

But now it is David that we must get We must capture his parents hold them as ransom. And then he will have to claim them. And our men will be there to capture him.

ABNER

Unfortunately we cannot do that.

SAUL

Why not?

ABNER

Because his parents are being protected.

SAUL

Our men can find them.

ABNER

By the Philistines!

SAUL

The Philistines!

ABNER

Yes!

SAUL

He killed 200 of them several months ago!

ABNER

The boy has political genius. He guessed that you would go after his parents. And he was able to convince the Philistines that you were their enemy and not he. And made a deal with them

SAUL

The man is possessed by the devil!

ABNER

Or whatever. He's outguessed us and outmaneuvered.

SAUL

And I the same to the philistines. And now I must inform my daughter of what she must do, what you and discussed.

ABNER

I am sure she will understand . But now I must inform you of something that may make your job easier.

SAUL

Yes

ABNER

The young hero has not one wife, but three!

SAUL

At sixteen!

ABNER

Being an athlete , soldier, strongman, poet, musician and politician are not his only strengths. He has married two women Abigail the rich widow of Nabal and Ahinoam !

SAUL

Wait till she hers this!

He exits. Michal enters.

SAUL

My daughter

MICHAL

Yes father.

SAUL

What does my daughter do today.

MICHAL

I am in distress.

SAUL

Why?

MICHAL

Because You want to kildier my husband, your son, and Jonathan's brother.

SAUL

You needn't worry any more.

MICHAL

Ohm my beloved father you have stopped your craziness.

SAUL

Now you say I am crazy!

MICHAL

No, Father, I love you

SAUL

Perhaps there is too much love

MICHAL

What!

SAUL

It is time for you to make a change.

MICHAL

Meaning?

SAUL

You should not be married to that traitor.

MICHAL.

David! He's my husband!

SAUL

Why!

MICHAL

Father, you don't sound right!

SAUL

I have a gift for you.

MICHAL

A husband.

SAUL  
You do not have one.

MICHAL  
What. We have bedded for two years.

SAUL  
Adultery.

MICHAL  
God help me!

SAUL  
I have a husband for you.

MICHAL  
I will not accept him.

SAUL  
You will obey your father.

MICHAL  
Father...

SAUL  
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.

MICHAL  
Please...

SAUL  
His name is Palti and he will make a fine husband.

MICHAL  
No! Father! No!

SAUL  
You will be rid of that evil man!

MICHAL  
Father!

SAUL  
And Palti will be your husband. Palti son of Layish!

MICHAL  
Father, Please. No

SAUL  
But now I must report something even sadder to you.

MICHAL  
Nothing could be worse than what you have already  
told me.

SAUL  
The man you love now has three wives.

MICHAL  
What

SAUL  
Three wives. Abigail and Ahinoam

MICHAL  
What

SAUL  
And they are both with child.

MICHAL  
No father, say it is not true.

SAUL  
Also Abigail is the widow of Nabal, a very wealthy  
woman.

MICHAL  
I hate that man

SAUL  
My daughter

MICHAL  
My father.

## SCENE 5 THE CAMP OF AHIMELECH A MONTH LATER

Ahimelech the prophet is  
conducting services. David  
enters.

DAVID

Ahimelech! The high priest of Nob.

Ahimelech trembles

AHIMELICH

David? Is there no one with you

DAVID

I am alone.

AHIMELICH

Why?

DAVID

Give me five loaves, or whatever you can find.

AHIMELICH

I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if  
the men have abstained from women, you may eat some  
of that

DAVID

May you someday be our leader. I have one more  
request. I do not have a sword.

AHIMELICH

The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed  
in the Valley of Elah, is here wrapped in a garment  
behind an ephod. If you wish to take it, do so;  
there is no sword here except that one. If you wish  
to take it, do so; there is no sword here except that  
one

DAVID

There is none like it, Give it to me!

AHIMELICH

Go and eat the bread.

DAVID

I will remember your forever.

AHIMELICH

You must save our people

DAVID

With you by my side.

SCENE 6 SAUL'S PALACE SHORTLY AFTERWARD

King Saul is seated at this throne. Ahimelech enters and bows.

SAUL

Listen, son of Ahitub.

AHIMELICH

Yes, your Highness. I am at your service.

SAUL

You are a traitor!

AHIMELICH

I!

SAUL

Why have you conspired against me with the son of Jesse by giving him food and a sword and by consulting God for him, that he might rise up against me in ambush, as is the case today.

AHIMELICH

Who among all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard, and honored in your own house. Is this the first time I have consulted God for him? No indeed! Let not the king accuse his servant or anyone in my family of such a thing. Your servant knows nothing at all, great or small, about the whole matter.

SAUL

You shall certainly die, Ahimelech, with all your family.

AHIMELICH

My Lord.

SAUL

You shall all die. You, turn and kill the priests!" And all the people of Nob to the sword, including men and women, children and infants, and oxen, donkeys and sheep.

AHIMELICH

My Lord!

SAUL

AWAY. All of you shall die. Now leave.

AHIMELICH

I beg mercy.

SAUL

You have committed treason.

AHIMELICH

I did a young hero a favor.

SAUL

He is no hero.

AHIMELICH

And now you sentence me and my whole family to death.

SAUL

You have committed treason and destroy our nation.

AHIMELICH

He IS one of our people.

SAUL

Further treason.

AHIMELICH

Is he not God's Chosen?

SAUL

I am God's chosen.

AHIMELICH

Now that my life is to be taken, I ask you, Can there be two Kings--both God's chosen.

SAUL

That young man is not a King. I was anointed by Samuel.

AHIMELICH

So was he.

SAUL

Falsely!

AHIMELICH

Samuel wants nothing to do with you.

SAUL

Let him be cursed.

AHIMELICH

You will destroy yourself and the nation!

SAUL

You will die

AHIMELICH

So will you!

SAUL

Guards. Round upon his whole family. Women men and children. They are all to be slain

AHIMELICH

We I will go down for my God and Country.

SAUL

You are a traitor at best. I shall kill that imposter myself.

SCENE 7 THE FOREST MONTHS LATER

Saul is sleeping. David enters with his sword. He observes Saul then gets closer.

DAVID

Saul, my King, you are now in my hands.

He comes even close to Saul.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I can not kill you. You are the king.

David moves closer and cuts  
off the end of Saul's robe.  
Ahimiehlch enters.

AHIMELICH

Why did you only cut off his robe.

DAVID

Because he is king!

AHIMELICH

He is a murderer

DAVID

He is still the king. Selected by God

AHIMELICH

My father showed allegiance to you. And this is how  
you reward.

DAVID

I do not have the right to kill God's Chosen.

AHIMELICH

The whole country knows he has lost favor with God.

DAVID

Therefore God must be the one to remove him.

AHIMELICH

I hear that you too were both selected by God.

DAVID

At different times.

AHIMELICH

Please let me kill him for you.

DAVID

If you do I will have to kill you. He is the king!

AHIMELICH

Why

DAVID

The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to lay a hand on him, for he is the LORD's anointed.

AHIMELICH

But he will kill you.

DAVID

God is by my side. I will live.

AHIMELICH

You are a brave man.

DAVID

Don't you see why I can not kill him!

AHIMELICH

No!

DAVID

What do you hear when you walk through the streets of RAMALAH!

AHIMELICH

DAVID! DAVID! DAVID!

DAVID

Do you ever hear calls for Saul?

AHIMELICH

Rarely.

DAVID

Where I to kill him there would be immediate martyrdom. He would be a martyr and I would not be king.

AHIMELICH

But if he kills you?

DAVID

He won't

AHIMELICH

Why

DAVID

Because God is by my side. I even wrote a poem that strengthens me. Hear it.

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall lack nothing.  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me  
 beside still waters.  
 He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of  
 righteousness for his name's sake.  
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow  
 of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.  
 Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
 enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs  
 over.  
 Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me  
 all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the  
 Lord's house forever.

AHIMELICH

I will pray for you.

DAVID

You and your descendents will always be with me. You will be my priests. Now leave before he awakens. Now watch this.

He cuts Saul's coat and holds it.

AHIMELICH

You are a brave man indeed.

DAVID

Now go. Before he awakens.

AHIMELICH

My Lord and king. (Exits)

Suddenly Saul awakens terrified when he sees david

SAUL

Are you going to kill me.

DAVID

Saul, Saul, My Lord and King.

SAUL

What do you want! You can kill me.

DAVID

I prostrate myself before you.

SAUL

You humiliated me.

DAVID

I did not kill you.

SAUL

You could have....

DAVID

Killed you

SAUL

And you did not.

DAVID

You are my king.

SAUL

But you are trying to overthrow me

DAVID

How can you say that. I just could have.

SAUL

And I did not kill you.

DAVID

WE are both chosen by God

SAUL

But only one can be king.

DAVID

While you are king I am your servant.

SAUL

Let us be lifetime friends

DAVID

Why do you listen to those who say, 'David is trying to harm you'? You see for yourself today that the LORD just now delivered you into my hand in the cave. I was told to kill you, but I took pity on you instead. I decided, 'I will not raise a hand against my master, for he is the LORD's anointed

SAUL

Because I think you are trying to kill me.

DAVID

Look here, my father. See the end of your robe which I hold. I cut off an end of your robe and did not kill you. Now see and be convinced that I plan no harm and no rebellion. I have done you no wrong, though you are hunting me down to take my life.

May the LORD judge between me and you. May the LORD exact justice from you in my case.

SAUL

I do not trust you.

DAVID

I shall not lay a hand on you. As the old proverb says, 'From the wicked comes wickedness.' Thus I will not lay a hand on you. What is the king of Israel attacking? What are you pursuing? A dead dog! A single flea! The LORD will be the judge to decide between us. May the LORD see this, defend my cause, and give me justice against you!"

SAUL

(Begins weeping)

You are more in the right than I am. You have treated me graciously, while I have treated you badly.

DAVID

Thank you , My King

SAUL

You have declared this day how you treated me graciously: the LORD delivered me into your hand and you did not kill me.

DAVID

I could not kill you.

SAUL

For if someone comes upon an enemy, do they send them graciously on their way? So may the LORD reward you graciously for what you have done this day.

DAVID

I will always serve my king.

SAUL

And now, since I know that you will certainly become king and that the kingship over Israel shall come into your possession,.

DAVID

Only if God Wills it.

SAUL

Swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants and that you will not blot out my name from my father's house.

He begins weeping bitterly

DAVID

So help me God. I will never destroy your descendents.

David exits. Saul looks into the distance and speaks out loud to God.

SAUL

I fear this man. I trust him not. Where can I turn. Even my children turn against me. (He puts his face down.

Saul appears with his sword.

ENSEMBLE

David is our Saviour! David is our Savior "Saul has slain his thousands, David his tens of thousands."

SCENE 8    ENDOR    WEEKS LATER

We hear VOICES OFFSTAGE.

ENSEMBLE

SAMUEL! SAMUEL! SAMUEL!

DAVID

SAMUEL IS DEAD!

ENSEMBLE

SAMUEL IS DEAD! SAMUEL IS DEAD! SAMUEL IS DEAD!

DAVID

THE SEER! THE JUDGE!

ENSEMBLE

SAMUEL! SAMUEL! SAMUEL

Saul arrives with two men in  
disguise. The Witches of  
Endor are seated.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Can we help you.

SAUL

I need your help.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

We can not help!

SAUL

Why?

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Because we know who you are.

SAUL

And?

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. Why then do you lay a snare for our lives, to cause us to die.

SAUL

You have pulled my guise. I assure you I will do you no harm.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

How can we be sure?

SAUL

I swear to you by the Lord, As the Lord lives, there shall no punishment happen to you for this thing.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

We will trust you. What do you want?

SAUL

Bring me someone.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Who?

SAUL

Samuel.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

Wait a moment.

Suddenly the ground begins to rumble. The witches begin to scream.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Whom shall I bring him up to you?"

SAUL

"Bring Samuel up for me."

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

We see a god coming up out of the earth."

SAUL

What does he look like?"

An old man comes up. He is covered with a robe."

SAUL

It is Samuel

The Ghost of Samuel appears. Samuel bows with his face to the ground.

SAUL

Samuel! Samuel! Samuel!

SAMUEL

"Why have you disturbed me, to bring me up?"

SAUL

I am very distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me, and answers me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams.

SAMUEL

Why then do you ask of me, since the Lord has departed from you and has become your adversary?

SAUL

Have pity!

SAMUEL

The Lord has done to you as he spoke by me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand, and given it to your neighbor, even to David.

SAUL

Help me!

SAMUEL

Because you didn't obey the voice of the Lord, and didn't execute his fierce wrath on Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day.

SAUL

Pity!

SAMUEL

Moreover the Lord will deliver Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will deliver the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.

SAUL

Please Samuel

SAMUEL

Do not ever disturb my sleep again

Samuel disappears.

SAUL

My God! ;My God! Why have you forsaken me! Shall I die.

We hear thunder and  
lightening in the background.

SCENE 9 THE FOREST MONTHS LATER

.

We hear shouting in the  
background.

ENSEMBLE  
THE PHILISTINES! THE PHILISTINES! THE PHILISTINES!

JONATHAN  
FATHER, I will fight on to my last breath!

SAUL  
And I beside you my son!

JONATHAN  
We must fight to the end.

ENSEMBLE  
THE PHILISTINES ARE VICTORS! VICTORS!

JONATHAN  
I LOVE YOU FATHER.

SAUL  
And you my son. How is your wound.

JONATHAN  
I am going to die.

SAUL  
You will not die!

JONATHAN  
Where are my brothers?

SAUL  
Fighting to the end.

JONATHAN  
All brave to the end. Father I die

SAUL  
My son, my son.

Jonathan dies. Abner enters.

SAUL

What news do you have to report.

ABNER

The Philistines killed Abinadab, and Malchishua!

SAUL

My God, my God, Why have you Forsaken me. My sons,  
all.

ABNER

Yes, my King.

SAUL

Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest  
these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and  
abuse me!

ABNER

I will not do it.

SAUL

That is a command!

ABNER

I must disobey .

SAUL

You have also betrayed me. Have you already given  
your oath to David.

ABNER

I have, but..

SAUL

Begone!

ABNER

But

SAUL

Begone!

Abner quickly leaves. Saul  
takes the sword and pierces  
himself.

SAUL (CONT'D)

I die for my country and my God who has abandoned me.

He falls to the ground. We  
hear music in the background.  
David arrives.

DAVID

Alas! The glory of Israel,  
Slain upon your heights

ENSEMBLE

!How can the warriors have fallen!

DAVID

Do not report it in Gath,  
as good news in Ashkelon's streets,  
Lest Philistine women rejoice,  
lest the women of the uncircumcised exult  
mountains of Gilboa,

ENSEMBLE

Upon you be neither dew nor rain,  
nor surging from the deeps!

DAVID

Defiled there the warriors' shields, the shield of  
Saul-no longer anointed with oil!

## ENSEMBLE

From the blood of the slain,  
 From the bodies of the warriors,  
 The bow of Jonathan did not turn back,  
 Nor the sword of Saul return unstained.\* i

## DAVID

Saul and Jonathan, beloved and dear,  
 separated neither in life nor death,  
 swifter than eagles, stronger than lions!  
 Women of Israel, weep over Saul,  
 who clothed you in scarlet and in finery,  
 covered your clothing with ornaments of gold.

## ENSEMBLE

How can the warriors have fallen  
 in the thick of battle!

## DAVID

Jonathan—slain upon your heights!  
 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother!  
 Most dear have you been to me;  
 More wondrous your love to me  
 than the love of women.

## ENSEMBLE

How can the warriors have fallen,  
 The weapons of war have perished.

## DAVID

Oh God! Oh God! Forsake me not.

## ENSEMBLE

NOW WE BURY SAUL WITH HONOR!

## DAVID

WITH HONOR! WITH HONOR!

## ENSEMBLE

DAVID! DAVID! DAVID!

DAVID

MAY I SERVE GOD ALWAYS!

ENSEMBLE

DAVID THE KING! DAVID THE KING! DAVID THE KING!

We hear loud majestic music  
in the background.

FINAL SCENE 10 EPILOGUE

The three witches of endor  
face the audience.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

The world we live in, then and now is not a world of justice. Either in your world or mine. Saul was treated badly by God So you have scene the tale of blood. Oh yes this is the sacred land. Much more blood has been shed as anywhere in the world

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Jonathan and Saul both die. But Saul's other sons live on. But not for long. David becomes king. But guess what . Saul's Surviving sons put a claim on the throne and in the ensuing war are all killed. All this love David expressed for Jonathan. All of his sons were also slaughtered.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

But Jonathan's Son Mephibosheth escaped with his nurse and she dropped him. He was a cripple for life, and King David took car of him and his whole family. It was a good show of grace.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

About Michal. The one King Saul gave to Palti. David captured he and took her away from her husband in tears. He reclaims her. She left her husband in tears. She was imprisoned essentially.

She even laughed at him as he was naked following his complete victory over the philistines and recaptured the Ark..

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

This David went onto become the greatest monarch in history. But he was corrupt.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

He wrote the greatest poetry in the history of mankind, he compose beautiful music he governed well, he was the great est soldier in history, He married eight times But his favorite was the woman with whom he committed adultery, and had her husband killed.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

But Gods revenge came. In blood. His own son turned against him beginning a civil war. Two sons were killed. And later in life he faced the worlds worst draught as punishment for his sins.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

But he had one thing for him his faith in God Never equaled. His son Solomon, chosen forcefully became the most powerful in the area.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

Built the temple. But the day he died the kingdom was torn in half.

FIRST WITCH OF ENDOR

And form then on things got worse. Within two hundred years the kingdoms both of them fell apart.

SECOND WITCH OF ENDOR

This is the sacred land. Its history was written in blood. And that history continues to be written today. In Blood.

END OF PLAY