

FIVE STONES

Based on a true historical story
&
Collaborated from several religious sources

BLACK SCREEN.

Scribbling. A rocking chair creaks.

KING DAVID (V.O.)
They will proclaim his
righteousness to a people yet
unborn - for he has done it.

FADE TO:

INT. KING DAVID'S STUDY -- DAY

KING DAVID, the most exalted of all Jewish kings, sits
in a rocking chair. He dictates to his attending
ASSISTANT.

ASSISTANT
My lord?

KING DAVID
That's all. See the director,
and have him set it to a tune.

ASSISTANT
(as he writes)
Psalm of David, number twenty-
two. If I may...

King David nods his attention.

ASSISTANT (CONT'D)
I believe the "The Doe in the
Morning" would fit this quite
nicely.

KING DAVID
Tell the director I gave that my
approval.

ASSISTANT
Yes, my lord! Ready to continue?

KING DAVID
Yes, yes.

The assistant flips the page. At the top corner, he writes "Psalm 23."

ASSISTANT
Ready.

KING DAVID
The Lord is *my* shepherd. I shall not want. He *guides* me in paths of *righteousness* for his... for his name's sake. And even though I climb...

Pause.

KING DAVID (CONT'D)
... even though I climb... I run

The assistant scratches each changing word.

KING DAVID (CONT'D)
... and even though I journey...

The assistant stops.

ASSISTANT
(frustrated)
Sire?

KING DAVID
I'm sorry. I'm *just* - I'm just trying to *remember*.

ASSISTANT
Remember, my king?

CLOSE-ON King David.

KING DAVID
Remember that day.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

DAVID, a teenage boy, stands above a deep valley.
Storm clouds gather above.

GOLIATH (O.S.)
Choose your man, Israel! If he can
kill me, all of Philistia is
yours. Send me a man and this ends
today!

David walks to the thunderous voice.

BACK TO:

INT. KING DAVID'S STUDY -- DAY

King David stands at the windowsill. Outside, KIDS
play.

GIRL (O.S.)
Stop it, Solomon. You're not being
fair. Give me half!

KING DAVID
No. I guess it started long
before that day. Years before,
I suppose.

ASSISTANT
Before?

King David remains at the window, attention to an
unseen image of a time long forgotten.

KING DAVID
Before Elah. Before Goliath.
Before it all.

Kids laugh (O.S.).

FADE TO:

EXT. GATH MILITARY ENCAMPMENT -- NIGHT

Military tents as far as the eye can see. Fires burn.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: MILITARY OUTSKIRT TO THE CITY-STATE
OF GATH, PHILISTIA - THIRTY YEARS BEFORE ELAH.

INT. TENT, GATH MILITARY ENCAMPMENT -- NIGHT

A woman's cry penetrates the air. ORPAH, a young
Philistine woman lies in bed. At the entrance, a burly
warrior dirty of war, RAPHA, watches while a
MAIDSERVANT busily tends to his wife.

MAIDSERVANT
There, there...

She wipes sweat from Orpah's forehead.

MAIDSERVANT (CONT'D)
... *deep* breaths.

Orpah bites her lip with each contraction.

MAIDSERVANT (CONT'D)
You're crowning!

RAPHA
Hurry.

MAIDSERVANT
I see a head...

The Maidservant's eyes grow with each breath.

MAIDSERVANT (CONT'D)
... keep... pushing!

Orpah cries out. Pushing and clawing. Screaming. The
Maidservant gazes at the birthed creature before her.

Rapha removes his helmet.

RAPHA
(disbelief)
My god... another one.

The infant's head is enormous. The maidservant checks

Orpah, now silent and lifeless.

Dead.

FADE TO:

BLACK.

MAIDSERVANT (V.O.)
Sir... she's... she's dead.

FADE IN:

EXT. RAMAH ASSEMBLY ROOM -- NIGHT

A towering, castle-like structure in the center of a modest city.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: RAMAH, ISRAEL - TWENTY YEARS BEFORE ELAH.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE RAMAH ASSEMBLY ROOM -- NIGHT

White marble walls high and wide. ELDERS of Israel, with tunics of differing colors, dart towards the outer door of the Ramah Assembly Room.

INT. RAMAH ASSEMBLY ROOM -- NIGHT

SAMUEL, one of the all-important Judges of Israel, stands in the center. Samuel is a man who's seen years of peace and war.

On the outskirts of this mob stands SAUL, a young farmer from the small village of Gibeah.

Samuel keeps himself erect with a walking stick. Arguably the most important elder of Israel, Samuel's faith and honor have commanded respect from the twelve tribes of Israel.

SAMUEL
(addressing assembly)
A king you want but at what cost?
At what cost to Israel?

ELDER ONE
Your sons will fail us-

Another leapfrogs this sentiment.

ELDER TWO
-And your years are long, Samuel.

ELDER THREE (O.S.)
All nations have a king but
Israel.

SAMUEL
A king that reigns over you is
accountable to none-

ELDER ONE
-He is accountable to *Yeshua*. We
do not look to worship this king,
but to be protected. The Judges
have failed us!

Samuel re-positions himself on his stick. The elders
nod in unison at the first elder's proclamation.

SAMUEL
This king you seek will take the
best of what you have. He will arm
your sons and work your daughters.
Your fields, *his*. Your esteemed
ripe for his taking and given to
those who serve him directly. It's
one king you seek, but what you'll
have are hundreds.

ELDER TWO
Foolishness. *Foolishness*. We
deserve a king like every nation
else.

ELDER THREE
All those in favor, say aye.

A collection of "ayes" ring out.

ELDER ONE

We want a king over us, Samuel.
Make it so.

SAMUEL

(exasperated)

Very well. A king you want, a king
you shall have. I will return in a
fortnight.

LATER:

EXT. ENTRANCE, RAMAH ASSEMBLY -- NIGHT

Saul sits and waits. Throws a few stones. From the
entrance, Samuel emerges and hurriedly strides. Saul
stops his throwing and runs to join Samuel.

SAUL

Sir?

Samuel ignores him.

SAUL (CONT'D)

... Sir?

SAMUEL

(annoyed)

What, boy?

SAUL

You don't know me, but-

SAMUEL

-I do know you. Father's Kish
from the tribe of Benjamin.

SAUL

How did you know that?

Samuel keeps walking.

SAUL
Is it true what you said in there?

SAMUEL
Yes.

SAUL
But a king could unite all twelve
tribes.

Samuel stops and looks directly at Saul.

SAMUEL
The tribes didn't reject me in
(MORE)

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
there. They rejected the Lord.
Twelve... twenty... fifty separate
tribes can still be unified by the
King of kings. To demand a king is
to reject *the* King.

Saul contemplates. Samuel continues walking. Saul
eventually accelerates to catch him.

SAUL (O.S.)
(trailing)
Wait... how are you going to find
a king of Israel?

SAMUEL
He's *already* found.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST, GATH -- DAY

YOUNG GOLIATH stands alone in the middle of a dense
forest. Even at a young age, he's huge. His eyes scan
the terrain looking for signs of danger.

BROTHER ONE (O.S.)
We'll get you, Goliath!

Young Goliath looks in the direction of the voice.

BROTHER TWO (O.S.)
Keep running!

He runs to the nearest tree. Climbs. His FOUR large BROTHERS, as big as men, circle below.

BROTHER THREE
Where is he?

BROTHER FOUR
He's here.

MOMENTS LATER:

EXT. TOP OF TREE, FOREST -- DAY

Young Goliath watches from his perch. Below, his brothers look around. Seconds pass. Young Goliath jumps from his perch and lands in the middle of the pack.

BACK TO:

EXT. FOREST, GATH -- DAY

The other four, startled, with one brother falling over, jump on Young Goliath and pummel him.

On the ground, a bloodied Young Goliath smiles devilishly.

RAPHA (O.S.)
Nephilim!

The brothers stop. Goliath squirms.

RAPHA (O.S.)
Boys!

BROTHER ONE
Here, father!

Rapha walks through the brush. Assesses the situation.

RAPHA

Well... don't let me stop you.

With paternal approval, the brothers jump on Young Goliath yet again.

CUT TO:

INT. RAPHA'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

A bruised Young Goliath sits at the table, eating. A fire crackles behind. Rapha joins him at the table.

RAPHA

You will be sent to Philistine training soon.

YOUNG GOLIATH

I know.

RAPHA

You'll be Gath's *greatest* warrior. Mightiest of the Nephilim.

Rapha puts his arm around Young Goliath's shoulders.

INT. HALLWAY, RAPHA'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

One of the brothers eavesdrops on the conversation.

CUT TO:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Trees. Field. A small village hut. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: BETHLEHEM, IN JUDAH.

SIX BOYS run around and wrestle. They are David's older brothers. JESSE, David's father, hastily strides towards the hut.

YOUNG BROTHER

Av, is Ima okay?

JESSE
(still walking)
Yes, yes. She's fine, child.

The kids look on as Jesse enters through the door.

INT. BEDROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Inside, NITZEVET, a portly woman stares at the SMALL CHILD wrapped in her arms. He coos and glows. A MAIDSERVANT tends to the clean-up until seeing Jesse. At his presence, she quickly bows and leaves.

JESSE
You did wonderful.

Jesse walks to the bed.

NITZEVET
(presenting the baby)
David, your Av. Av, your David.

A single tear runs down Jesse's face as he picks up the baby.

JESSE
(loud)
Kids! Come meet your little brother.

An eruption of child-like glee echoes (O.S.).

BACK TO:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

The kids run into the small hut.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT HALL OF GIBEAH -- DAY

A temple close to the Ramah Assembly Room of earlier.

INT. GREAT HALL OF GIBEAH -- DAY

The same elders from the assembly room line the outside corridor with eyes on the entrance.

ANONYMOUS ELDER (O.S.)
Who could it be?

SECOND ANONYMOUS ELDER (O.S.)
Quiet, quiet!

The entrance-door opens. Samuel walks in with Saul. One senses the latter feels out of place. The former holds a small goblet of oil.

ELDER FOUR
A *boy*, Samuel!? A boy!? He can't be a day past thirty.

SAMUEL
This is the Lord's appointed.

ELDER THREE
(impatient)
How can you be sure?

SAMUEL
The boy *is* the appointed king of Israel. Trust my judgment.

ELDER ONE
Boy - what tribe are you?

Saul ignores the question.

ELDER TWO
Samuel! *What* tribe?

Saul and Samuel reach the middle of the room.

SAMUEL
This is Saul, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin-

A collective groan.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

He has been anointed by the Lord.
Reject him, and you shall never
have your king.

Grumbling. The elders confer.

ELDER THREE

A young king from Benjamin better
than no king for Israel.

Samuel nods and turns to Saul, pouring the goblet of
oil on his head. As the oil trickles down Saul's face,
Samuel kisses him on both cheeks.

The kingship has been established.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY FIELD, GATH -- DAY

A line of THIRTY BOYS stand straight forward. Young
Goliath over the rest. A SENTINEL walks up the row.
He's adorned in military armor and his impatience.

SENTINEL

Welcome to year one in the
Philistine Army. You will learn *to*
fight and you will learn *to kill*.

He punches one SMALL BOY in the gut. The boy falls to
the ground, gasping for air.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

... and anyone who doesn't *will be*
killed. It's that simple.

The Sentinel picks up two swords. He throws them on
the ground between him and the line.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

Two of you will exchange arms.

The Sentinel draws his sword and scans the line.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

You.

He points at a BOY no smaller than the rest, save Young Goliath. The boy steps out and picks up the sword. It's bigger than his entire body.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

And you.

Young Goliath smiles and steps forward, picking up the sword and swinging it around for practice.

Young Goliath turns to face the other boy. Bows ever so slightly and approaches.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

Wait!

The Boy snuffles (O.S.)

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

And *you*.

The Sentinel picks a SECOND BOY to even the odds.

SENTINEL (CONT'D)

Get out here!

And hands his own sword over. The Second Boy takes it.

A pause.

Young Goliath approaches both boys, swinging his sword wildly. A smile crescents on the Sentinel's face.

Yet Young Goliath stops. Sword midair.

The Sentinel takes stock of the situation. Seeing the blatant defiance of authority, the Sentinel stampedes towards Young Goliath.

SENTINEL
What are you doing?

YOUNG GOLIATH
I wouldn't do that.

All the boys watch.

SENTINEL
You may be big but *to me* you're
still a child.

YOUNG GOLIATH
And you're unarmed.

Young Goliath turns his malice and his sword.

MOMENTS LATER:

EXT. FIELD IN GATH -- DAY

The row of boys disperse. The two boys throw their
swords to the ground and follow. All the while, the
Sentinel gasps for air through a mouth full of
splattering blood (O.S.).

Below his neck, a sword pierces through his armor.

Goliath stands overhead.

CUT TO:

EXT. PASTURE, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

DAWN. Jesse stands overlooking an entire field of
sheep, grazing. He holds a shepherd rod and a satchel
of water.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

From the hut, David comes running. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE:
THE YEAR OF ELAH

David is the same boy from the beginning.

BACK TO:

EXT. PASTURE, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

David finally makes it to Jesse's side.

DAVID
What's wrong, *Yeshai*?

JESSE
Nothing at all, my boy.

DAVID
Looks like we're missing a few...

Jesse doesn't flinch.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Av? ...

Jesse basks in the surroundings.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
... *Av!?*

JESSE
David, my boy, take a walk with
your old man.

LATER:

EXT. TRAIL, JESSE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jesse and David, both now carrying shepherd rods, walk together.

JESSE
The most important virtue of a
shepherd, David - you *must* be
willing to lay down your life
for just one lost sheep.

DAVID
My *life*?

JESSE
That is the good shepherd.

EXT. PASTURE, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Jesse shows David how to provide water to a small group of sheep. A sheep's cry interrupts the silence (O.S.).

JESSE
Come, David.

EXT. EDGE OF PASTURE, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

They near the sheep. It's on the ground and in pain. Jesse takes her head in his lap as David watches.

JESSE
Just like I showed you.

David kneels down.

DAVID
(to the sheep)
There, there...

David rubs her legs. Checks her pulse. Places his head on her stomach.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I feel it, Av.

JESSE
She's ready.

DAVID
It's definitely coming. I can feel it.

JESSE
Gently, David.

David concentrates on the pregnant lamb with hands underneath.

MOMENTS LATER:

EXT. EDGE OF PASTURE, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

David holds a small, bloodied ewe.

JESSE

Well done, my son. Well done.

The ewe lets out a cry.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY OF GATH -- NIGHT

A coastal village bordering the Mediterranean River.
SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: GATH, IN PHILISTIA.

EXT. RAPHA'S HOME -- NIGHT

A small home of brick and mortar. Smoke rises from the chimney while three dogs run around.

INT. RAPHA'S HOME -- NIGHT

Rapha sits alone inhaling the meat and broth before him. A fire blazes behind. The wind howls with the intermittent sound of dogs barking (O.S.).

RAPHA

(loud)

Goliath!

A pause.

RAPHA (CONT'D)

GOLIATH!

GOLIATH (O.S.)

What!?

Goliath's voice is deep and terrifying.

RAPHA

Get out here!

A commotion of heavy footsteps ensues. GOLIATH enters. He's grown to his full-size, standing eleven feet tall and weighing nearly six hundred pounds. His face is rough, with thick brown hair and a thicker beard; his eyes, cold and soulless.

RAPHA (CONT'D)
Sit down.

Goliath drops himself on the chair. The wood whines from the pressure.

GOLIATH
(in Aramaic)
Yes?

RAPHA
The Philistine army mobilizes. The *Nephilim* are already in arms on the eastern front of Micmash.

GOLIATH
Israel?

RAPHA
The Israelites ambushed our outpost between Bozez and Seneh. Every able man has been called on for a massive counterattack at Ebenezer. Forces will consolidate at neighboring Aphek.

GOLIATH
Why wasn't I told?

RAPHA
Because you are our *champion*.

GOLIATH
A champion kept behind to watch other men destroy Israel?

RAPHA
You're being given a special
mission.

GOLIATH
What mission?

Rapha rises and walks to the fireplace. He places a few more timbers on the small conflagration.

RAPHA
Have you heard of the Ark of the
Covenant?

Goliath shakes his head. The common Philistine wouldn't.

RAPHA (CONT'D)
The Ark of the Covenant is the
source from which Israel derives
its so-called power-

GOLIATH
-Mystical horseshit. What power is
there but the sword and spear?

RAPHA
You're as stubborn as that bitch
of a woman that birthed you. The
Ark isn't large. The size of a
small cache. Two poles parallel
one another to carry, and its
lidded by two cherubs.

GOLIATH
Where is it?

Rapha grabs a map fastened from his waste and spreads it on the table. He points at a portion labeled "Ebenezer."

RAPHA
Northern tip of Israel.

Goliath points at neighboring "Micmash."

GOLIATH

But the forces are already there.

RAPHA

We will meet Saul head on at Ebenezer. But you will enter from behind and at the peak of battle. Capture the Ark and return it to Philistia.

GOLIATH

Saul the Judge?

RAPHA

Saul the King. Israel abolished their Judges. One remains in Ebenezer. And his two sons. Kill them.

GOLIATH

How soon do I leave?

RAPHA

Soon.

GOLIATH

Alone?

RAPHA

Alone.

Rapha rolls the map up.

LATER:

EXT. RAPHA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Goliath emerges. He stoops under the frame and walks away from the house. He wears bronze, scaled armor and holds a spear in his right hand. A large sword falls across his back along with a large bronze helmet.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

A large, kingly castle in the center of the city.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: CITY OF GILGAL - ISRAEL'S HIGH
COMMAND.

INT. MILITARY ROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- CONTINUOUS

DAWN. ADVISORS surround Saul who stands over a table riddled with drawings, maps and military pieces. Saul has aged with the passing years.

Two men, JONATHAN and ISHVI (Saul's sons) stand with him and the advisors. Jonathan is young and handsome, with wide-eyed idealism. Ishvi is less distinguished; more an assistant than an heir.

JONATHAN

The Philistines have advanced to
Aphek, led by the *Nephilim* of
Gath.

SAUL

The *Nephilim*?

JONATHAN

Giant creatures of men, my lord.
Of the house of Rapha.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. PATH TO APHEK -- DAY

FOUR GIANTS, each as large as Goliath, lead TEN
THOUSAND PHILISTINES. They too wear scaled armor.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

Ten feet fall if they were a foot.
Massive warriors. But it is the
last of these that concerns me the
most.

BACK TO:

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

One senses Saul's trepidation at such lore.

SAUL
Last?

JONATHAN
The Philistine known as Goliath.
Youngest of the *Nephilim*. He is
not on the trail to Aphek, father,
and we know not his whereabouts.

SAUL
How many to Ebenezer?

ISHVI
The four and ten thousand strong.

SAUL
Any word from Samuel?

ADVISOR ONE
None, my lord.

Jonathan and Ishvi stare at Saul.

SAUL
Seven days have come and gone.
Israel can wait no longer. Prepare
for battle.
(to Jonathan)
Send word to Shiloh. The Ark must
come to Ebenezer.
(to Ishvi)
Make haste to Beth Horon and summon
aid.

Ishvi bows his answer.

SAUL (CONT'D)
I can no longer ignore the
Amalekites.

ISHVI
The Amalekites?

SAUL
I will take half our troops to
head-off King Agag.

Saul steps away and exits. The advisors follow him.

JONATHAN
It's unwise to circumvent Samuel.

ISHVI
A prophet should know Israel's
fate.

JONATHAN
I fear that's the point.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAMUEL'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

A dome-like hut in the city of Shiloh. It rains at an
unforgiving rate.

INT. SAMUEL'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Dark. Raindrops pelt the outer walls. A lone figure at
the center of the main room kneels in earnest prayer.
Nothing is heard in spite of all manners of devotion.

A knock.

Samuel's eyes open.

Another knock.

Samuel rises and walks towards the door. He opens it.
On the other side, Jonathan and TWO SOLDIERS wait.

SAMUEL
Jonathan.

JONATHAN
I've come on behalf of King Saul.

SAMUEL
I told him to wait.

JONATHAN
He could wait no longer. The
Philistines attack with an
(MORE)

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
immeasurable force. As do the
Amalekites. The Ark must come with
us to Ebenezer.

SAMUEL
Out of the question.

JONATHAN
That's not a request.

Samuel looks over the three men.

EXT. STREETS OF SHILOH -- NIGHT

Raining. Four men hurry through corridors and alleys.

EXT. TEMPLE OF SHILOH -- NIGHT

The four men run up the temple entrance toward the
large doors.

INT. TEMPLE OF SHILOH -- NIGHT

Samuel lights several candles. The emitting glow
reveals each man's face.

SAMUEL
The Ark is in the Holiest of
Holies.

JONATHAN
I'll send my men.

SOLDIER ONE
(to Samuel)
Show us.

SAMUEL
You know not what you ask. Only
a royal priest can enter.

A pause.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
This affront will cost Saul the
kingdom-

JONATHAN
-If we don't get the Ark, there
won't be a kingdom to lose. The
Ark. *Now.*

SAMUEL
I'll get it myself. If your men
go, they would die.

The soldiers share concerned glances.

EXT. ROAD TO EBENEZER -- CONTINUOUS

Day as Goliath doomsday walks toward Ebenezer. Rocky
terrain and quiet air loom on both sides.

A few rocks to the left trickle down. They stop at
Goliath's feet. He sniffs the air.

A pause.

Goliath heaves his large spear at a portion of the
cliffs. Such force allows the spear to penetrate right
through, undercutting a huge section of rock. As the
rocks tumble down, three ISRAELI SCOUTS fall from
their perch.

Once they tumble to Goliath's feet, they wretch in
pain and agony. Goliath unsheathes the hanging sword
from his back.

MOMENTS LATER:

EXT. ROAD TO EBENEZER -- CONTINUOUS

Three severed heads face south in the middle of the road. In the distance, Goliath walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY OF EBENEZER -- DAY

An Israeli city built within the very stone on which it rests. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: EBENEZER, IN ISRAEL.

Between it and the city of Aphek is an open, beautifully green field. THOUSANDS OF MEN occupy Ebenezer. Battle ready.

INT. STRATEGY ROOM, EBENEZER -- DAY

Ishvi stands over a table with maps spread before him. Across from him, ELI, a former Judge of Israel and chief occupier of Ebenezer.

ISHVI

Five thousand men and no more.

ELI

Any word from Jonathan?

ISHVI

None. Without the Ark, Ebenezer *will* fall.

ELI

With the Ark, Ebenezer *could* fall.

A pause.

ISVHI

(pointing)

Philistia fortifies at Aphek. Jonathan comes from Shiloh. And the king goes to Carmel.

ELI
What mischief rests in Carmel?

ISHVI
The King was told - by Samuel of
all people - to annihilate the
Amalekites.

ELI
All of them?

ISHVI
Even the cattle.

ELI
And he must do that now?

ISHVI
Yes. The Amalekites have raided
our lands over and over. Father
kept trying to broker a treaty
with their King Agag... to no
success.

ELI
Why?

ISHVI
Every time a treaty was signed,
Agag would purposely direct his
men to violate it.

ELI
Why can't these people live *in*
peace with us?

ISVHI
We certainly tried. How long can
we appease?

A pause. Eli understands the rhetoric.

ISHVI (CONT'D)

The Ark has been directed to us
and not King Saul.

ELI

When the Ark enters Ebenezer, my
sons and I will safeguard it in
the sanctuary strong-hold.

ISHVI

The men will need it at camp.

ELI

The Ark will be brought down at
Israel's darkest hour.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEPHILIM CAMP -- NIGHT

The four giants sit around a campfire while four wild
boar cook over an open pit. In addition to Og, the
other giants are LIZAR, CHALEIM, and GOLRUM.

OG

I'm starving!

Og cracks his six fingers.

CHALEIM

Where's Goliath?

OG

Who cares.

CHALEIM

With Goliath, victory is certain.

Og spits.

OG

Four of us. *One of him.* We can
handle whatever Israel presents.

GOLRUM

Rapha kept Goliath back. It's our
battle tomorrow; not his.

OG

Better for us. For too long have
the four of us been shadowed by
Goliath.

CHALEIM

Youngest of the house of Rapha.
Yet the most feared.

Chaleim checks the boar.

CHALEIM (CONT'D)

The men speak of rumors. Divine
power. The Israelis call it the
Ark.

Golrum laughs mockingly. The others smile.

GOLRUM

It would take a god to stop us.

Golrum walks over to the fire and grabs a boar,
ripping it in half.

GOLRUM (CONT'D)

We attack at dawn.

EXT. PHILISTINE CAMP -- NIGHT

From above, thousands of tents and fires line the
camp.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD TO EBENEZER -- NIGHT

Jonathan and the two soldiers arrive at the city gate
of Ebenezer. Two soldiers carry the Ark with Jonathan
leading by a torch and the quiet of night.

INT. SANCTUARY, EBENEZER -- NIGHT

Eli and his two sons, HOPHNI and PHINEHAS, prepare the interior sanctuary - burning incense, prayer, and prepping a secluded place for the Ark's keeping.

EXT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SANCTUARY, EBENEZER -- NIGHT

Jonathan and two soldiers walk fervently towards the doors.

BACK TO:

INT. SANCTUARY, EBENEZER -- NIGHT

From both sides, the doors open.

ELI
Jonathan!

JONATHAN (O.S.)
Eli, my friend.

Jonathan walks to Eli and hugs him. The soldiers follow, presenting the Ark to the remaining three.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
The Ark of the Covenant.
Eli momentarily admires it. As do his sons.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Where should my men put it?

ELI
Here, here...

Eli directs them to the secluded area of before.

ELI (CONT'D)
Do you remember my sons?

JONATHAN
Of course, of course. Hello Hophni
- Phinehas.

Phinehas bows.

HOPHNI
Still keeping that sweet tooth?

Phinehas laughs while Eli grimaces. One senses a quiet embarrassment on Jonathan's part.

JONATHAN
Honey's honey.

PHINEHAS
I bet.

Jonathan shakes off the indictment.

JONATHAN
(to Eli)
The *Nephilim* are in Aphek.

ELI
And the Philistine?

Phinehas and Hophni share looks.

PHINEHAS
(whispering to Hophni)
The Philistine?

Eli stares at Jonathan. Jonathan shakes his head and shrugs his shoulders - *who knows where he is.*

CUT TO:

EXT. POST BETWEEN APHEK AND EBENEZER -- DAY

Dawn. Goliath scales a cliff and surveys the field between both cities. The armies of each are prepared for battle.

EXT. FRONT, EBENEZER SIDE -- CONTINUOUS

Five thousand ISRAELI TROOPS stand ready. At the front, Jonathan and two of his trusted generals, GAGARO and AGBAR.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. FRONT, APHEK SIDE -- CONTINUOUS

Ten thousand Philistine troops are also ready. At the front, the Nephilim. These men are bloodthirsty.

JONATHAN
(to Gagaro)
Take the eastern flank with archers ready.

General Gagaro bows in acknowledgment.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(to Agbar)
General, the western front must not fall. If overrun, signal for the Ark.

GAGARO
And you?

JONATHAN
My men will focus on the *Nephilim*. Cut the head off a snake, and the body fails.

OG
The Israelis are outnumbered.

CHALEIM
With no Calvary.

LIZAR
My legions will attack first. Send a new wave every quarter-hour.

GOLRUM
And have me bow to your glory? Step aside, little brother - I'll lead.

Lizar draws his massive sword. Og cracks his knuckles.
Chaleim downs an ale while Golrum and Lizar stand-off.

LIZAR
Over my dead body.

The giants stare one another up. Hubris.

CHALEIM
(passive)
One wave. Massive invasion. All at
once with no delays. Kill the men
and we're back by supper.

All the giants look at one another. *Best plan thus far.*

Lizar sheaths his sword.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD BETWEEN APHEK AND EBENEZER -- CONTINUOUS

The massive Philistine army, led by the giants, march
toward Ebenezer.

EXT. BACKSIDE, EBENEZER -- DAY

Goliath ascends the back cliffs of Ebenezer.

BACK TO:

EXT. FRONT, EBENEZER SIDE -- DAY

Jonathan watches the hordes closing in.

JONATHAN
Here they come.

EXT. EBENEZER SIDE -- DAY

Behind Jonathan and his generals, thousands of men
wait for Jonathan's leadership.

CUT TO:

INT. SAMUEL'S HOUSE -- DAY

Samuel kneels earnestly in prayer.

SAMUEL
(to self)
Oh, Israel...

BACK TO:

EXT. FIELD BETWEEN APHEK AND EBENEZER -- CONTINUOUS

The Israeli Army begins its march towards the approaching Philistines. **A massive battle ensues.**

Lots of death. Sword fights. Parrying. Blood everywhere. Giants killing men by the twos and threes. Arrows flying through the air.

EXT. MIDDLE, FIELD BETWEEN APHEK/EBENEZER - CONTINUOUS

An ISRAELI SOLDIER is face to face with Chaleim. In the back, soldiers stab and swing wildly at one another.

ISRAELI SOLDIER
(to anyone)
Help me!

Chaleim chops him in half. Grunts.

Screams (O.S.)

EXT. MIDDLE-RIGHT, FIELD BETWEEN -- CONTINUOUS

Jonathan and Og see one another in the middle. Keeping distance, Jonathan heaves his spear at the giant. Without hesitation, Og catches it. Eyes Jonathan and spits.

OG
Jewish rat.

Og guns the spear back at Jonathan, narrowly missing and hitting an ISRAELI CENTRY standing behind Jonathan.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. FIELD IN CARMEL -- DAY

King Saul rides with two of his GENERALS. Behind,
THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS.

GENERAL
My lord, any news from Ebenezer?

SAUL
The men are in good hands.

A pause.

Jonathan frantically looks around and surveys - both
his narrow escape, and Israeli's soon-to-be defeat. He
sees Giants crushing men; Soldiers impaling other
Soldiers.

JONATHAN
(shouting)
Back! Back to Ebenezer!

GENERAL AGBAR (O.S.)
BACK! BACK MEN!

JONATHAN
(to General Agbar)
Summon the Ark.

Agmar bows his head slightly.

CUT TO:

INT. SANCTUARY, EBENEZER -- DAY

Eli, Hophni and Phinehas form a triumvirate around the
Ark. All three devote quiet prayer to the cause of
Israel. The distant sounds of war echo in the
sanctuary.

A loud stomp opens Hophni's eyes.

A second stomp does the same for Phinehas.

A third, louder, stomp.

HOPHNI
(nervously)
Father, the Philistines have
overrun Ebenezer!

ELI
(confidently)
Prayer, my son.

A pause.

The doors fly open.

GOLIATH
Prayer won't save you.

PHINEHAS
(panicked)
Father...

No response.

PHINEHAS (CONT'D)
Father?

Goliath leaps across the room, snatching a torch en route. He swings and hits Eli directly in the face/eyes, sending him far across to the other side of the room. Unconscious.

Hophni and Phinehas run to the opposite side of the room. Goliath throws his spear, directly hitting Hophni and pinning him against the outer wall of the sanctuary.

Phinehas cowers down in a fetal position and whimpers. Without missing a beat, Goliath draws his sword. The Ark remains unguarded and ripe for the taking.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Jesse and Nitzevet sleep soundly in their bedroom. Jesse's eyes open. He abruptly sits up, startling Nitzevet.

NITZEVET
What is it?

JESSE
Something's wrong.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David's bed fits between two others. It's empty. On both sides, RADDAI and OZEM, two of David's brothers, sleep.

Jesse comes in hurriedly.

JESSE
Your brother... where is he?

RADDAI
(sleepy)
I... don't know.

Both men rub their eyes.

OZEM
He was *just* here.

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

DAWN. David stands alone, watching the sun rise.

JESSE (O.S.)
(faint)
David!?

A pause.

The call becomes stronger. Jesse walks towards David. The house off in the distance.

JESSE
David, what are you doing?

Jesse finally catches up.

DAVID
Men I've never seen... dying
before my eyes. It was so real.

JESSE
That's the Lord, my son.

DAVID
A sad voice, Av.

The sun reveals a field full of sheep.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD BETWEEN APHEK AND EBENEZER -- DAY

Small billows of smoke rise in varied places. Dead bodies line the field. Once green, now red. Vultures circle overhead.

Various men in various places walk the field, looking through the dead and searching for the alive.

INT. SANCTUARY, EBENEZER -- DAY

Jonathan opens the door followed by Isvhi and his two generals, Agbar and Gagaro. With the exception of Isvhi, all men look like they've been through hell and back.

Hophni remains pinned against the outer wall. Phinehas' two halves rest in a pool of blood. The Ark, missing.

Jonathan sees Eli unconscious with a charred face. He directs his men to pick him up.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Saul sits in his throne, disheveled. A cold sweat and cough has overtaken his body. The same advisors from earlier stand before him.

ADVISOR ONE
The battle wasn't long-

ADVISOR TWO
-But the deaths tolled. Four thousand. Another thousand injured.

Saul coughs.

ADVISOR THREE
The giants were *overwhelming*.

SAUL
And my sons?

ADVISOR ONE
Alive, lord.

SAUL
The Ark?

A flurry of coughs ring out.

CUT TO:

INT. MEDICAL BAY, EBENEZER -- DAY

Eli rests in bed; awake with eyes bandaged. He is surrounded by Jonathan, Ishvi, and Generals Agbar and Gagaro.

ELI
Massive; a Man of Renown. He knew the Ark was in Ebenezer.

Jonathan rubs his face in contemplation.

AGBAR
Why did he leave you?

ELI
I don't... *know*.
Eli begins to tear up.

ELI (CONT'D)
My sons. My god, *my sons*. Why me?
I'm ninety-eight years old.

Jonathan places his hand on Eli's.

JONATHAN
Your boys died protecting the Ark.
There is no greater honor.

Eli tries to stifle his emotional catharsis.

ELI
Maybe. *Maybe*. This Philistine left
me blind with no sons.

JONATHAN
(earnestly)
I promise you, Eli, this is not
the end.

CUT TO:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

A harp plays (O.S.). A large flock grazes near Jesse's house.

NITZEVET (O.S.)
Fluidity, David.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE - DAY

The harp stops. David sits in the living room with a large harp resting on his lap. Nitzevet guides the lesson.

DAVID
Do I have to play?

NITZEVET

You'll thank me later. Now again.
From the beginning.

David positions his fingers and begins playing.
As David plays-

MONTAGE:

INT. SAUL'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Saul lies in bed. Sweat pours down his face. Ishvi sits next to him, slumped in a chair sleeping.

INT. JONATHAN'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Jonathan sits at his desk, consumed in thoughtful strategy.

INT. SAMUEL'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Samuel readies himself for a journey. He grabs a cloak and searches for his walking stick.

EXT. ROAD TO ASHDOD -- DAY

SIX MEMBERS of the Philistine Army carry the Ark of the Covenant. Goliath follows.

BACK TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

The music stops. Nitzevet smiles at David's perfect musical homily.

NITZEVET

Very good, David. Very good.

David places the harp on the wall.

A knock at the door interrupts the lesson.

DAVID

Who's that?

Nitzevet composes herself.

NITZEVET
Let's find out.

Nitzevet gets up and walks to the other room.

MOMENTS LATER:

INT. ADJOINING ROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

She arrives at the door and opens it. Breathing heavily, Jesse's friend EISMAN waits. Eisman looks like Pheidippides after his legendary run to Marathon.

EISMAN
Nitzevet, my dear, where is Jesse?

NITZEVET
He's in the fields...

David joins Nitzevet at the door.

NITZEVET (CONT'D)
(concerned)
... what is it, Eisman?

EISMAN
I must speak to Jesse.

NITZEVET
Quick, David. Run and find your father.

FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

At the kitchen table, Jesse, David, and Eisman sit. Nitzevet prepares an Israeli tea for the men.

JESSE
(in Hebrew)
A curse. This is a curse.

DAVID
Why would *Hashem* curse his people?

JESSE
He doesn't curse us; we curse
ourselves.

EISMAN
But the Ark? In the possession of
those murderers...
A young girl, ABIGAIL, giggles in the background.

ABIGAIL (O.S.)
Wait for me!

DAVID
(curious)
Did not the Sons of Aaron die from
simply brushing the Ark?

EISMAN
(excited)
Yes, the foreign flame and the
tabernacle!

JESSE
What are you getting at, David?

DAVID
Well... How can the Philistines
carry it?

Jesse smiles at David's simple observation.

EISMAN
Excellent question!

The teapot whistles.

JESSE
Ah, but what did Moses tell Aaron.
It was contrary to the Lord's
command-

EISMAN
-For anyone to touch the actual
Ark.

DAVID
So God commanded that the Ark be
captured-

EISMAN
-that Israel suffer an
immeasurable loss on the fields
of Ebenezer?

JESSE
Who am I to know the Lord's ways?
What else can explain the
Philistine possession?
(To Eisman)
What of King Saul?

EISMAN
He laments alone.

Nitzevet sets the tea on the table. David gets up and
looks out the window.

NITZEVET
Deservedly. Bringing the Ark from
Shiloh to Ebenezer!

JESSE
The Ark has saved Israel before.
He only did what he believed would
help.

NITZEVET
Israel grieves for such folly.

Nitzevet leaves. David comes back.

DAVID
What of these giants of men?

Eisman sips his tea.

EISMAN
They go by the name *Nephilim*.
JESSE

The men of renown? Myth, Eisman.
Pure myth.

EISMAN
No! Not a myth.

(simultaneous)

DAVID
Men of renown?

A pause. Jesse and Eisman exchange a look.

JESSE
Yes. In the beginning, it is said
angels saw the work of God on
earth - particularly the beauty of
her women - and chose to leave
Heaven-

DAVID
-Leave heaven!?-

EISMAN
-The *heroes of old*.

JESSE
Once here, these sons of God
became one with the daughters of
men. Their kin became known as the
men of renown. The *Nephilim*. Great
giants.

DAVID
So why... *why* is that bad?

EISMAN
One does not choose to leave
heaven, dear boy.

JESSE
Angels or demons, David?

DAVID
So the angels were really-
JESSE

-Fallen. Not freely departing,
but kicked out.

DAVID
Why is it not clear which is
which?

EISMAN
Israel disfavors the notion God
didn't send fallen angels
straight to hell.

JESSE
Like I said, a *myth*.

EISMAN
Four thousand dead men and a
stolen Ark would disagree with
you, Jesse.

JESSE
Any living *Nephilim* would have
been killed in the Great Flood.

EISMAN
Presumably. But wouldn't our own
history suggest despite great
adversity - persecution, slavery,
annihilation - people can, and
will, survive?

JESSE
Time will tell, dear Eisman.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY OF ASHDOD -- DAY

A large and ominous city - stoned and bordering the
Mediterranean. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: ASHDOD, CAPITAL CITY
OF PHILISTIA.

EXT. PHILISTINE PALACE -- DAY

A massive castle in the center of Ashdod. The pagan
god Dagon stands at the entrance - half fish, half

man, holding a spear.

INT. ASSEMBLY ROOM, PHILISTINE PALACE -- DAY

A LARGE CROWD surrounds KING ASHISH. He is a husky man, ruthless in appearance. As the crowd celebrates the victory, the four giants of Gath enter and present themselves. Rapha stands among the king's most trusted circle.

The celebration stops.

ASHISH

The sons of Rapha! Welcome. What word from Ebenezer?

Og steps forward.

OG

My king, four thousand Israelites now lie slain on the Aphek battle field.

ASHISH

And what of King Saul?

OG

Jonathan, son of Saul, led the Israeli forces.

ASHISH

Dead?

OG

Alive, my king.

ASHISH

Four of you couldn't kill one man?

Golrum steps forward.

GOLRUM

My king, the battle was short. Israel was in full retreat within hours-

RAPHA
-was Jonathan on the field?

OG
Yes, Rapha.

ASHISH
(to Rapha)
Surely Goliath would have felled
the heir of Saul.

OG
(defiantly)
If the king has such faith in
Goliath, why not put him over
the four of us?

ASHISH
Rapha?

RAPHA
Goliath was given a special task.

CHALEIM
What special task?

The doors burst open. The Six Members of the
Philistine army carry the Ark to the center of the
palace. Once again, Goliath trails.

GOLIATH
Brothers.

The soldiers place the Ark at the feet of Ashish,
equal distance between him and the whole of the
Nephilim. The soldiers disperse and join the crowds.

ASHISH
(awed)
The Ark of the Covenant comes to
the land of Dagon.

GOLIATH
Yes, my lord.

ASHISH
And the prophets guarding it?
GOLIATH
Dead.

ASHISH
You shame your brothers, Goliath.

RAPHA
Well done, son.

ASHISH
The Ark will go to the Temple of
Dagon. Tonight, the city honors
Goliath.

The crowd cheers. The other giants grumble. Goliath
bows as the king departs.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS, CITY OF ASHDOD -- NIGHT

A drunken Goliath stumbles down the street. Three
scantly TEMPLE PROSTITUTES tag along.

PROSTITUTE ONE
Let's get you back.

The other prostitutes giggle.

INT. BROTHEL, CITY OF ASHDOD -- NIGHT

A shirtless Goliath lies on the bed. Very hairy. The
three women undress him. Goliath is high as a Georgia
Pine.

PROSTITUTE TWO
Let's get those pants off!

The two women struggle with Goliath's girth. Finally
they get his pants off and stare at Goliath's under-
area.

PROSTITUTE THREE

What do you think *it* looks like?

PROSTITUTE ONE
The same. Just... *bigger*.

PROSTITUTE TWO
How big?

PROSTITUTE THREE
Two... *three* times.

PROSTITUTE ONE
(excitedly)
Let's find out...

The first prostitute begins to pull down Goliath's underwear. Once down, their look says it all.

PROSTITUTE TWO
(giggling)
That's... *it*?

The three prostitutes laugh uproariously. Goliath's eyes open. Once his arm comes up, it's over.

The first prostitute gets the worst of it - the force of the blow sends her flying across the room.

Goliath stands. Wobbles a bit. Still drunk.

PROSTITUTE THREE
It's not what it looks like!

It's exactly what it looks like.

PROSTITUTE TWO
Please! Don't!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- CONTINUOUS

Saul sweats and moans in his bed. Terribly sick. A figure stands at the doorway.

A pause. Saul senses a presence.

SAUL
Who is that!? Jonathan... Ishvi...
is that you?

SAMUEL (O.S.)
The Ark is lost. Men are dead by
the thousands. And you defied the
Lord's edict.

Saul writhes in pain. Samuel steps through the
doorway.

SAUL
No. No. *Your* edict.

SAMUEL
The Lord's edict!

SAUL
We could wait no longer. The
Philistines advanced by the
thousands.

SAMUEL
I am the one that was sent to
anoint you King. Do you remember?

SAUL
Yes.

SAMUEL
Your kingdom is coming to an end.

SAUL
No. We will defeat the
Philistines. I am the chosen
king of Israel.

Samuel sits in the chair closest to Saul.

SAMUEL
You were the chosen king. Your
time is over, Saul.
SAUL

By force or God himself.

Saul coughs.

SAMUEL
What happened at Carmel?

SAUL
What happened?

SAMUEL
The Amalekites...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. MIITARY ROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Saul directs Jonathan to head to Ebenezer, and exits with his advisors.

SAUL (V.O.)
Israel was fighting two enemies.

EXT. MIDDLE-RIGHT, FIELD -- DAY

Jonathan throws the spear at OG.

SAUL (CONT'D) (V.O.)
I sent Jonathan to face the
Philistines.

EXT. ROAD TO CARMEL -- DAY

Saul leads a troupe of horses and men.

BACK TO:

INT. BEDROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- CONTINUOUS

SAUL
And I East to the Amalekites.

SAMUEL
Israel will always be fighting
multiple enemies.

SAUL
The Lord commanded complete
destruction of the Amalekites.

SAMUEL
Yes.

SAUL
Yet it was the Philistines that
became Israel's primary concern.

SAMUEL
Obedience was, and always will be,
Israel's primary concern.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. AGAG'S PALACE, CARMEL -- NIGHT

Saul stands over a defeated king (AGAG) who has
relinquished his crown.

SAUL (V.O.)
I met the Amalekite army at
Havilah. We took Agag king and
destroyed all of his people by the
sword. The Ark was needed at
Ebenezer; not Havilah.

SAMUEL (V.O.)
You were commanded to destroy
everything under Agag.

BACK TO:

INT. BEDROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

SAUL
Yes. Everything. And we did.

SAMUEL
Jonathan lost at Ebenezer, and you
left everything that was good -
sheep, lambs, and fattened calves
- alive in Havilah.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FIELDS OUTSIDE AGAG'S PALACE -- DAY

Soldiers watch livestock and sheep graze openly. Smoke rises in the distance.

BACK TO:

INT. BEDROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- CONTINUOUS

Saul coughs.

SAUL
What good is a dead sheep?

SAMUEL
Obedience, Saul. Your arrogance
clouds everything.

Saul stares at Samuel.

SAUL
Guard!

An ISRAELI GUARD enters.

GUARD
Yes, my king?

A cough.

SAUL
Remove Samuel from my sight.

GUARD (O.S.)
Yes, my king.

A pause.

SAUL
And the City.

Samuel rises on his own volition.

SAMUEL
You defied the Lord; sent your
son to the slaughter; and built
a monument in your own honor at
Carmel. The Lord measures *all*,
Saul.

SAUL
(to the guard)
He is never to return.

GUARD
Yes, my lord.

The guard escorts a willing Samuel out.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Day. David lies in an open field, writing on a piece
of parchment before him. Sheep "baa" in the distance
(O.S.).

A pause.

ABIGAIL (O.S.)
What are you doing?

David quickly hides the parchment as a prodding
Abigail surprises him.

DAVID
Nothing! Nothing...

ABIGAIL
Oh, Come on David. What is it?

DAVID
Can you keep a secret?

Abigail shakes her head with a giddy "yes."

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's a psalm.

ABIGAIL
What's a psalm?

DAVID
Like a poem... *poetry*, Abigail.

ABIGAIL
Read it to me!

DAVID
Come on.

Abigail grasps David's hands in hers.

ABIGAIL
Oh, David. Please, please,
please!

DAVID
Oh, all right.

Abigail claps her hands like a kid in a candy store.
David unrolls the parchment.

DAVID
You can't laugh.

ABIGAIL
I promise.

DAVID
I mean it!

ABIGAIL
I promise!

DAVID
Well all right then.

David clears his throat.

DAVID (CONT'D)
The Lord is my shepherd. I shall
not want. He maketh me lie down

in green pastures, and leads
me beside quiet waters. He
restores my soul. He guides me
in paths of righteousness for
His name's sake.

A pause. David glances over the parchment. Then at
Abigail.

DAVID (CONT'D)
That's... that's it so far.

A pause. Abigail seems unamused.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(insecure)
I'm toying with the "green
pastures"-line.

Abigail smiles hugely.

ABIGAIL
Oh, David. Don't give up on
shepherd work!

DAVID
You promised not to laugh!

ABIGAIL
I'm smiling. Not laughing. Hey,
mom sent me to get you. It's time
for harp.

David groans.

DAVID
Talk about a waste of time.

Abigail smiles. But David's smile has turned grim. He
stares past Abigail and at the flock.

DAVID
Get home, Abigail!

Abigail turns. There, in the middle of the flock a great lion has raided the herd. He stalks his next meal.

ABIGAIL
Oh. my. gosh!

DAVID
Go. Now.

Abigail runs back to the house. David watches to make sure she safely gets there unnoticed. While on watch, he grabs the sling he keeps attached to his staff.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Abigail arrives home, breathing heavily and looking terrified.

BACK TO:

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

David starts to search near the closest tree. He picks up twigs and small rocks, tossing them aside in earnest. He finds two rounded rocks. Turns.

Stealthily approaches the lion.

EXT. MIDDLE OF FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The lion has pounced on one of David's precious sheep. The lion's bite is interrupted by a fast rock hitting its mid-section. The lion roars in pain.

His attention now turns to a different animal: David.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - DAY

Abigail bursts through the door. Jesse and Nitzevet quickly emerge to find the commotion.

ABIGAIL
(between heavy breaths)

Quick! David! A lion in the
field!

Both parents' eyes widen as they move into action.

NITZEVET
My god!

JESSE
(shouting)
Shimeah! Nethanel! Come quickly!

BACK TO:

EXT. MIDDLE OF FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The lion and David face one another. Thirty yards
apart. David sweats while he swings the sling in
place, waiting and watching for the perfect shot.

The pounced lamb painfully *baas* (O.S.).

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVERLOOKING FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Jesse, Nitzevet, and David's older brothers SHIMEAH
and NETHANEL arrive.

BACK TO:

EXT. MIDDLE OF FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The lion turns its gaze to David's family. Nitzevet
screams.

NETHANEL (O.S.)
It's huge!

JESSE (O.S.)
Stay calm, David!

David throws his staff at the lion, drawing its
attention. The lion turns back to David, roaring with

each passed second.

DAVID
Come on, now.

A pause. The lion charges.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Come on... just a little closer.

The lion runs. Five yards away.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Now!

David slings the last remaining rock. It hits square between the lion's eyes. A fallen lion slides to David's feet. Dead on arrival.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVERLOOKING FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

David's family races down the hill.

NITZEVET
David! David!

BACK TO:

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

David runs over to a bloodied ewe, *baaing* in agony. He kneels down to comfort it. The sheep cries.

The family finally catches up to David.

JESSE
Oh no.

Abigail begins crying.

SHIMEAH (O.S.)
What happened?

Another roar interrupts the air (O.S.). David's eyes dart to the far corner of the field.

EXT. CORNER OF FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

A bear, lured by blood, roars again. It slowly approaches the family.

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

NETHANEL

Get back guys. Shimeah, get David's rod.

SHIMEAH

Everyone inside. Now!

JESSE

Let's go!

Jesse picks up Abigail.

DAVID

No.

With blood on David's hands, the lamb cries out its swan song and dies.

NITZEVET

We have time. Let's get out of here!

The beast bears down on the family, one large step at a time. One roar at a time.

DAVID

I'm not abandoning my flock.

David grabs his rod and rises.

NETHANEL

Don't do it, David.

DAVID

Get everyone home.

David looks at his family. He then springs to meet the bear head on.

NITZEVET

No!

(simultaneous)

JESSE

David!

The bear races as well.

SECONDS LATER:

EXT. RIGHT-MIDDLE, FIELD -- CONTINUOUS

Just as David meets the bear, a giant claw swipes at David's face. David slides under it, swinging his rod at the back leg of the bear.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVERLOOKING FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Jesse, Nitzevet, Shimeah, Nethanel, and Abigail hurriedly run, all the while turning back to check on David.

NITZEVET

My god, Jesse.

JESSE

I know!

BACK TO:

EXT. RIGHT-MIDDLE, FIELD -- DAY

David hits the bear's knee, hard, as the bear cries out in pain.

David turns. The bear swings its claw once again.

Another miss.
David returns a straight hit to the bear's nose.
Another painful cry.

After one last swipe [and miss] with its claw, David delivers the fight-stopper: a straight shot to the cranium.

With a great moan, the bear falls to the ground. Dead.

A sweaty and exhausted David falls over.

BLACK SCREEN.

FADE TO:

INT. TEMPLE OF DAGON -- DAY

The Ark awkwardly placed at the feet of the pagan god, Dagon.

INT. ROOM, KING ASHISH'S PALACE -- DAY

King Ashish and Rapha sit at a table with four other GATH MILITARY ADVISORS. Goliath sits in the corner of the room - part of the meeting, but not formally. He sharpens his sword.

RAPHA

Saul lost at Ebenezer, but was victorious against the Amalekites.

ASHISH

Israel fights on two fronts?

GATH ADVISOR ONE

Yes and no my lord. The Amalekite king has been killed. They pose no further danger to Israel.

ASHISH

Saul killed Agag?

GATH ADVISOR TWO

Israel is at its weakest. Spread

thin. *Vulnerable.*

RAPHA

If we take the fight to them,
they will have momentary military
advantage.

GATH ADVISOR THREE

We project casualties in the low
thousands.

ASHISH

Worth every man if victory is
likely.

GOLIATH (O.S.)

There is another way.

Goliath's booming voice dwarfs these serious men.

RAPHA

Quiet, Goliath.

Goliath stares at Ashish.

ASHISH

Let him speak.

Goliath sheaths his sword and walks to the table.
Below him, a map of Judah, Israel, and Canaan.

GOLIATH

(pointing)

Israel doesn't want the fight at
home. Nor at Judah.

(finger glides)

Here.

The map reads "Elah."

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

An open valley. Rocky. Barren. Cliffs on either side.

GOLIATH (CONT'D) (V.O.)
Elah rests between a valley. One
(MORE)

GOLIATH (CONT'D) (V.O.)
one side, we gather at Ephes
Dammim. Saul will have no choice
but to meet us.

Goliath draws an "x" with his finger at the point of
confrontation.

RAPHA
How is this another way?

GOLIATH
Not the full Philistine Army. At
least, not to fight.

ASHISH
No fight?

RAPHA
What are you at, boy?
GOLIATH
Just me. I will issue an offer to
the Israeli camp.

A pause.

ASHISH
Which is?

GOLIATH
Their best against ours.

ASHISH
To the death?

RAPHA
Who?

Goliath looks at Rapha. *Who do you think is the best
warrior in Philistia.*

GOLIATH

If I am killed, Philistia would
theoretically become subject to
Israel.

RAPHA

But a full force all but
guarantees a victory.

ASHISH

(intrigued)

One man... for all of Israel.

GOLIATH

Israel has no such man.

Ashish sits back.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

David rests upright in his bed. He writes on the very
parchment we saw before.

DAVID

(to self)

The Lord is my shepherd...

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I shall not want... I shall not be
in want.

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)

He maketh me lie down... in
pastures... and restores my soul.

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)
... guides me in paths of
righteousness for... for His
sake. His name sake?

He stops writing.

A pause.

He scribbles on his paper, and places it aside.

An interrupting knock.

JESSE (O.S.)
David, my dear boy.

Jesse and Nitzevert stand at the entrance to David's room. Nitzevert walks over and places her hand on David's forehead.

NITZEVET
He's warm, Jesse.

DAVID
I'm fine. Really. What happened?

JESSE
You surely are a boy after God's
own heart.

NITZEVET
The lion and the bear. Do you
remember?

DAVID
Yes, of course. But she died.

JESSE
My boy, you did your best.

DAVID
I didn't save her-

NITZEVET
-but you saved us!

JESSE
Get some rest, son. You did well.

DAVID
I belong in the field.

JESSE
Soon. Soon. Here...

Jesse hands David his sling.

JESSE (CONT'D)
... found it out there.

DAVID
Thanks...

David examines the sling.

DAVID (CONT'D)
... but the aim is off. I missed
the first shot.

JESSE
(amused)
I think you're doing just fine,
David.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, SAUL'S PALACE -- NIGHT

Saul and Jonathan pace down a large hallway. Saul
shoulders his unbearable cough.

JONATHAN
Father, we were overrun at
Ebenezer.

SAUL
But I was triumphant at Havilah.

JONATHAN
Be that as it may... Israel cannot
parry another Philistine battle.

Saul stops. Coughs.

SAUL

My advisors tell me the
Philistines remain at Ashdod.

JONATHAN

Yes, father. But the Philistines
are mobile. *Very quick*. If they
move, we may not know for days.

Saul continues walking. Coughs again.

SAUL

It's clear now the Philistines
were after one thing.

JONATHAN

The Ark.

SAUL

Precisely. Let them have it.

Jonathan's look is pure disgust. He grabs Saul's arm,
stopping him in his tracks.

JONATHAN

Let Philistia have the Ark? In the
temple of Dagon?

SAUL

If it means peace for Israel, yes.

JONATHAN

Father-

SAUL

-I will not fail Israel.

Saul enters a large door watched over by TWO SOLDIERS.

INT. WAR ROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- NIGHT

Saul enters. Jonathan stays in the back, turning and
walking in the opposite direction.

The doors close.

CUT TO:

EXT. TAVERN -- NIGHT

Billows of smoke rise from the roof. Drunken laughter (O.S.).

INT. TAVERN -- NIGHT

Samuel sits alone, nursing a drink. Two men sit nearby at an adjacent table. The one, JAMESON, and the other, ARNOLD, are two old curmudgeons who enjoy drinks and gossip.

JAMESON (O.S.)
A bear, I tell you!

ARNOLD (O.S.)
And a lion!? Get out of here!

Samuel looks up.

JAMESON
I'm telling you: the boy killed
a bear and a lion.

ARNOLD
At the same time?

JAMESON
At the same time!

ARNOLD
Eh, I don't believe you-

Arnold swigs his drink.

SAMUEL
-Gentlemen, is there room for
one more?

Samuel stands over the table, inviting himself into

the conversation. The men glance at one another.

A pause.

JAMESON
Take a seat, old-timer.

Samuel sits down.

SAMUEL
I couldn't help but overhear. Tell me, what exactly were you talking about?

ARNOLD
Nothing!

JAMESON
Something *amazing*. A boy in the land of Bethlehem-

ARNOLD
-Balderdash!

JAMESON
It's true!-

SAMUEL
-A *boy*?

JAMESON
Yes. A boy. As I heard it, a lion and a bear there was. Both attacking his flock. Both killed by this... this...

Jameson searches for it.

JAMESON (CONT'D)
... *David*.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Saul lies in bed, coughing egregiously. Jonathan tends

to him.

JONATHAN
Father, the Philistines march!
Scouts tracked them moving toward
Elah.

SAUL
I've already sent riders with
conscription orders-

-A cough.

JONATHAN
Shall I lead?

SAUL
Yes. Until I recover.

JONATHAN
Are the tonics working?

Saul shakes his head *no* as he coughs.

SAUL
I've summoned every musician this
side of Judah.

JONATHAN
Perhaps if we get the Ark-

SAUL
-the Ark is lost. I won't hear
anymore of it.

JONATHAN
You *must* consider the effect the
Ark's capture has on our men...
on you!

Saul erupts into a flurry of coughs.

A pause.

SAUL

Just bring me the music. The
Philistines are at our door. You
worry about them.

CUT TO:

EXT. WELL, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David's brothers sit around a watering well. Eliab, a
middle brother, plays his fiddle. The others laugh and
joke. David is absent.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. TREE NEAR WELL, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David eavesdrops from a concealed location.

ABINADAM (O.S.)

She was soaking wet. She had no
idea I was even there.

OZEM (O.S.)

Did she flip out?

ABINADAM (O.S.)

Are you kidding? She was bathing -
I didn't say a word!

OZEM (O.S.)

I bet there's nothing like it.

ABINADAM (O.S.)

Nothing at all.

David enters from his hiding spot.

DAVID

What are you guys talking about?

The music stops. All the brothers stare at David.

RADDAI

You sure father's okay with you
here?

The other brothers laugh.

DAVID
(dismissive)
Good one, Raddai.

They return to their fiddles and joking. David takes a seat between Ozem and Abinadam.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What were you guys talking about?

OZEM
Our brother Abinadam and his wandering eyes.

ABINADAM
Don't be jealous that I was blessed on the eve of this war.

DAVID
What war?

OZEM
What war? The only war we've been fighting for a millennium.

ABINADAM
Philistia.

DAVID
The Lord has promised us victory-

A drunk Shimeah overhears.

SHIMEAH
-add that to the list of undelivered promises!

OZEM
You have nothing to worry about, David.

ABINADAM
That's right!

DAVID
What do you mean?

OZEM
We've all been conscripted to meet
the Philistines at Elah--

DAVID
-the valley?

ABINADAM
Of death.

OZEM
Yes.

DAVID
Father said the Philistines had a
force; men of renown. Giants.
Giants that captured the Ark.

The music stops yet again. David is too young to
appreciate when to keep one's mouth shut.

NETHANEL
We fight anyway.

ELIAB
That's right!

OZEM
To death!

SHIMEAH
For Israel!

The men collapse back to their seats. David remains
standing.

DAVID
Me too, then. If you guys
fight, so should I.

OZEM

Sit down, David.

Ozem manages to pull David to his sitting place.

ABINADAM
You're too young.

DAVID
But... I want to fight. I *can*
fight as each of you.

OZEM
The same soldiers that handed
father our conscription orders
had a special order for you.

DAVID
A *special* order?

ABINADAM
Father wouldn't tell us what.

OZEM
I saw it, though. It had King
Saul's seal.

DAVID
His *seal*?

A pause.

OZEM
Enough of David. Tonight may be
our last.

ABINADAM
Drink up, Ozem.

DAVID
Abinadam?

Abinadam swigs a jug of mead, wiping the remainder off
his lip.

ABINADAM
Yeah?

DAVID
What was your wandering eye?

Ozem laughs.

OZEM
Let's put it this way: if you ever
find yourself on the other end of
a woman bathing... don't pass up
the opportunity.

Ozem swigs from his jug as well. The adultery-seed has
been planted for David's most famous fall from grace.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David and Jesse sit at their table.

DAVID
My brother's fight the
Philistines... and I have to
play the harp?

JESSE
For the king.

DAVID
Who cares for whom. I should be
in the valley.

JESSE
Don't be silly. You're young.
You're far too small.

The truth hurts.

DAVID
(defiantly)
Tell that to the shallow graves

out back.

JESSE
A bear and a lion are not giants,
David.

DAVID
Five giants.

JESSE
Yes, five. But you have a gift.
Use it.

DAVID
The harp is not a gift.

JESSE
The king suffers. He has summoned
all manner and means of reprieve.
Your harp may provide that...
think of your brothers!

DAVID
I want to fight with them.

JESSE
David, if you win favor with the
king perhaps he will then favor
your brothers.

A pause.

JESSE (CONT'D)
Perhaps... they will avoid the
front-lines.

David grabs his father's hand.

DAVID
I see. I'm sorry, Av.

David and Jesse hug.

JESSE
My boy. Now to bed. Tomorrow a
prophet comes to anoint your

brothers before battle.

DAVID
A prophet?

JESSE
Yes. *Samuel*.

David leaves and heads to his bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD TO ELAH -- NIGHT

Thousand of Philistine Soldiers line a rocky road.

EXT. CAMPFIRE, ROAD TO ELAH -- NIGHT

A campfire burns. A few RANDOM PHILISTINES sit to discuss military strategy.

PHILISTINE ONE
This is a magic act. All smoke.

PHILISTINE THREE
What do you mean?

PHILISTINE ONE
Goliath verses their best? What are we here for?

PHILISTINE TWO
But what if Goliath is beat? We still fight...

PHILISTINE ONE
Impossible. But if, *if*, he is, we become Israeli subjects by day's end. There is no fight.

PHILISTINE THREE
Israel is weak. Why even chance it?

PHILISTINE FOUR

What do we care - let the Giant win; we have sons and wives.

PHILISTINE TWO

What are the brothers going to do?

PHILISTINE THREE

What do they ever do?

The men laugh. An enormous hand palms the third Philistine's head.

Laughter turns to screams. The hand crushes the head.

The fire reveals Og's huge presence. He throws the body into the night.

OG

We made Goliath who he is.

CUT TO:

INT. GOLIATH'S TENT -- NIGHT

Goliath sits alone, sharpening his enormous sword.

GOLIATH

Hello, brother.

Behind Goliath, Golrum stands at the tent's entrance. He walks in and takes a seat in the nearest chair. Goliath continues sharpening. The sound of the blade and the stone fills the room.

GOLRUM

Israel will never agree to this.

GOLIATH

They may.

GOLRUM

How did King Ashish?

GOLIATH
Not your concern.

GOLRUM
And Rapha?

GOLIATH
I've had father's confidence since
I was ten, Golrum. You know this.

GOLRUM
Israel will never agree to this,
Goliath!

Goliath finishes. He examines the blade and sheaths
it. Then turns to face Golrum with undivided attention.

GOLIATH
Saul will get forty days to
decide.

GOLRUM
To decide what?

GOLIATH
Israel's manner of defeat.

GOLRUM
No one will face you alone.

GOLIATH
Maybe.

Golrum stands to leave.

GOLRUM
Watch yourself Goliath. Even the
mighty can fall.

GOLIATH
No doubt good for the brothers.

GOLRUM

No doubt.

CUT TO:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Samuel stands with all six of David's brothers, dressed in their military uniforms, anointing each individually. He finishes with Eliab.

Jesse and Nitzevet grasp one another.

SAMUEL
The Lord will go before them
all, Jesse.

Jesse clasps Samuel's extended hand.

JESSE
Bless you, Samuel. Bless you!

NITZEVET
Will you stay for tea and honey?

SAMUEL
A tempting proposal, but I must
depart. I so rarely get to
Bethlehem - there is a story I
heard, fantastical at best, about
a boy here. Lord willing, I may
find him.

JESSE
Perhaps we can help you. What
story?

SAMUEL
A lion. And a bear. This... this
David.

Nitzevet clasps her hand over her mouth. Jesse smiles.

JESSE
Dear Samuel, that story is true.

SAMUEL

So you know this boy?

NITZEVET
(amused)
Know him?

JESSE
He's our son, Samuel.

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DUSK

The sun sets. David stands upright, his rod close to his side. He looks over his flock.

JESSE (O.S.)
David!

David turns; two men approach. David begins walking towards them.

JESSE
(in the distance)
Hurry!

David's pace quickens to a run.

EXT. EDGE OF FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David arrives out of breath.

JESSE
Catch your breath, my boy.
(to Samuel)
Samuel, I'd like you to meet-

SAMUEL
-David.

Samuel extends his hand. David shakes it. Samuel inspects David over.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Tell me, why were you not enlisted
under Saul's command?

DAVID
But I am-

JESSE
-David's a harpist. He's been
asked to play for our suffering
king.

SAMUEL
I see. Come Jesse - David - I
think I will take Nitzevet up on
that offer for tea.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD TO ELAH -- DAY

The troops march, led by Goliath. The four brothers
make-up the tail-end of the legions.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

David packs his harp. He cleans the top of the
instrument before placing a lamb-case over it. On his
bed, a spread of clothes.

JESSE (O.S.)
David, are you ready?

DAVID
(to self)
Yeah, yeah.

David looks around his room. His sling and rod lie
next to his bed.

A moment of contemplation.

He leaves them.

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE, SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Several young boys stand outside the entrance with various instruments.

INT. HALL, SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Jonathan hurries to the front entrance. General Agbar with him.

JONATHAN
We don't have time for this.

AGBAR
Your father will do anything to ease his burden.

JONATHAN
I know.

The doors open.

BACK TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE, SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Outside, the count is around ten to fifteen YOUTHFUL MUSICIANS. David included. Each holds their own instrument.

Jonathan stands there until their attention is on him.

JONATHAN
Boys... there is precious time. Some of you may know the king is in a terrible state. As his subjects, you have been summoned for your talents.

Agbar motions for Jonathan and whispers something in his ear.

A pause.

JONATHAN
(to Agbar)
You sure?

Agbar nods *yes*.

JONATHAN
(to David)
Right. You, there. Step forward.

David steps front and center, his harp serving as his aegis.

DAVID
Yes, my lord.

JONATHAN
Name?

DAVID
David. Sixth son of Jesse. From Bethlehem.

Jonathan stares before waving him to enter the palace. As David walks through the giant door, Jonathan dismisses the rest.

JONATHAN (O.S.)
If you all would wait, General Agbar will give you further directions.

MOMENTS LATER:

EXT. HALL, SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Jonathan and David walk with Agbar trailing.

JONATHAN
The king is very sick.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
He has been bedridden for the better part of three weeks.

David looks at the impressive palace walls.

DAVID
(passively)

Since the Ark was captured.

Jonathan looks straight ahead.

JONATHAN
(softly)

Yes.

He continues walking, eventually coming to a large door at the end of the corridor.

JONATHAN
Inside lies the king. You are to play until he dismisses you or falls asleep.

DAVID
Very well.

David starts to enter.

JONATHAN
I'm Jonathan.

Jonathan extends his hand.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
The king's son.

David shakes it before making his way into the room.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

A harp plays (O.S.). Saul's eyes begin to open. He doesn't turn to look at the source of the music.

SAUL
Who's there?

DAVID
It's your servant David, my Lord.

Saul's cough has subsided.

SAUL
My cough-

David continues playing.

DAVID
-it stopped a few hours ago.

Saul sits up in his bed.

SAUL
What is that you play?

DAVID
A harp, my lord.

SAUL
It's a wonderful instrument. But
you may stop; I'm sure you're
tired.

David stops playing and places the harp to his side.

SAUL
What was your name, boy?

DAVID
David, sir.

SAUL
David, will you send for Jonathan?

DAVID
Yes, my lord.

INT. HALL, SAUL'S PALACE -- NIGHT

David wanders around. He finds one door and opens it.

Inside rests Saul's Armor. It's shiny and hulking.

INT. ARMOR ROOM, SAUL'S PALACE -- NIGHT

David approaches it. Gold-plated battle armor.

A pause.

JONATHAN (O.S.)
What are you doing?

David turns around.

DAVID
(startled)
I'm... I'm sorry!

Jonathan chuckles at David's trepidation. Jonathan approaches and joins David.

JONATHAN
It's okay, David. It's fantastic armor, isn't it?

DAVID
You've worn it?

JONATHAN
I have.

DAVID
Oh! King Saul wanted you.

JONATHAN
He can wait.

David looks at Jonathan, surprised by his nonchalance.

DAVID
So when did you wear it?

JONATHAN
I was a teenager; your age. I was being trained to lead our forces when a band of Amalekites attacked an outpost near Judah. It was my first test. Father said to take his armor.

DAVID
Did it help?

JONATHAN
I felt... *kingly*... but that's it.

Jonathan turns to leave.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Truth is, it's heavy as hell.
Jonathan walks away, leaving David alone in the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST STREAM OUTSIDE OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath stands over a small stream, washing up. By the time the water drips down his face, his four brothers surround him unexpectedly.

GOLIATH
What's this?

OG
We're here to request you change
Ashish's mind.

CHALEIM
There's no reason for you to
fight alone.

LIZAR
Other than for glory. *Yours*.

GOLRUM
We want to fight Israel.

LIZAR
We, Goliath.

Goliath dries his face. He throws the loose cloth in the stream.

GOLIATH
I see.

Goliath eyes his brothers up.

GOLIATH (CONT'D)
And if I don't?

OG
Then it gets-

Og looks at Golrum.

GOLRUM
-Complicated.

Chaleim cracks his knuckles. Lizar fingers his sword.

GOLIATH
I see.

Goliath steps back. Surveys the situation.

GOLIATH (CONT'D)
Jealousy shouldn't become you,
brothers.

Og spits.

OG
We've never been jealous. It's
just time you learned your place!

GOLIATH
I must warn you, *brothers*. I'm not
ten.

Chaleim runs at Goliath. Goliath headlocks him quickly
throws him in the water.

Lizar draws his sword and begins swinging wildly.

Goliath ducks the swings, dodges the follow-ups, and
blocks him swiftly.

With haste more fitting a ninja than a giant, Goliath
disarms Lizar and throws his sword in the stream.

GOLIATH
Who's next?

Golrum and Og both run at Goliath, tackling him into the shallow stream. Water splashes everywhere.

Goliath grabs both their huge necks and throws them over his head.

Once down, the other two - Lizar and Chaleim - tackle Goliath.

Face down in the stream, Goliath has four giants as big as himself pushing his head into the water.

With anger and strength, Goliath stands up and throws Lizar and Chaleim down.
He kicks Og right in the groin, while simultaneously blocking Golrum's wild punch.

Once blocked, Goliath returns his own punch and breaks Golrum's nose.

Goliath turns his anger towards Lizar and Chaleim, now just recovering from their tumble.

He headlocks one while kicking the other. Once the latter is down, he punches Lizar straight in the face.

All four of Goliath's brothers are bruised and battered, lying in agony while stream-water washes over them.

GOLIATH
(angry)
Enough! Either you fall in line
with me or I swear on Dagon
himself, I will kill each of you
with my bare hands.

Goliath spits and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

David's quarters are kingly; a suite fit for a guest of Saul. David sits alone at the desk, parchment before him. Quill strokes fill the room.

A knock interrupts. David goes to the door and opens it slightly.

AGBAR
Saul seeks your aid.

David closes the door and darts to grab his harp.

INT. SAUL'S BEDROOM -- DAY
David reaches Saul's room. He waits, hearing what he believes to be an important conversation interrupted only by Saul's coughing.

JONATHAN
They'll be in Elah by midday tomorrow.

A cough.

SAUL
Very well.

JONATHAN
I've summoned David.
SAUL
I'm quite fond of that boy.

JONATHAN
I as well father.

David finally knocks at the cracked door.

DAVID
You called?

Another cough.

JONATHAN
Yes, David. Come and sit.

David walks to Jonathan's seat. Jonathan rises to leave.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I will see you tomorrow with news from the front, father. Goodbye, David.

Jonathan leaves. A pause.

SAUL

My cough has regrettably returned. Please play something. Anything. Hopefully, it'll help me get to sleep

DAVID

Of course.

David adjusts his harp. He picks at a few strings ensuring it's in tune.

FADE TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Dawn. The sun slowly rises. The Philistine camp rests on one side. The valley itself is barren and rocky. The Israeli camp on the opposite side. A dog barks.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: DAY ONE.

CUT TO:

EXT. JONATHAN'S TENT -- DAY

A SOLDIER enters Jonathan's chambers.

INT. JONATHAN'S TENT -- DAY

Jonathan himself fast asleep.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

My Lord.

Jonathan's eyes open.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)
My Lord?

JONATHAN
Yes.

SOLDIER
The Philistine approaches.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath walks to the center of the valley. He is dressed in full armor. Once he reaches his place, he stops and glares at the Israeli encampment. Three horses gallop toward him. On the front, center, Jonathan.

As they reach Goliath, it's him who dwarfs the horses. Jonathan and Goliath are at eye level.

JONATHAN
What do you want, Philistine?

GOLIATH
The same thing you want. Only
more.

A horse neighs.

JONATHAN
I want you out of this land.

GOLIATH
I have an offer for your king.

JONATHAN
I'm listening.

GOLIATH
Your best man versus ours-

JONATHAN
-you.

GOLIATH
Who said Israelites weren't quick?

JONATHAN
Then what?

GOLIATH
Philistia becomes subject to
Israel. Overnight, a war fought
for centuries ends.

JONATHAN
Is that all?

All of the horses now neigh.

GOLIATH
That's it.

Jonathan and the others turn their horses to leave.
They slowly trot away.

GOLIATH (CONT'D)
You know where to find me!

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVERLOOKING ELAH -- DAY

Samuel sits alone, watching the interaction and seeing
Jonathan turn to leave. As they gallop away, Jonathan
returns to Goliath.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath stares at Jonathan.

JONATHAN
The Ark.

Goliath continues his unfettered gaze.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
What of the Ark?

GOLIATH
What of it?

JONATHAN
You have it.

GOLIATH
That I do, Israelite.

JONATHAN
You tried to kill an old man for
it.

GOLIATH
And his sons.

Jonathan's teeth clench.

JONATHAN
I should kill you now, giant.

GOLIATH
(mockingly)
Such big words.

JONATHAN
You'll have our answer soon
enough.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- NIGHT

Saul sits alone at the desk in his study. David's
playing is heard in the background.

JONATHAN (O.S.)
Father.

The harp stops.

SAUL
Jonathan! What news?

Jonathan steps in.

JONATHAN
The Philistines have sent the
Giant, Goliath.

SAUL
To what end?

From the back, David listens in.

JONATHAN
To settle this in the ways of old.

DAVID (O.S.)
The ways of old?

Saul and Jonathan turn to their third party.

JONATHAN
Yes, David. Their best fighter
against ours. The victor is said
to then to have bound the whole of
the loser.

SAUL
Out of the question.

DAVID
Why?

Saul shoots David a look.

SAUL
(to David) (angry)
*Do you know any Israelis that can
kill a giant?*
(to Jonathan)
How much time do we have?

JONATHAN
Forty days.

DAVID
(to Jonathan)
How do you know?

JONATHAN
An offer from one army to the
next - under these circumstances
- is open for forty days. It
allows the offeree time to find
their champion.

SAUL
David, your time here is done.
You may go home.

DAVID
But I want to help!

SAUL
But you *have*. Your king feels
better. Your mother's training
is without question superb. Now
go home... I *release* you.

JONATHAN
Goodbye, David. Pray for us.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE VALLEY OF ELAH -- CONTINUOUS

The sun rises yet again. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: DAY TWO.

EXT. GOLIATH'S TENT, PHILISTINE SIDE -- DAY

Goliath emerges from his tent. Dressed in his armor,
he trudges towards the middle of the valley.

BACK TO:

EXT. THE VALLEY OF ELAH -- CONTINUOUS

This time, the ISRAELI ARMY is waiting on the other

side. All of them.

Goliath gets to the middle and smirks at the audience.

GOLIATH

(shouting)

Why do you come out and line up
for battle!? Am I not a
Philistine? Choose your man - if
he can kill me, all of Philistia
is yours. Send me a man, Israel,
and this ends today.

Goliath's words echo as barks from a dog.

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE -- DAY

Jonathan stands with Agbar and Gagaro. Behind, the
Israeli Army collectively seems to shudder at his
words. Included in this group are David's brothers,
who are just as terrified.

JONATHAN

It starts.

MONTAGE:

EXT. GOLIATH'S TENT, PHILISTINE SIDE -- CONTINUOUS
Morning. Goliath emerging from his tent.

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- CONTINUOUS

Night. Goliath standing in the middle of the valley.

EXT. JONATHAN'S TENT, ISRAELI SIDE -- DAY

Jonathan engaged in practiced swordplay with Agbar and
Gagaro.

INT. KITCHEN, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David sitting at his table, writing in the parchment.
Concentrating on each word.

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE -- DAY

David's brothers and the Israeli camp looking towards the Valley of Elah. Staring at Goliath (O.S.).

EXT. GOLIATH'S TENT, PHILISTINE SIDE -- CONTINUOUS

Morning. Different day. Goliath coming out of the tent.

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- DAY

Saul and Jonathan conferring with one another. Saul shaking his head at an imploring Jonathan.

INT. BEDROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Nitzevet and Jesse holding hands, worried for their sons. Eyes closed in prayer.

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- CONTINUOUS

New day. Raining. Goliath standing in the middle of the valley. Barking his ultimatum.

EXT. PATH -- NIGHT

Samuel journeying with a walking stick and a torch.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S PALACE -- NIGHT

In Saul's study, Jonathan and Saul sit while Jonathan's Generals, Agbar and Gagaro, confer with one another.

SAUL (O.S.)
Out of the question!

JONATHAN
I can fight him, father.

Agbar steps forward.

AGBAR
I'm with the King, Jonathan. You would lose.

SAUL
You'd be killed and Israel would
fall under Philistia rule. Think
beyond your own indignation.

JONATHAN
Our time is running out! It's been
three weeks since the Giant's
proclamation. Little time is left.

AGBAR
(to Saul)
The taunts have doubled, Sire.

JONATHAN
One at dawn; one at night.

SAUL
Find Samuel.

Jonathan and Agbar exchange a glance.

JONATHAN
The prophet that you
excommunicated.

Jonathan's subtle indictment is piercing.

SAUL
(softly)
Yes.

JONATHAN
And what?

SAUL
I don't know. Find him. He'll know
more than I at this point.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE - DAY

Abigail and David sit at their table. Nitzevet picks
small fragments out of the lamb's wool. David focuses

on his parchment.

ABIGAIL
Same poem?

David doesn't even look up.

DAVID
Psalm, Abby. I told you it's a
psalm.

NITZEVET
A psalm of what?

DAVID
I don't know yet. I can't... I
can't figure out the second
half.

NITZEVET
Let me read it.

Nitzevet reaches for it.

DAVID
No, no... not yet. Not until I
finish.

JESSE (O.S.)
David! David... come here.

David quickly rises and darts out of the room.

MOMENTS LATER:

INT. KITCHEN, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Jesse stands over a table full of roasted bread and
cheese, while preparing a large basket.

David enters.

DAVID
Yes, Av.

JESSE

I want you to take this *ephah* to
your brothers.

DAVID
In Elah?

JESSE
Yes, with all the men of Israel.
See how they are and bring back
news from the front.

DAVID
I'll leave in the morning. But-

JESSE
-But what, my boy?

DAVID
What of the flock?

JESSE
I'll watch them!

DAVID
Great... I'll return and they'll
be famished.

JESSE
Your old father wrote the book on
shepherding.

David and Jesse smile at one another.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVERLOOKING ELAH -- DAY
Early Morning. Samuel, cloaked and with his walking
stick, journeys downward to the Israel encampment.

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Jonathan's tent. Israeli flags blow in the wind. A
horse is tied up out front.

INT. JONATHAN'S TENT, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Inside, Jonathan confers with General Agbar and Gagaro.

JONATHAN
What news from our scouts?

AGBAR
No matter what, it ends in the
Valley of Elah.

A pause.

JONATHAN
How has it come to this?

Jonathan slumps over in his chair.

GAGARO
Did I ever tell you about my
sister, Naomi?

JONATHAN
General, I didn't even think you
had parents.

Agbar lets out a hearty laugh.

GAGARO
Well I do! My sister Naomi was a
young woman. Beautiful girl. She
lived in Moab with her husband and
sons.

JONATHAN
Moab?

GAGARO
Moab. My sister lost her husband
to a band of renegade thieves.
Shortly after, her sons were killed
in battle. Senseless deaths. For ten
years she was bitter, *hateful*. She
hated God more than anything.

A pause.

JONATHAN
And?

GAGARO
Life's not fair, Jonathan. It
never has been. And never will be.

SAMUEL (O.S.)
I knew Naomi.

Jonathan turns.

JONATHAN
(excited)
Samuel!

SAMUEL
She was a fantastic grandmother
as I recall.

GAGARO
She was indeed.

SAMUEL
And a lovely woman.

Gagaro tilts his head. She was indeed.

JONATHAN
Samuel, we need your guidance. We
are outnumbered and at the edge.

SAMUEL
I know.

AGBAR
So what, then?

SAMUEL
I came down to tell you I do not
foresee victory.

JONATHAN

The Lord will really see his people *fall* to the Philistines?

SAMUEL
(matter of factly)
Yes.

AGBAR
Is there no other way?

SAMUEL
Israel will lose in full battle.
Goliath's way *is* your only hope.

The men can't believe their ears.

JONATHAN
Goliath's way? Our best and him?
That's not a way, it's a death
sentence.

SAMUEL
I didn't say it was fair. But
that is the only possibility for
victory.

AGBAR
What day is it?

JONATHAN
The twelfth.

GAGARO
Tomorrow is the fortieth day.

JONATHAN
We have one day to find our
champion?

SAMUEL
Yes. It's not you, Jonathan.

JONATHAN
This can't be.

AGBAR
He's full of it, Jonathan.
Prepare the men for battle.

Samuel rises and walks to the entrance.

SAMUEL
Find your champion. Size doesn't
matter. At least not in this
contest. In this contest, it is
a battle of hearts over strength.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

David has the *ephah* on his bed. But he focuses on
packing his own bag.

JESSE (O.S.)
David, you ready?

DAVID
Yeah!

David takes one final glance around his room. In the
corner, his sling and rod. He simply stares at it.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD, BETHLEHEM -- DAY

David walks. His rod in one hand and the pack on his
back. In this, his sling noticeably sticks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- NIGHT

Fires burn.

INT. SAUL'S TENT -- NIGHT

Saul has finally reached the front-lines at Elah. His
tent is large and roomy. Inside, Jonathan, Agbar, his

advisors, and Ishvi.

SAUL
Tomorrow we fight.

AGBAR
We have no champion?

SAUL
Who can fight that... *abomination*.

JONATHAN
He is still just a man.

SAUL
That is *no* man.

JONATHAN
Samuel said only fighting the
Philistine on his terms could we
achieve victory.

SAUL
Samuel said a lot of things.

ISHVI
Jonathan, there is no man
available to fight.

JONATHAN
So we risk open slaughter? Father,
you specifically request Samuel's
guidance. This is it! Send out a
fighter!

AGBAR
The men will fight, regardless.

JONATHAN
And *lose*!

SAUL
(to each man)
Enough! Agbar, prepare your men.
Ishvi, you too.

AGBAR (O.S.)
Yes, king.

ISHVI (O.S.)
Yes, father.

SAUL
Jonathan, a word outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAUL'S TENT -- NIGHT

Saul and Jonathan walk along the military tents.

SAUL
What would you have me do?

SOLDIER (O.S.)
My king.

Saul nods.

JONATHAN
Find your champion. Arm him. And
send him out.

SAUL
Based on what - Samuel's
foreboding?

JONATHAN
There is no hope for victory in
this camp. But one man may have
enough for the rest of us.

SAUL
Consider what you ask me: appoint
one man, half the size of the
Philistine, to send out to battle
while all of Israel hangs in the
balance.

A pause.

SAUL (CONT'D)

I won't do it. I won't. Ready your men.

Saul begins to walk away from an aggrieved Jonathan. A familiar growl interrupts his departure.

GOLIATH (O.S.)

Am I not a Philistine? Choose your man; if he kills me, all of Philistia is yours, Israel! Send me a man and this ends tonight. Which of you has the courage?

JONATHAN

We'll only hear that one more time, father.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- NIGHT

Goliath, once again, stands in the middle of the valley issuing his edict. The moon illuminates his bronze armor.

FADE TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Vultures circle the hot, open air. A scorpion creeps along. A rattle snake readies a strike.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: DAY FORTY.

EXT. GOLIATH'S TENT -- DAY

Goliath emerges from his tent. A rooster crows.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAUL'S TENT, ISRAELI SIDE -- DAY

Saul again bedridden. Next to his bed, his armor hangs untouched and unused.

CUT TO:

INT. JONATHAN'S TENT, ISRAELI SIDE -- DAY

Jonathan sharpens his sword.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David's brothers group in prayer.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKLINES, ISRAEL CAMP -- DAY

David arrives. Men and smoke everywhere. He picks up his speed and starts to run to the front.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath walks to the middle of the Valley. In his right hand, several spears. He is in full armor, and his large sword hangs across his back. The snake hisses and turns away from Goliath's large, pounding feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVER ELAH -- DAY

Samuel watches. Takes a swig of water.

BACK TO:

EXT. ISRAEL SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David makes it to the front. Scores of men watch as Goliath walks towards the middle.

DAVID
Who is that there?

An ISRAELI SOLDIER overhears David.

ISRAELI SOLDIER
Who is that!? Just the menace
Goliath is all.

The soldier continues on.

DAVID
That's Goliath!?

A SECOND SOLDIER listens in.

SECOND SOLDIER
Every day he comes to defy Israel.

Yet ANOTHER SOLDIER joins.

ANOTHER SOLDIER
Every day he defies the Lord.

DAVID
Why hasn't anyone silenced this
fool?

SECOND SOLDIER
That fool is ten feet tall. He
eats boys like you for breakfast.

DAVID
What becomes of the man who kills
this *Nephilim*?

The soldiers conceal their laughter.

ANOTHER SOLDIER
(mockingly)
I imagine great wealth.

SECOND SOLDIER

(mockingly)
The King's daughter!

ANOTHER SOLDIER
(mockingly)
Tax exemption!

They walk away. Amused.

ELIAB (O.S.)
David!?

David's brother, Eliab, notices David's presence.

DAVID
Eliab!

ELIAB
What are you doing here?

DAVID
Av sent me! I have cheese and
bread for you and the others.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath reaches the middle. He drives his spears into
the ground.

GOLIATH
Last day, Israel. I am the
Philistine, Goliath! Choose your
man; if he can fight and kill me,
all of Philistia is yours. Send me
a man, Israel, and this ends
today.

A pause.

Goliath breaks from his monologue.

GOLIATH (CONT'D)
I pity you, Israel. I pity your

God. I pity your king and the
bitches you go home to.

BACK TO:

EXT. ISRAEL SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Eliab tries to escort David to the back of the lines.

DAVID

Who is this to defy the Lord's
people?

ELIAB

David, you need to get home. By
night's end, this place will be
a feeding ground for the birds.

DAVID

I'm not leaving.

ELIAB

You little shit! You came here
just to watch the battle.

David stops and turns his gaze to Goliath.

ELIAB (CONT'D)

People are going to die, David.
Leave!

David removes his pack.

GOLIATH (O.S.)

I curse you, Israel. Cowards -
all of you.

And opens his back pouch. He grabs his sling, and
frantically searches for ammo.

DAVID

No rocks!

ELIAB (O.S.)
You can't be serious right now.

Eliab watches the spectacle unfold.

DAVID
I'll be back.

ELIAB
No! Go. Leave this place.

David runs from the lines.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S TENT, ISRAELI SIDE -- DAY

Saul and Jonathan plan for the morning.

JONATHAN
At midday, I'll lead my men
through the Valley.

SAUL
Very well.

Saul shows signs of hesitation.

SAUL (CONT'D)
I should have listened to
Samuel...

JONATHAN
All men fail, father.

SAUL
But their failures are their
own. A whole country could fall
on my undoing.

JONATHAN
You don't know.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST STREAM OUTSIDE OF ELAH -- DAY

David arrives heavy of breath. He searches through the shallow waters where previously Goliath fought his brothers.

Every second or so, he finds a rock and throws it to the ground (O.S.).

The rocks pile up. One then two... then five.

Moments later, David inspects. Ten rocks. Of those, he chooses five *round* ones.

David picks up the stones and places them in his bag. Then turns and runs.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath stands. Still taunting Israel. His brothers have joined his ranks. They remain a shade back. Behind them, all the ARMIES OF PHILISTIA. They wait for Goliath's move.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

On Israeli's side, Jonathan and Ishvi are at the front of their camp.

EXT. ISRAELI CAMP, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David enters. Stops. The camp is empty. He runs to the front.

EXT. ISRAELI FRONT, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David reaches the front overlooking the Valley. To his right, Jonathan.

JONATHAN
David!?

DAVID
Jonathan!

JONATHAN
What are you doing here?

DAVID
I am going to fight the giant
Goliath.

JONATHAN
(dismissive)
I admire your courage, David, but
we need something more.

DAVID
And you have it.

David drops his pack.

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)
And I'm not requesting permission.

David starts his descent down the Valley as the men
group to watch the spectacle.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath (and the rest) watch as a distant figure heads
towards them.

GOLIATH
Quiet! Israel has chosen their
champion.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. VALLEY EDGE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David climbs down with care. It starts to rain.

DAVID
(to self)
The Lord is my shepherd...

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)
The Lord is my shepherd...

A pause.

David continues his climb down. He wipes the raindrops from his face.

DAVID (CONT'D)
The Lord is my shepherd...

David stops.

DAVID (CONT'D)
And even though I *walk* through
the shadow of the *valley* of death.

A pause.

Goliath squints his eyes to narrow his vision.

GOLIATH
(in Aramaic)
What the hell?

David continues descending.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I shall fear no evil.

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)
They rod and they staff...

A pause.

DAVID (CONT'D)
They comfort me.

EXT. VALLEY FLOOR, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David reaches the valley floor.

DAVID (CONT'D)
They comfort me.

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath walks towards his opponent. The whole of
Philistia follows in unison.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLTOP OVER ELAH -- DAY

Samuel kneels in prayer.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

David and Goliath face one another.

GOLIATH
(irritated)
Am I dog? Am I dog that I should
be attacked with sticks from a
boy?

Goliath turns towards his brothers and the army.

GOLIATH (CONT'D)
Israel mocks us! Israel-

DAVID
(calmly)
-You come against me with sword and
spear. But I stand here in the name
of Israel's God. The *only* God.

Goliath spits.

GOLIATH

Flee, boy. So rarely am I merciful
but this is *beyond* cowardly. Go
home.

DAVID

This day, the Lord will hand you
over to me. This day, *Philistine*,
I will have your head.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(to Philistia Army)

And that goes for you, Philistia.
This is the Lord's battle, and for
too long have you defied Him.

OG (O.S.)

What are you waiting for!?

CHALEIM

Kill him, Goliath.

GOLIATH

Boy, I gave you a chance.

Goliath readies his spears.

GOLIATH (CONT'D)

The birds will taste your
flesh.

Goliath walks closer to attack. David doesn't
hesitate, and *runs* to meet him. His sling swinging in
place. Preparing to strike.

Goliath heaves his first large spear. David ducks
underneath it, and maintains his pace.

Thirty feet out.

David unleashes his sling. The rock flies by Goliath's
face.

Twenty-five feet out.

Goliath throws another spear. David ducks it again.

David slings two rocks, together. Both whiz by Goliath's face on opposite sides.

Fifteen feet out.

David lets loose one last shot. Again, it misses Goliath.

But with his last spear thrown, Goliath slices David's right arm. David drops his sling in agony.

As the two barrel towards one another from *ten feet away*.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

The Lion roaring and running at David.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE OF JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

The Bear running at David and his family.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath swings his sword at David's head. David slides underneath it. The two break for a moment.

GOLIATH

Quick. But your aim is-

Goliath swings his sword once again. David dodges it while pressing on his wounded arm.

DAVID

(pained)

-I wasn't aiming at you.

Goliath hears his army lamenting. He turns to the commotion.

Four bodies - large and armored - rest limp on the very ground beneath them. Their heads have rocks indented between their eyes.

David has killed Goliath's brothers.

EXT. ISRAELI FRONT, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Saul and Jonathan watch.

JONATHAN
Size doesn't matter.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Distance has been created between the two. David picks up his sling in the midst of Goliath's ghastly discovery. One stone remains.

As Goliath turns, eyes filled with anger, a good forty feet has been established between him and David.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

The lion bearing down.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

The bear roaring at David.

BACK TO:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath runs at David with all his might, speed and anger. His sword overhead.

David winds-up his sling and runs towards Goliath as well.

As he runs, David releases his sling. The rock, round and precise, flies out with precision.

SECONDS LATER:

EXT. VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

Goliath's dead body hits the ground with a mighty force and slides to David's feet. A rock indented between his eyes. The sword falls seconds later.

David bends down, and picks it up. He lifts it and chops down hard on Goliath's neck.

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

The Israeli Army cheers.

EXT. PHILISTINE SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

The Philistia Army is in full retreat.

EXT. ISRAELI SIDE, VALLEY OF ELAH -- DAY

The Israeli Army barrels towards the Philistine Army.

EXT. HILLTOP OVERLOOKING ELAH -- DAY

Samuel jumps up and down for joy.

CUT TO:

INT. KING ASHISH'S TENT -- DAY

Rapha and the King Ashish sit at a table. An AIDE rushes in.

PHILISTIA AIDE

King! King... news from the front!
The giants are *dead*! The giants
are dead and the Israeli Army
moves!

RAPHA
Which ones?

PHILISTIA AIDE
My lord?

RAPHA
Which of my sons?

PHILISTIA AIDE
I'm sorry my lord...

A pause.

PHILISTIA AIDE (CONT'D)
... but *all of them*.

Rapha and Ashish's eyes grow and suggest a sudden burst of fear.

FADE TO:

EXT. ROAD TO JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

David rides a horse next to Jonathan. Six brothers and a few other KINGLY SUBJECTS follow. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: THREE WEEKS LATER.

EXT. FIELD, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

Jesse and Nitzevet watch from the field. Behind, the sun begins setting.

JESSE
David! Eliab! Shimeah! It's Ozem and Raddai. They're back. And Nethanel. And there's Abinadab.

NITZEVET
Who is the last, there?

JESSE
I don't know.

Jesse and Nitzevet walk towards their house.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- DAY

They're all sitting and fellowshiping in Jesse's living room.

NITZEVET
Our David did this?

JONATHAN
He won't admit it.

DAVID
(shyly)
He was defiling the Lord; I did what any Israelite should do.

ELIAB
I almost stopped you!

JESSE
My boy. My David.

JONATHAN
(to Jesse)
King Saul would ask your permission to retain David in his services.

A pause.

JONATHAN
(to David)
With the boy's permission.

DAVID
I am my king's servant.

JESSE
Of course, of course.

Jonathan rises to leave. His aides follow.

JONATHAN

Thank you for your kindness.
David, I will return next month.
You have provided a great hope
to Israel.

DAVID

Goodbye, Jonathan.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM, JESSE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

David unpacks his bag. He comes upon his sling, lifts
it up and inspects it.

Jesse enters.

JESSE

David, what you did was only
through the Lord. Never forget
that. He is the only good we have
in us.

DAVID

Yes, Av, I know. You know what?

JESSE

What's that?

DAVID

I finished something... right in
the valley.

JESSE

What is it?

DAVID

My psalm.

David reaches deep inside his bag and removes the
parchment he's been belaboring on.

DAVID

Here it is.

Jesse sits on David's bed.

JESSE

Well... let's hear it.

David unrolls the parchment. Smiles.

DAVID

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall
not be in want. He maketh me lie
down in green pastures, and leads
me beside quiet waters. He
restores my soul.

BACK TO:

INT. KING DAVID'S STUDY -- DAY

King David stands at the windowsill. The assistant
watches.

KING DAVID

He guides me in paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
And 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 while my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will
follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord forever.

FADE TO:

BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE TEXT: PSALM TWENTY-THREE. **THE END**