



Back to the Garden Camp Theme Package

A Nine-Act (Evening/Morning) Stage Play Script

&

A Theme Song with Lyrics and Chords

Written by Zack Payne

For the 2024 Summer Camp Season at Camp Wakonda

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance/speaking)

43 total speaking/non-speaking parts

Announcer: 1 lines in 1 act. Announcer has a great voice for announcing talk shows, sporting events, bratwurst cookoffs, etc.

Steve: 140 lines in all acts. Steve is basically Conan O'Brien (or the comparable late night host for Gen Z). He's a rising star in the entertainment business, but behind the scenes he is insecure that he can actually pull off success. A lot of character development happens, so that Steve at the end is much less selfish and much more willing to risk harm to his reputation and even his safety, for the sake of doing what is right.

Kalissa: 5 lines in 1 act. Kalissa is a *very* professional newswoman, who desires to make an impact on the media scene of the North Kingdom. She has impeccable diction and always smiles, even when talking about problematic and devastating topics.

Shopper A: 1 line in 1 act. Shopper A is a pagan adherent to the god Marduk who lives in the Northern Kingdom. They also are a big fan of the local chain Capitol Donuts.

Shopper B: 1 line in 1 act. Shopper B has a son who is a wanted fugitive, but they really support his dreams. They are very excited about the new store, Run Elijah Run, because they promise the latest in foot racing technology.

Jonah: 4 lines in 1 act. Jonah has recently come back from his trip to Nineveh, and is trying to tell everyone about the grace of God and is critical of King Jerry.

Angel 1: 68 lines in all acts. Angel 1 seems a little new at their job. They really look up to Angel 2, who seems to have it all together. Nevertheless, when it's time to jump into action, Angel 1 is full of enthusiasm.

Angel 2: 70 lines in all acts. Angel 2 has been angeling for a long time. They are a guardian angel for Steve and are often first on the scene during a spiritual skirmish. They also seem to understand a lot about technology and how time travel works.

Regent: 1 line in 1 act. This guy is a crony of King Jerry. He pretends to be everyone's best friend, but is also usually only there to crush people's dreams. It's a hard vibe to deal with.

Manager/Jesus: 115 lines in all acts but one. This person apparently is Steve's manager, but it turns out that it's like an episode of Undercover Boss: because it's actually Jesus in disguise. Jesus wants to show Steve a better way to live, but as they travel through different times together, Jesus deals with some real situations in real-time.

Adam: 8 lines in 1 act. Adam is very naïve, and naked (note: not really, he and Eve are wearing white robes, but the idea is that they aren't wearing clothes). He is not terribly loyal in a crisis, but he is great with puns (note: not really, he's bad at them).

Eve: 7 lines in 1 act. Eve is also naïve, also naked (also not really). Dragons are tricky for her.

Dragon: 6 lines in 2 acts. This is Satan. He looks like a silly snake. He only shows up in person in the Garden of Eden and at the foot of the cross as Jesus dies. He think he bad. He ain't bad.

Seriph: 1 line in 1 act. Super buff angel who no one could get past. Guards the garden of eden with surety.

Noah: 5 lines in 1 act. Noah is old and tired. He has dedicated much of his life toward building a giant ship, inviting people to board it to safety for a natural disaster than has never happened before, and being called a fool.

Japheth: 10 lines in 1 act. Really hopes to catch a gopher someday.

Ham: 6 lines in 1 act. The "cool" brother.

Shem: 9 lines in 1 act. The eldest brother who actually does the work.

Knife Man: 1 line in 1 act. Really likes knives, in a creepy way. Doesn't like Noah. Knows people who mobilize large, angry groups of people.

Israelite 1: 7 lines in 1 act. Farms whatchamacallit. Is passionate about baklava, but lacks ingredients.

Israelite 2: 6 lines in 1 act. Farms whatchamacallit. Pretty chill person, mostly.

Israelite 3: 5 lines in 1 act. Farms whatchamacallit. Really doesn't like phonies who think pistachios can be substituted for in recipes.

Moses: 3 lines in 1 act. This is Moses, tired from giving an epic speech about a Promised Land that he knows he's not invited to. He's discouraged.

Samuel: 14 lines in 1 act. This is Samuel, tired from dealing with crabby Hebrews, and upset that they have chosen not to follow God but to elect a king. He's jaded, but able to be convinced to continue as a mentor to an imperfect king.

Saul: 5 lines in 1 act. Saul is scared and doesn't think he has it in him to be the new King of Israel. He's supposed to signify that all leaders are really like this, deep down.

Samaritan 1: 7 lines in 1 act. Left behind in the North Kingdom after the Assyrian exile. Not a big fan of paganism. Doesn't like Jonah.

Samaritan 2: 7 lines in 1 act. Left behind in the North Kingdom after the Assyrian exile. Not a big fan of King Jerry. Gets songs stuck in their head easily.

Samaritan 3: 3 lines in 1 act. Left behind in the North Kingdom after the Assyrian exile. Big fan of PS, It's Steve.

Stephen: 10 lines in 1 act (includes a long monologue). This is Stephen in his martyrdom era. Steve is struck by them having the same name, and also he is inspired by the way Stephen is unafraid to die for his convictions.

Mobster 1: 4 lines in 1 act. This is just your classic bully, dressed in pious clothes.

Mobster 2: 2 lines in 1 act. He is a great event planner and thinks of every little detail.

Trumpeteer: 1 line in 1 act. An excellent trumpet player. And has a great loud voice too.

Crowdite 1: 1 line in 1 act. One of the random people who is a fan of Jesus.

Crowdite 2: 2 lines in 1 act. One of the random people who is a fan of Jesus.

Peter: 10 lines in 2 acts. Peter loves fish dip and cutting off ears.

Matthew: 7 lines in 2 acts. Tax collector who is pretty chill.

Thomas: 2 lines in 1 act. Very skeptical.

James: 4 lines in 2 acts. A Brother of Thunder ™

John: 3 lines in 2 acts. A Brother of Thunder ™

Judas: 5 lines in 2 acts. This is a very phony dude.

Pharisee: 3 lines in 1 act. Bad man who looks good.

Evil Angel 1: 1 line in 1 act. Thinks they can win, but they can't.

Evil Angel 2: 1 line in 1 act. Could be cool, but friends with Satan.

Morning/Evening Play Outlines

Overall Premise

Spring boarding off of our 2023 Summer Camp Play, *Wake Up Call, Back to the Garden* begins in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam II (King Jerry 2.0). Last summer, we saw Jonah go on his journey and while the book of Jonah ends with God asking a question, we imagined a conclusion that saw Jonah a changed man, empathetic to the pagans who come to know God, and newly aware of his own need of repentance. His contemporary prophets were Amos (which is biblical) and Steve (a fictional, clearly false state prophet). Israel has been modernized, for the sake of the story feeling a little more relatable to those in our audience—meaning that everyone in 8th Century BC Israel is talking about their Twitter accounts and watching late night television shows, etc. In *Back to the Garden*, Steve now has his own talk show and he is trying to impress King Jerry in order to get syndicated. Behind the scenes, King Jerry is not happy with Steve and he is about to cancel his show. However, Steve's manager is actually Jesus undercover. In order to brace him for his imminent disgrace, and to teach him about his own depravity and need for a savior, Jesus takes Steve on a series of journeys to various time periods to experience how sin came into the world, how various peoples and leaders have dealt with it, what God's plan of salvation looks like, and how Steve (and all people) are invited to play a part of that plan.

Sunday Evening

We open with Steve's new talk show, P.S., It's Steve. During the show, it is clear that he's not able to fully manage the negative PR crisis of King Jerry's leadership. Angels, up in heaven, note that King Jerry is leading the kingdom of Israel in a bad direction and start a "heavenly commentary" of the trajectory of things happening on earth. Steve is disquieted, especially when King Jerry's Regent tells him this episode will not air and they'll play a re-run instead. After a quick time on the red carpet, Steve thinks he's being whisked off to an after party by his manager, but instead it is Jesus taking him back to the Garden of Eden in a time machine.

Monday Morning

Steve has a hard time understanding the fact that he's not in Israel or his own time period anymore. He is very disturbed that Adam and Eve aren't wearing clothes. The angels make a point to follow Steve on his journey through time, and they explain the unique situation of sin on planet earth and its implications for the rest of the universe. Adam and Eve are tricked by the Dragon and Jesus doles out consequences and tells an angel to make sure they don't eat from the tree of life anymore. Steve starts to question whether or not he really knows his manager, or what's really going on.

Monday Evening

Noah and his sons are finishing up building the ark. They explain how evil the people of the earth are at this point in time. A man attempts to take Noah's life, and after being fended off expresses that there is an angry mob that intends to burn down the ark. At that point it starts to rain. The angels begin to discuss a main theme of the play: the concept of free will.

Tuesday Morning

We find a group of Israelites waiting for manna to fall from heaven. Steve and Jesus have a conversation about how Steve is feeling homesick. Moses gives his final speech and then has a discouraged conversation with Jesus about how he cannot enter the promised land.

Tuesday Evening

Jesus consoles an upset Samuel over the recent circumstance that the people of Israel have rejected God and asked for a king. Steve learns that his show has been cancelled by King Jerry, and he apologizes for being difficult. A scared Saul wrestles with having been chosen to be king. There's discussion about the consequences of rejecting God.

Wednesday Morning

Steve sees a post-exile Northern Kingdom and talks with some Samaritans who have been left behind. He is able to vent about King Jerry and is flattered that the Samaritans remember his show from before the kingdom was sacked. For the first time, he learns that his Manager is named Jesus. He suddenly is overcome with a crisis of emotions and steals the time machine, leaving Jesus "stranded" and heading to who knows where.

Wednesday Evening

Steve meets John the Baptist, learns about Jesus, gets baptized and has his first vision

Thursday Morning

Steve spends more time with Jesus, in the time of the ministry of Jesus. Specifically, he experiences the triumphal entry and the last supper. This is less of a time of character development for Steve, and more his soaking up who this Jesus is, who he has been travelling around with all this time.

Thursday Evening

Steve falls asleep with the rest of the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. There is a lot of spiritual warfare during this act. Jesus is betrayed by Judas. There is a moment where Steve has a side conversation about how they can hop in the time machine, but Jesus assures him that he's not going to stop them from killing him. Steve starts to better understand who Jesus is, and wants to tell the world about him. Good and evil angels have a conversation about whether God or Satan wins via the cross. Steve commits to going back to his own time, so he can tell King Jerry and the rest of the kingdom about Jesus.

Friday Morning

Steve meets John the Revelator (John, from Jesus' disciples) and they catch up many years later. John tells Steve about the Revelation Jesus gave him. Steve heads back to his time period. Play ends.

Morning/Evening Play Scripts

Sunday Evening

(Scene opens on the set of a talk show, P.S. It's Steve)

Announcer: Welcome to the best show on Late Late Night, P.S., It's Steve, where we bring you the absolute best nonsense drivel that you crave, straight from the capitol. And now, here's your host: THE PROPHET STEEEEEEEVE!

(Song "Your Friend Steve" plays, except lyrics are changed to "The Prophet Steve." Audience cheers wildly. Steve struts onto the stage, making finger guns at the audience, air-playing instruments with the song, or any other cheesy talk show host improvising.)

Steve: What's up Steve Nation, how we doing this late, late night??

(Audience cheers briefly. Steve makes a motion for them to be quiet)

Steve: I'm your host, the Prophet Steve, and I predict a very good show tonight. We've got a guest with us that you're not going to want to miss, but we'll reveal that here in a moment. FIRST: Kalissa Joy is on site at a new strip mall opening in Gaza. Kalissa, what's the vibe on the ground?

(Kalissa and a long line of people are standing off to one side of the stage)

Kalissa: Well Steve, as always with these kinds of events, there is a large, angry mob trying to bogart the whole situation. But there are also those who just can't wait for the doors to open. This mall will include many high quality, high price stores that consumers can't wait for, amongst which is the highly anticipated debut of Run Elijah Run, an athletic wear company that promises consumers "our shoes outrun the king's chariots."

Steve: That is highly clever marketing, Kalissa, but as we all know: no one outruns King Jerry's chariots.

(Audience laughs)

Kalissa: Right you are, Steve!

Steve: So, you've got well crafted, unethically sourced sneakers, you've got goats milk ice cream, you've got soft pretzels with just a dash of salt crystals from the Dead Sea...it seems like this place has it all. Why the protests?

Kalissa: Well, Steve, it's hard to tell. Some say it has to do with the pagan statue of Marduk, God of Storms, that is affixed to the top of the structure. Those who espouse this idea say that all who shop here are being tricked into worshipping this false god, but...Steve, I just don't buy it. People want their consumer goods, and that's it. Let's verify, by asking one of the patrons patiently standing in line. Sir, why are you excited about this mall opening?

Shopper A: Oh, I'm excited to worship Marduk. They've got a chapel of reverence right next to Capitol Donuts, and...

Kalissa: (interrupting) Oh, that's so funny, what a jokester. (moving on to the next person in line) Ma'am, why are you waiting in line?

Shopper B: My son wants a pair of those shoes so badly. He desperately needs to outrun the authorities.

Kalissa: There you have it, Steve. No pagan worship here. Just good, old-fashioned people, trying to get good, new fashioned shoes. Back to you!

(audience cheers)

Steve: Wow, that had me on the edge of my seat. Sure seemed for a second that there was actual pagan worship happening in Israel. Good thing that's impossible, because this is God's country. (gets serious) Friends, followers, our guest tonight is someone that seemed to have fallen off the face of the planet. He was surrounded by barbarians in Nineveh, and lives to tell the tale. He's a friend to King Jerry, a hero of Israel...please join me in welcoming: The Prophet Jonah!!!

(audience cheers. Jonah walks onto the stage and sits in a chair across from Steve. He looks nervous, shaken.)

Steve: So Jonah, tell us how you survived living among the savages. Was it rough?

Jonah: You know, Steve, I wanted them to be savages. I really did. But I learned something when I was out there. They actually repented and turned their hearts to God. And because they did, God did not destroy their nation as He had me warn them about. It was humbling, but it was really awesome to see it play out that way.

(silent pause, Steve chuckles)

Steve: Jonah, you really had me going!

(Steve and audience laugh loudly)

Steve: Oh, Jonah, you absolutely slay me! Your ironic humor has brought a smile to the faces of our citizens for years, and that makes you a national treasure.

Jonah: I'm not joking, and I don't think it's funny. A pagan people gave their hearts to God and he spared them by his love and grace. That's your headline. I saw many amazing, life changing things on my trip. Even a ship full of pagan sailors learned of God and started worshipping Him. It was incredible.

Steve: You hear this guy? Jonah, have you ever met a pagan sailor? They have the mouths of...well, pagan sailors! (laughs at his own pun) No, no, God doesn't save people like that. And they DON'T worship the true God. They probably were worshipping some false god, and you got confused. Sea sickness can do that.

Jonah: I'm serious, Steve, and I have to tell you...it's disheartening to come home from a trip like that and to see our supposedly godly nation building monuments to Marduk right here in the capitol.

Steve: Ok, your irony is noted, but you may be travelling onto thin ice. Tread lightly, Jonah. What is it exactly that you want to say?

Jonah: I want to say that the King of Nineveh is closer to God than King Jerry. I love the guy, but he needs to be stopped. Israel is loved by God and we could follow God if we wanted, but currently that is not the reality.

Steve: Ok, Jonah, thank you for your time. Hilarious as always. Don't go anywhere! After the break, we've got pop duo Ben-Yamin, performing their new single, "I NiNeveh Want to Leave Jerusalem." Stay tuned!

(audience applauds. Scene ends)

(new scene begins in heaven)

Angel 1: We're in Defcon 2, dude! Do you see this? They're officially endorsing idol worship in Israel now. That King Jerry never learned his lesson, and now the kingdom is in real trouble. Even Jonah, the selfish prophet, has seen the light, and he's trying to tell them, but it may be too late.

Angel 2: I think we knew this was going to happen. Israel has been trending in that direction for a while. Five kings from now: this place is going down.

Angel 1: Yeah, I mean it doesn't have to. Look at what happened to Nineveh. We were sure they were on a crash course, but against all odds, they repented.

Angel 2: Honestly, though, their story isn't even over. King Senna may have led the people to repentance. But in about 100 years, time will tell if they make the right decision again, or slide back down the tubes.

Angel 1: How do you know all of this?

Angel 2: Oh, it's from my Seraphim training. I want to be one of the burning ones someday. Anyway, in class, they go over a timeline of when significant events are bound to occur. God doesn't pre-determine how people will respond, and we're always happy when they choose the right thing. But we tell the prophets what they need to know so that they can tell the people what's going to happen if they don't repent, or if they do follow God. And the Holy Spirit works with people who are open, to try to push people towards making the right decision. They don't always...but we're always happy when they do.

Angel 1: Wow...that's crazy. I didn't know any of that. So what's about to happen with this guy Steve.

Angel 2: (laughs) Well, that is a unique situation. You see that guy back stage?

Angel 1: (squints his eyes) The one with the (costume type)?

Angel 2: That's the one. Recognize anything familiar about him?

Angel 1: (long pause) Oh! That's...HIM!

Angel 2: Exactly.

Angel 1: But how does that work. I mean...everyone KNOWS he's gonna end up down there at some point. But NOW?

Angel 2: Yes, there's the official incarnation: baby born in Bethlehem, etc. But there are actually a lot of times He went down for one reason or another before THE time, you know?

Angel 1: Like when??

Angel 2: Like when the three "strangers" went down to visit Abraham. Or when the "man" wrestled with Jacob all night long. Or when the "burning bush" talked to Moses. Or when the "fourth man" appeared in the fire with Daniel's three friends?

Angel 1: Ok...I've heard of a couple of those.

Angel 2: The point being...the timeline works a little different for him. Jesus died for the sins of the entire world...both past, present, and future. So, he exists within time...but also is a little free-er to interact with time differently. That's why he knows how this all ends. Even though he allows people the freedom to choose their own destiny.

Angel 1: So you're saying...he's down there with Steve? What is his plan?

Angel 2: Who knows? Honestly. But whatever it is: Steve is about to get some knowledge. I'm really surprised he chose Steve. Because, he doesn't strike me as the kind of person who can handle this kind of thing.

(both walk off, scene ends)

(new scene begins with Steve backstage)

Steve: (talking to himself) That Jonah, what a jerk! I could get into real trouble for airing that interview. Good thing I spun it as humor. People will buy it. Right? Anyway, I guess I do kind of owe him one. King Jerry never cared about me so much, until Jonah came back all crazy from that Tarshish trip. My fame is because of his misfortune.

(Regent bursts into the room)

Steve: Ah, King Jerry's regent! Good to see you, my good sir!

Regent: Oh, Steve, call me Reeg. We're buddies right? Hey, saw the latest episode—watched the taping live, as always: that Jonah, hilarious right? Anywho...you can't air it. King Jerry says there's a little too much info on there that could potentially look bad for the empire—I mean, kingdom. So I've had my assistant pick out a past episode and tonight, we'll just do a rerun, ok? Of course, ok. You get it. Ok, bye!

Steve: Oh, this is a disaster.

(manager bursts in, a little crazed like the old guy from Back to the future)

Manager: Steven...are you crying?

Steve: No, it's not tears. It's shekels draining from my bank account. We can't air the episode. Also, don't call me Steven, ok?

Manager: Noted...hmm...all that talk about Israel being a pagan nation. I suppose it's not a good look for King Jerry.

Steve: No one said that! No one said pagan. I spun it all as silly, simple minded irony. Anyway, I'm sure King Jerry will cancel the show with another mess up like that.

Manager: Come now, people still like you. You've had very high ratings. Anyway, it's time for the afterparty. Are you wearing that?

Steve: What's wrong with what I'm wearing?

Manager: Oh, nothing. Just you don't have time to change. Up you get! I've got a ride out front.

(both get up and board the TIME MACHINE)

Steve: Uh, so where is this thing?

Manager: You'll see!

(Back to the Future Theme plays as they drive off in a golf cart/time machine)

(Scene ends)

Monday Morning

(scene opens with golf cart/time machine driving up. Steve and Manager have travelled back in time to the Garden of Eden)

Steve: Wow, King Jerry sure throws a wild afterparty. Where even are we? And are those people...naked?

(Adam and Eve walk on stage, wearing white robes "of light")

Adam: Hey there, I'm Adam and this is my wife Eve. I know I look good, but she looks Eve-n better, don'tcha think?

(both laugh at the stupid joke. Steve, embarrassed, looks everywhere but directly at Adam and Eve)

Manager: You've been waiting for quite a while to say that to someone, haven't you?

Eve: Oh yes...we've never met another person before. So we had that one ready just in case.

Adam: Although, you do look very familiar. Have we seen you before?

Manager: I've taken a stroll through here a few times before.

Eve: Oh, it IS you! Darling, it's him!

Adam: We almost didn't recognize you in that getup.

Steve: What are the naked people at King Jerry's party talking about. Do you know them?
(looks horrified)

Manager: We've met, yes.

Eve: He only MADE this place!

Adam: And us!

Steve: Ok...I'm confused. These are your kids?

Manager: You could say that.

Steve: If I had kids, I think I'd make them wear clothes.

Manager: Well, you see, Steve, they don't need them here. This is a time before sin entered the world.

Steve: Ah, very primitive. Also...WHERE are we again?

Eve: He's using all sorts of fancy words I don't understand. What's sin? What are clothes?
What's the world?

Steve: (pulls manager to the side) I don't know man. This seems like a weird scene. Should we leave? I don't see King Jerry anywhere.

Manager: Oh, we won't be seeing King Jerry here.

Steve: What do you mean?

Manager: Well, you see, that vehicle we just drove in. It helped us travel through time. We're in the Garden of Eden.

Steve: Wild. I didn't think it existed anymore! So this is it, eh? Oh! I get it: this is an elaborate escape room! And you even have paid reenactors playing the parts of Adam and Eve? Oh, King Jerry, what will you think of next?

Manager: Steve, this isn't role playing. They're not reenacting anything. We're actually in the Garden of Eden. I brought you here, because...well...because I think you need some perspective. You live in Israel in a time when you think your nation can do no wrong...but sin is real, and it affects everyone. And you're about to see how it first came into the world.

Steve: I don't understand.

Manager: You will. Kids, it's been good catching up. We're going to take a stroll over this way.

Adem & Eve: Byeeeee, see you again soon!

(Manager and Steve walk off stage, Dragon starts to creep onstage from the other side)

Dragon: Psssssssssst....I've got a quesssstion for you, Eve.....

(scene ends. New scene, up in heaven)

Angel 1: No no, wait! Oh! (flails arms in the air) She ate the fruit! Come on! (pause to think) Wait...this already happened in the past...how are we watching this?

Angel 2: (walks onto the stage with some tools in hand) I played with some of the settings. Now it's programmed to follow Steve as he travels through time.

Angel 1: Man...I didn't know it worked like that! Wow...so we just watched the fall of man...I actually never saw it the first time. Really sad to watch. I wish there was something I could have done to stop it.

Angel 2: Actually, it's what needs to happen.

Angel 1: What do you mean?

Angel 2: I mean...look, we all wish Adam and Eve would have made the right decision. But they didn't! And actually, as much as it's a huge headache for the human race...they provide something kind of amazing for the rest of the universe.

Angel 1: What's that?

Angel 2: An example of what happens outside of God's will.

Angel 1: I guess I never thought of it that way. So you mean...because they have to deal with sin, it helps us all to see why it's so important to stay on God's team?

Angel 2: Exactly.

Angel 1: Wow...And when Jesus redeems them, we know that they will be closer to Him than ever before. They'll even take new names, sing new songs, fit in new bodies, and have a unique story to tell that no one else will.

Angel 2: That's right...of course...there's a lot of pain involved. I'm sure glad to be on team Jesus. But watch the story...it eventually has a happy ending.

(scene ends. Back to the garden scene)

Manager: Adam! Eve! Where did you all go?

(Adam and Eve sheepishly step out from their hiding spot. They are now wearing outfits made of leaves)

Adam: Uh....my bad, dad. You see...uh...how do I put this...

Eve: We were naked! It was weird...we had to sew together these outfits made of leaves.

Adam: Yeah, you'd be proud...I mean, Eve really took to sewing. I didn't even know she had that skill.

Steve: Well, bless you two for finally putting some clothes on. It was about time.

Manager: Who...told you...that you were naked?

(Everyone pauses awkwardly)

Manager: Did you...eat from the tree that I told you not to eat from?

Adam: Yeah, ok...but...it was this lady, honestly. I mean...she REALLY wanted me to eat that persimmon. And I was like...WHAAA? I don't even like persimmons (I didn't think), but then she just kept pouting about it, so I tried it. Honestly, it was really good, but that's not the point. The point is, I didn't want to, but she made me.

Eve: (Incensed) Really?!

Steve: Way to throw your girl under the bus dude.

Eve: Ok...WELL...as long as we're pointing fingers. It was honestly that creepy Dragon guy who called me over and confused me about everything. He said YOU didn't want us to be like YOU and that we wouldn't actually die. And we didn't die! We just...knew we were naked.

Steve: Oh man...you didn't know you were...

Dragon: (talking loudly like revving up for a speech) Well, if you want to know what I think: I think it's all HIS fault (points at Manager)! If it wasn't for HIM, I'd still be in heaven and...

Manager: (waves his hand, and Dragon is unable to speak) I'm not interested in the blame game. Because you deceived the woman, you are cursed to crawl on your belly and eat dust all your days. I am making you and the woman enemies. Someday, she'll have a descendent that will crush your head, even though you bite his heel. (turning to the woman) You will feel pain in child bearing, you won't always agree with your husband, but he will have position over you. (turning to the man) The ground is cursed because of you. You will have to work hard to produce food from the ground. (addressing them all) You are all dust, and to dust you will all return. Which, to be clear, means that you will surely die. I love you. And I'm really sorry to see that is what you chose...

(Adam and Eve hold each other. Dragon slithers away. Seriph walks onto the stage)

Manager: (to Seriph) They can't stay here anymore. The tree of life needs to be inaccessible.

Seriph: Yes sir (salutes fist to chest)

(Manager gets on the golf cart, Steve follows)

Steve: Who...are you?

Manager: I'm your friend, Steve. But some day, I will crush that Dragon's head...and He will strike my heel.

Steve: I'm so confused.

Manager: You'll get it. Let's keep moving.

(they drive off...scene ends)

Monday Evening

(Scene opens at Noah's ark)

Noah: Just a few more boards left, and she's finished. (walks off)

Japheth: Ok dad, don't worry, I'll catch those gophers!

Ham: Bruh! It's gopher wood!

Japheth: The gopher would what?

Ham: Nevermind!

Japheth: Seriously dude, help me get this gopher!

(runs off)

Shem: (enters with a bundle of wood)

Ham: Japheth! I found your gophers!

Japheth: (runs onstage from the other side, panting) Where? Let me at em!

Shem: It's gopher wood.

(Steve and Manager roll up in the time machine)

Steve: Can we please stop doing that? It makes me queasy.

Manager: Do you want to drive next time?

Steve: I don't even know what that means.

(boys come over to check out the time machine)

Shem: Where has this contraption been all my life?

Ham: We've been carrying bundles of wood for nearly 70 years! And I could have been loading them on something like this, the whole time?

Japheth: Definitely would have helped us chase down the gophers!

Shem and Ham: It's gopher wood!

Manager and Steve: O.....kaaaaaay

Steve: So where are we now? I see we're out of the garden. What is this, some sort of plain?

Manager: This is known as Mesopotamia. Not too far from where the garden used to be, actually. This is our next stop, because you get to see what the result of Adam and Eve's sin was.

Japheth: Woah! You guys know Adam and Eve? They was our ancestors! Adam died before dad was around, but still he's got loads of stories that his dad told him. Boy, they really messed everyone up with that apple, eh?

Steve: It was a persimmon, actually.

Japheth: I've heard the story enough times. I know it was an apple.

(Steve puts his hands up like "take it easy")

Manager: Anyway, we've now come to a time when sin has reached its all time high.

Shem: You got that right! Out here, by the boat, we try to keep a close walk with God. But in the cities and towns...well, if your priority is walking with the Lord, you'd just as well not go there.

Ham: They stole gum right out of my pocket once!

Japheth: Once, a guy just came up and shaved the back of my head while I wasn't paying attention.

(Ham and Shem both facepalm)

Shem: I still don't know how that happens. It almost seems like that's more your fault...

Japheth: Not like you guys did anything about it: you just called me "white head" for weeks until it grew back.

Shem: Yeah...that was pretty funny.

Steve: Is there a reason we're here, Manager? Or are the three stooges just entertainment on the way to the next...uh...what are these places anyway?

Manager: We're visiting different time periods. I thought that was clear by now. And this is the day "IT" happens.

Steve: Time periods...boat? Three brothers? Wait, you don't mean...the flood is about to happen?

Shem: Who told you guys about the flood? You believe it too? (Thunder crashes in the distance) That reminds me, I need to nail those last few boards on!

Manager: Yes. The flood is about to happen.

(Shem calls Ham and Japheth and they mime picking up wood and nailing boards. Or perhaps they just go off stage and make some hammer pounding noises.)

Steve: Somehow, I just thought that was kind of a myth. I mean, I know the story well, but the guy who built the ark...what was his name? Utnapishtim?

Manager: Some call him that, sure...his real name was Noah.

Steve: That's right. So wasn't God so mad because the people were partying too loudly and so He vowed to flood the earth?

Manager: That's not exactly right...The world was depraved...they were killing each other, tearing the earth apart....nothing was safe...even children: everyone was evil and every plan they had was evil. It's maybe hard to see that from here, but Noah and his sons...they're the only ones left who aren't following the Dragon.

Steve: I see...so...God's response was to wipe out everyone else?

Manager: You've got to meet Noah, man. He'll be here soon. And please understand...he hasn't just been building a boat for 70 years...he's also been telling everyone he sees that

the boat is for them. Everyone has the chance to be saved. Unfortunately...they all have rejected that invitation.

Steve: So...God was being merciful...just no one cared? That's so stupid of them! Why wouldn't you get on the boat, just in case?

Manager: (holding hand out) I felt a sprinkle just now. It's the first time that's ever happened. Before this second...rain was just a myth. Having faith means believing in something you've never seen before. Noah has faith. No one else knows how to have faith anymore. The Dragon has got them so confused. It breaks my heart.

Steve (silent contemplation)

(Japheth hoots in the distance...the three boys run onto the stage, ahead of Noah)

Shem: Boy! Good thing you said something! We just BARELY got those last boards on.

Ham: The animals are already on board, each with it's own place.

Steve: Animals?? There are animals here?

Japheth: Two of every unclean, seven of every clean! For re-populating the earth, when all this is done.

Noah: Gentlemen! The ark will have to close here soon. Although I'm not sure how to close this giant door.

Manager: Don't worry about that. God will take care of it for you.

Noah: Thank you for the encouragement. The rains are coming. Are you gentlemen joining us? All outside the ark will perish.

Manager: I'd love to say yes, but we've got somewhere else to be, and other means of surviving. Blessings to you and your family!

Noah: If you say so...but by my estimation, this is the only way you'll survive the flood.

(Man with Knife sneaks up behind Noah to kill him at the last second)

Steve: Look out!

(Manager springs into action and neutralizes the attacker with a wave of his hand. The man looks bewildered, stunned momentarily)

Noah: Oh wicked generation...(kneels by his attacker) But God is a God of forgiveness. There's still time. Join us on the ark.

Knife Man: (pauses for a second...thinking about it...then smacks Noah's outstretched hand) The horde is on their way. With fire. It's time this ends. We're burning this monstrosity down today! (runs off)

Manager: They'll never make it in time. Feel the rain. You all get on the ark. The time has come.

(Noah and boys nod and walk "off stage/onto the ark")

(Manager and Steve get back onto the time machine.)

Steve: Wow...I guess people really are evil. Why would they burn down the only means of being saved? Why not take the invitation?

Manager: They hate God so much that they don't even want to take His offer of salvation. They hate Noah even more for following God. It points out that someone knows they're on the wrong path.

Steve: Woah, it's really coming down now! Uh...hey, can this thing drive in water this deep?

Manager: Don't worry! If need be, it can turn into a jet boat.

Steve: I have no idea what that even means.

(The two drive off)

(scene ends)

(new scene, in heaven)

Angel 1: So...this is the first time it ever rained?

Angel 2: That's right...before that there was just a mist that came up from the ground.

Angel 1: Wow! It's really coming down. Oh! It put out the torches of the angry mob. (pauses) So there's really nothing that can be done for them?

Angel 2: Unfortunately...no.

Angel 1: I can't watch (turns away)

Angel 2: Look...one of the tough things I've learned working up here...you can't make decisions for people. God gave everyone the freedom to choose. He did that because He loves people, and He wants them to be free. But they don't always use their freedom to choose what we know to be the right choice. It makes it hard to watch, I agree. But they chose. God won't control them and make them choose Him. That's not love.

Angel 1: I just wish they all knew how loving God is. And how when they reject Him, all they're doing is hurting themselves.

Angel 2: I know...but look: focus on the bright side. Noah and his family will usher in a new era. It's not perfect either, by any means. But the world is much less evil for it...at least for several thousands of years.

Angel 1: Yeah...so where is Steve off to next?

Angel 2: Looks like...ah Israel! Just in time for the daily harvest.

(scene ends, act ends)

Tuesday Morning

Scene opens in the wilderness (Israelites, post-Exodus, post-failure to capture Canaan)

Israelite 1: Ok...any time, God!

Israelite 2: It does seem to be running a little late.

Israelite 1: A little late? Look, I'm halfway through making a tray of baklava for my son's graduation party, and I took a break to wait for it to start falling. I don't have all day. The bees will start gathering if I leave it too long.

Israelite 3: No one likes your baklava anyway. You use almonds when you should use pistachios.

Israelite 1: Uh...wow...ok: that's all that we have left in our reserves. I don't know if you noticed, but we've lived in the desert, far from any fresh vegetation or pistachio farms, for the past forty years.

Israelite 3: Ok, take it easy, alright? I'm just saying it's not the same. If you put a carrot in a bun and squirt mustard on it, it doesn't make it a hot dog.

Israelite 2: She has a point.

Israelite 1: I know she has a point! But it's hot! And I'm getting tired of waiting. And I just really want to finish the baklava so I can taste one, because they look so yummy and I'm getting hangry!

Israelite 3: (pause) But it's not baklava though...

Israelite 2: Dude! Chill!

(Israelite 1 fumes)

(Manager and Steve drive onto the scene)

Steve: Ok...from a rainstorm to a desert...that's wild. I'm starting to get used to the weird thing my stomach does when we go through the wormhole though.

Manager: Honestly, it grows on you.

Israelite 2: Oh score, a comfy seat! (sits on the golf cart)

(Israelite 1 and 3 fight over the seat, and Israelite 3 wins, sending Israelite 1 into a pout)

Manager: What are you all up to out here?

Israelite 2: We're waiting for the whatchamacallit to fall. But it seems a to be taking its time.

Steve: The...whatchamacallit?

Manager: They're talking about what you and I might call manna.

Israelite 2: That's what I said: whatchamacallit.

Israelite 3: It falls every day around the same time.

Israelite 1: Crunchy like cereal, tastes like blueberries.

Israelite 3: Like you even remember what blueberries taste like.

Israelite 1: I do! They taste like whatchamacallit!

Israelite 2: Like I said, they're fighting. But honestly, I don't care what it tastes like. Whatchamacallit is a gift from God. It's sustained us in the wilderness for the past 40 years.

Israelite 1: Seriously! Why is it taking so long?

Manager: Let me try something (stands up, snaps his fingers)

(whatchamacallit falls from the sky...maybe throw rice crispies or something over the back of the stage)

(Israelites run over and start gathering)

Steve: Wow! That was some trick. You knew right when the manna was going to fall, eh?

Manager: Or maybe the manna was waiting for me to give it the go-ahead.

Steve: That's too much for my brain to take....hey, um...I've been meaning to ask. We've been gone for a little while and...um...I haven't complained...mostly because I'm a little bit scared of you (laughs nervously) but: King Jerry is going to start wondering what happened to me...and I really don't want my show to be cancelled. We're just about to get syndicated.

Manager: Steve, if you want to go back to your time, I'll let you do that. I do think you should know though, that where we are—and when we are—is a very special time and place.

Steve: I mean...yeah, I kind of do want to go back...I mean, I'd really only be interested in staying if like, I don't know...I've always wanted to meet Moses.

Manager: Well, you're in luck. Because Moses is about to make his most famous speech ever.

Steve: (speechless)

Manager: Follow me

(both walk off stage, along with Israelites)

(new scene, in heaven)

Angel 1: So Steve still isn't getting it?

Angel 2: Getting what?

Angel 1: That this is all bigger than him and his silly television show!

Angel 2: Oh, unfortunately, it doesn't seem like it.

Angel 1: And what was all that about being scared of him? I mean...hello?! Doesn't he know who he's talking to?

Angel 2: It doesn't seem like he's very bright. I don't think he's made the connection yet.

Angel 1: Wow. Anyway, this is cool. So Moses is talking to the people now. This is what gets written down as the book of Deuteronomy, isn't it?

Angel 2: That's right! Moses is reminding the people about all that God has done for them in the past, and encouraging them that God will be by their side in the future. They're about to try a second attempt at entering the promised land soon. But Moses can't go with them. Joshua will be their leader from now on.

Angel 1: Why is that?

Angel 2: You know, Moses had a long life, full of great victories. Also full of a lot of great tragedies. The people made mistakes, and he wasn't able to enter the promised land forty years ago because of it. But the next chapter is for Joshua to deal with. Entering the promised land doesn't mean all fun and rainbows. The people will continue to make mistakes. God is sparing Moses from that, and passing the torch to a new leader.

Angel 1: Oh, I see. Hey, look, he's wrapping up. Everyone is cheering.

(scene ends, back to wilderness)

Steve: Moses, Moses! (Moses turns from walking off the stage) Hey there! My name is Steve...I'm a bit of a prophet myself (laughs nervously, Moses' face is stern). Anyway, I was wondering if I could interview you on my show sometime. It would be really great for my ratings.

Moses: (looks at Steve, and then at the manager) Tell me again, why can't I go into the promised land?

Manager: Moses...I know it's hard.

Moses: Hard! I've been waiting my whole life for this. And now Joshua gets to be the one to take the people into the land of Milk and Honey.

Manager: You have to understand...sometimes the big picture is beyond personal desires. And I promise you, if you go in there, it's not going to be a promised land for you. Only pain lies beyond the river for your weary soul.

Moses: Yeah, yeah...I'm going for a hike. I've been meaning to climb Mount Nebo for a while. I've got to clear my head (walks off stage).

Manager: I'll meet you at the top. But first, we've got places to be.

Steve: Wow...that's not how I pictured Moses at all. Totally blew me off. Now what's going to become of my show?

Manager: What would happen if your show got cancelled?

Steve: Well...then it probably means I'm in big trouble with King Jerry.

Manager: Is that the end of the world?

Steve: Well, in my profession it does! Who would I pander to then? I'd be a nobody!

Manager: What if I told you Israel was never supposed to have kings in the first place?

Steve: I'd say you're being a little outdated.

Manager: Come on...I want to show you something. If you think King Jerry is someone to behold...I need you to meet King Saul.

Steve: Does he need a prophet? Maybe he'll consider syndicating my show.

(Both drive off, end of act)

Tuesday Evening

(Scene opens with Samuel sitting, looking distraught)

(Manager and Steve drive up)

Manager: Hang back a little, Steve. I've got a kind of important conversation to have here.

Steve: Cool as a cucumber, bud. You know, just my whole life and career flashing before my eyes. Take your time though!

(Manager gives Steve a "you're fine" kind of face...goes and sits by Samuel)

Manager: Do you want to talk about it, Samuel?

Samuel: (gets up) No, I don't want to talk about it!

Steve: Oh yikes, diva alert!

Manager: I know it's hard...

Samuel: What have I been doing all these years? Hmm? What's the point? My sons are disasters! None of them can lead. I'm too old to carry on myself. But, if they would just be patient, I know another judge will come after me—one of God's choosing!

Manager: I know...but you can't make decisions for people...they'll always resent it. Even if you know what's best.

Samuel: It's just...(loud sigh) They told me today they want a king. A KING! And do you know why?

Manager: I have a guess or two...

Samuel: It's because they want to be like all the other nations. You want to be like what?! Excuse me?! The other nations are pagans! They don't have the one true God! Why are we trying to be like them?

Manager: Believe me...no one understands better than I do...

Samuel: Look...this has been my whole life. My mom LEFT ME AT THE TEMPLE! When I was a boy! I watched as the priesthood made a mockery of our worship services. I've seen war after war, and the only way we made it through? Because of divine intervention, every time! And they want to talk about "just like the other nations?" The other nations win wars because their world has turned them into monsters. We win wars because God wins them for us. They want to throw that all away.

Manager: This is tough for you...and I get it...but you'll need to calm down. I can come back another time.

Samuel: Look...it's You I care about, ok. Your name, your vision, your leading. That's been my whole life. And I failed them! Because they don't care about you the way that I know they need to, to succeed as a nation. It's a trainwreck and, unfortunately I'm going to have a front row seat.

Manager: I know it's tempting to feel like a failure. And nobody's perfect, Samuel, even a good man like yourself. But you're not a failure. They're not rejecting you. They're rejecting me. And...unfortunately for them, they will have to learn the hard way that having a king isn't all its cracked up to be.

Samuel: Kings take money and property in the form of taxes. Kings enslave people. Kings lead nations into unjust wars, where people will die senselessly. And don't even get me started on the spiritual side...kings will RUIN this nation if they don't stick close to God. Honestly, I don't know anyone who can handle that kind of power without falling away.

Manager: I'll help you find a solution. Again, there's no perfect choices when it comes to people leading. They'll learn that. And they'll want to get back on track. Unfortunately, they probably never will. This is the end of God's reign over any kingdom.

Samuel: (quiet, but gives Manager a hug. After the hug...) I know what I need to do.
(walks off)

Steve: So...what was that all about.

Manager: That's a man who knows kings are not what the world needs. But he's going to have to get used to it. The people have freedom to choose. And they're sure this is what they want.

Steve: Woah...hold up, King Jerry is an awesome king! He's all like "bling," "pow," "don't talk to me that way," "we'll see how you like me when I'm angry." So...yeah...pretty much a winner.

Manager: But he doesn't love anyone but himself. And those are the kinds of people he surrounds himself with.

Steve: Hey man, that includes me.

Manager: Steve, we are travelling through time. I am showing you things NOBODY gets to see. You're a real prophet for the first time! You are seeing the past, understanding the

present, and we haven't even gotten to the future yet, but we're getting there. And all you've really done has been to complain about missing your show, losing syndication, and missing out on high fives from King Jerry.

Steve: Hey! The last time I got a high five from King Jerry, I live streamed it and my Instagram grew by like ten thousand followers. Steve Nation relies on me for that kind of quality content! And if I can just get back on his good side, I know that we can reach syndication and then I'll be living the good life for reals!

Manager: I guess this is the day for tough conversations...King Jerry is cancelling your show. And you're being looked for right now, you and Jonah. The king will throw you both in prison if he finds you.

Steve: Oh...

Manager: King Jerry only cares about himself. You almost made him look bad on national television. I'm sorry but...you're out.

Steve: ...I see...I guess I have been kind of a cheugy chad these last couple of days.

Manager: Steve, nobody actually says cheugy. But hey, we're friends. Don't worry about it. Come on, there's more to see.

(both walk off stage, scene ends)

(new scene, in heaven)

Angel 1: Wow, he didn't hold back.

Angel 2: We've been so busy following Steve, that we missed what was going on back in his time period. Wow, King Jerry really did him dirty.

Angel 1: Where are they off to now?

Angel 2: Looks like Samuel has brought all the people together and they're casting lots.

Angel 1: Casting what?

Angel 2: Basically, they're drawing straws. As the leaders of each of the Twelve Tribes draw, they're narrowing down where the King of Israel will come from. Now they're drawing to see which region. Now which family. Looks like they found the king. It's that guy right there. See? His name is Saul.

Angel 1: Oh, look, he's hiding...he doesn't want to be the king? That's kind of cute. Looks like a tall, strong guy otherwise.

Angel 2: He's humble now, but take a look again in several years. Samuel had a point: no one can handle the kind of power that comes with being a king. Not while remaining faithful. King Jerry and King Saul? They're two insecure peas in a pod. They'll hurt the people closest to them if they feel the slightest threat to their ego.

Angel 1: Wow. You really know a lot about stuff.

Angel 2: I've been watching this play out for a while. You start to notice some patterns.

(scene, back down)

Saul: Oh man...oh man...what am I in for? This is...I'm not...why did God choose me?

Steve: Let me at him! I'll scare him straight!

(Saul turns to see Steve, Samuel, and Manager coming)

Steve: Listen, bro-chacho, I know you're all caught up in the big boss energy right now, but it's time to check ya-self before you wreck ya-self!

Manager: Steve, don't project. This king hasn't done you any harm.

Saul: I mean...I'm not even officially the king yet. I haven't said yes...

Steve: Not yet, but just wait!

Manager: And you're going to say yes, because you're the man for the job.

Saul: I really don't feel like it.

Steve: Why are you taking his side?

Manager: There's no sides here. You're talking to a man who has been faced with an enormous task: shaping the new role of kingship in a nation that's never done that before.

Steve: But he's going to mess it up!

Saul: I am?

Manager: It's complicated. Do your best.

Samuel: Listen...Saul...I'm here for you, ok. If you need anything. Day or night. I'm always talking to God, and...I know this is a tough calling...but if you stick with Him, you can't lose.

Saul: This is a lot...I need to go think. Thanks for the pep-talk.

Steve: We're just letting him leave?

Manager: It won't be the first or the last time that someone who struggles with sin will be in a position of power. Systems are flawed, leaders are imperfect...but that doesn't mean God can't work some good out of these things.

Steve: What do you mean?

Manager: Well, try as he might, Saul can't kill David, his protégé. And...I'm his great, great, great, great, great grandson.

Samuel: Oy, I feel like I heard a bunch of things I should not have (sits down).

Steve: What are you talking about?

Manager: Well, I mean, I've been around a long time before all of this, but when I officially become part of the story, it's as a descendant of David, one of the Kings of Israel...who, admittedly, also isn't...wasn't...uh, won't be perfect. Sorry, sometimes I get a little fuzzy about when we are.

Steve: I thought you were my manager. I thought you were the best in the business, and that's what was going to carry my show to the top.

Manager: Well, I mean, I did play that role for a time. And that was fun, but there's a lot more to the story. Don't worry, it will make sense in time. We've got a lot more to see.

Steve: I guess...

Samuel: Are you telling me...you're...(eyes widen) BERESHITH BARAH ELOHIM ET-HASHAMAIM, V'ET HA-ERETS? That's you? MELECH HAMELCHIM? MESHIAH?

Steve: Woah, woah, woah...that's old world language. What is he saying?

Manager: Yes.

(Samuel falls down in reverence)

Steve: What's he doing, why is he doing that?

Manager: There is only one person who can ever rightly be the king. But it's not his time yet. Samuel, you still have some work to do here. No one is perfect...but you are a good man. And your name will be remembered for the good you do.

Samuel: That's...very kind of you. I feel like a failure sometimes. But if I've got you on my team, I know I'm in a good place.

Steve: What in the world is happening?

Manager: Steve, it will become clear soon...the thing you have to understand right now is this: there is one main character in this whole story...and it's not you. It's not Saul. It's not Samuel here. It's not even King Jerry. It's a lowly carpenter with just nothing to his name and no place to lay his head. There is one person who ever doesn't sin. And it's his job to

have all the evil and selfishness of the world piled on him, and in doing so, he dies. And because this is done, everyone else can have access to eternal life. Saul isn't called to do that. No sinful human being, that's you included, can ever do that. Only one can. You're getting closer to meeting that person.

Steve: Wow...I feel...small, somehow. I felt really big like two days ago.

Samuel: Well of course you're small, you couldn't be more than, what five foot five?

Steve: Hey, hey, watch it old man. I have a very inflated ego. If I had brought my phone with me, I'd be live tweeting your toxicity right now.

Samuel: Yeah, yeah. I'm leaving anyway. (turns to Manager) Thank you. I'm going to take some time to sit in a quiet field for a while. (turning to Steve) Babysitting you young people is for the birds. And it looks like I've got plenty of that coming around the corner.

Manager: (waves goodbye to Samuel, motions for Steve to go to the golf cart, both sit down) What I hope you're getting by now is this...sin impacts everyone. There's no magic cure to make the world better, simply by wanting it. It doesn't make Saul a bad person that he's a sinner. Everyone is a sinner. Because, since Adam and Eve, sin has messed everyone up. Saul becomes a bad person, because he rejects God and never turns back. And he hurts a lot of people. You've been hurt, too. But I still love King Jerry, and I hope he makes the right decision, even though I'm pretty sure he won't. (pause) Is it starting to make sense?

Steve: A little...but then...what's the point of even trying to be good? I'll admit, I kind of gave up on that a long time ago. I know I've been selfish, but...at least that got me noticed. What does trying to be good get you, aside from tearing your hair out in frustration, like Samuel?

Manager: You can never be good enough...but when you stick with the one who is good enough...He can do good through you.

Steve: Who is that?

Manager: I have a couple of more things to show you before I answer that question. Full speed ahead!

(scene ends, act ends)

Wednesday Morning

(Scene opens in Israel, 722 BC)
(up in heaven, first)

Angel 1: Oh man...he's not ready for this part.

Angel 2: No...he's not.

Angel 1: So...instead, let's tell jokes!

Angel 2: Are you serious?

Angel 1: Who was the shortest person in the Bible?

Angel 2: uh...

Angel 1: Knee-high-miah!....get it, cause he's knee...high...OK, but actually did you know there was someone shorter? (youregonnalovethis)

Angel 2: No...I didn't

Angel 1: It was Bildad! Because he was Shoe Height! (cracks up)

Angel 2: I mean...these aren't very funny...the people...they're just sitting there. They're not laughing.

Angel 1: What do you mean, of course they're...WOAH! Did you realize there were PEOPLE out there? Just watching us?

Angel 2: I mean...yeah...it's a play.

Angel 1: You mean...like none of this is real.

Angel 2: Of course it's real! It's called a live audience. They're as real as anything.

Angel 1: This is too meta. Maybe we should get back to Steve after all.

Angel 2: That's a good idea...

Angel 1: I just hope he's ok....

(scene change, down in Israel)

Steve: Woah...there's...nothing here. Where are we again?

Manager: This is Israel...about 50 years after your show got cancelled.

Steve: Wow...Steve Nation must have gone medieval on King Jerry for cancelling the show!

Manager: Actually, few people noticed. King Jerry gave the slot to Baconiah, the comedian from Judah.

Steve: What? They put a Judite in the slot? Well...ok, good for him. Baconiah actually has some good stuff. His material wasn't derivative like other comedians. Very original.

Manager: But all of that is long past by now.

Steve: So...what actually happened?

Manager: Ask them...

(Samaritans wander onto the stage, looking spooked)

Steve: Hey there!

Samaritan 1: Oh...uh...please don't hurt us (they start to run)

Steve: No, it's ok! My name is Steve. This is my associate...uh...actually, I never asked your name.

Manager: Jesus.

Steve: This is Jesus. Wow. It just doesn't seem to fit you. Weird name.

Manager: It's Greek.

Steve: (seems taken aback for a moment, and then shakes his head) Annnnnnyway: What happened here? I was just here and it was a vibrant city, full of life! Now it is abandoned and full of wreckage.

Samaritan 2: I don't know about how you were "just here," then! Most of the kingdom has been like this for about 10 years or so. Assyrians just came back and finished the job. There's only a few of us Samaritans left.

Steve: It was Assyrians?? After all that Jonah said about the Ninevites repenting? That's the capital of Assyria! God should have struck them down when He had the chance!

Samaritan 3: That's what we said! Jonah was a joke!

Steve: He really was...is? I don't know where or when I am anymore. Anyway...I like your take on things. Hey, whatever happened to King Jerry?

Samaritan 2: He was the worst!

Samaritans 1 & 3: Boo!

Samaritan 2: To be fair, there really wasn't much that he could do, after the earthquake.

Samaritan 1: There wasn't much anyone could do—all the kings after him, either. We were sitting ducks to the Assyrians.

Samaritan 3: But he set up the idols though! That was our real downfall.

Steve: Idols?

Samaritan 1: Oh yeah! Get this: he literally made a golden calf. You remember, like back when the Israelites were in Egypt, and God and Moses were so mad? King Jerry made another one. TWO, actually! He said it was so people didn't have to go to Jerusalem to worship at the temple there anymore.

Steve: So...the statue of Marduk up on top of the mall, years ago...he did that on purpose?

Samaritan 2: Sure did! I mean, he denied it at first...but, later on he took credit for it. Once the nation was fully committed to paganism, he WANTED people to know it was him.

Steve: Seriously?! So my show was cancelled for no reason, basically??

Manager: Wrong timing for that episode, I guess (shrugs).

Samaritan 1: Hey...What did you say your name was? Steve?

Samaritan 3: Oh my goodness! It's him! Oh, I used to watch your show every night with my parents!

Samaritan 2: I still get that theme song stuck in my head some days.

All: Dudududu, the prophet STEVE! Dudududu, the prophet STEVE!

Steve: (laughing, crying a little) Wow...you guys remember. Even this many years later.

Samaritan 1: It's been pretty bleak around here for a while now...we try to hold onto the fun memories.

Steve: (beaming at first, but then looking serious) Yeah. A memory. But I didn't do anything to keep anyone alive, or keep the Assyrians from destroying this place. I couldn't save King Jerry...looking back, I guess I'm not sure I'd want to anymore.

Manager: Steve, maybe we should get going...

Steve: Honestly...I think I want to be by myself for a minute (goes and sits on the golf cart)

Samaritan 1: So, Jesus, what part of town did you live in?

Manager: Actually, I'm from Nazareth, but spent a lot of time in the Galilee area.

Samaritan 2: Oh, yeah? I have a cousin in Galilee! Do you know Philo, from Philo's Fried Dough On-the-Go?

Manager: Actually...technically I don't live there for the next several hundred years...but I do know Philo. People say a lot of nice things about him. Nice that he was able to re-open the shop, after the exile.

Samaritan 2: Uh...I mean...yeah, I guess so. (all three whisper about Manager being a little "out there.")

(Steve starts up the time machine and starts to drive off)

Manager: Wait! Steve! I still have a lot to show you!

Samaritan 3: Well...this is awkward.

Manager: Any of you know where I could crash for the night?

(they wave him off the stage)

(Back to heaven)

Angel 1: Oh, Steve! What did you do?! He just left him there! He doesn't know what he's doing!

Angel 2: My guess is, it will work out.

Angel 1: How can you be so certain?

Angel 2: Steve is on a journey. He needs to find himself.

Angel 1: Would you look at that...he came out the other side...Oh...speaking of finding himself...

Angel 2: Hmm...Indeed.

(scene ends, act ends)

Wednesday Evening

(scene opens at Jordan River with John the Baptist)

Steve: Stupid junky thing! I have no idea where I ended up, now. Excuse me, sir? Yes, you...where am I?

Baptist: (howls like a wolf) Woooooo! You're at the Jordan River, boy!

Steve: Oh...I see...(runs back to the time machine, bangs on it, can't get it to work)
Whyyyyyy did I do this? This was a mistake!?

Baptist: Hey there fella! I ain't gonna hurt you! I just wanna be your friend.

Steve: (shuddering with fear)

Baptist: Chocolate covered locust?

Steve: First of all, ew. Second...what do you do out here...wild man?

Baptist: Suit yourself (crunches the locust). I like it out here. Makes more sense to me than living in society, you know? All those scallywags and sleazeballs being phonies to try and make a dollar. No thank you! So I just live out here in the wilderness...just waiting for someone to come by so I can point them to the truth.

Steve: The truth...yeah I've been wondering about that a lot lately. What is the truth?

Baptist: The truth is you need to REPENT!

Steve: (blown away by the loudness) I'm sorry?

Baptist: REPENT, son! Wasn't I clear the first time?

Steve: But repent from what?

Baptist: Look...repent means to change your mind. It means when you're on a wrong path and you're not walking with God that you should choose a new path where you can walk with God.

Steve: Wow...yeah...I think I might need that.

Baptist: We all do, my dude.

Steve: Back where I come from, they call me "The Prophet Steve." But I never knew what that meant. It's just a job someone offered me one day. "Do you want to make the king happy?" they asked. "Then tell him what he wants to hear, and you'll have a great career."

Baptist: That's called being a false prophet.

Steve: There's even a name for it, hey?

Baptist: It's written down in the Chronicles of the Kings that the wicked kings often surrounded themselves with prophets who prophesied from their own hearts. And it makes sense, because it's just human nature! Would you rather someone tell you you're ugly or someone tell you you're pretty? We tend to prefer people who will lie to us to make us feel better, over people who tell us the truth even if it hurts.

Steve: This week I got to spend time observing Noah, Moses, and Samuel...these guys were willing to live and die on their faith. It wasn't easy or pretty and it didn't make them feel like they were successful. They just acted on their faith because they really believed.

Baptist: Not to brag or nothing, but...I'm a bit of a prophet myself.

Steve: ...So if you don't mind me asking...what is a prophet supposed to do? If I was raised up to be a false prophet...how do I be a true prophet.

Baptist: Easy...REPENT!

(Steve nearly is blown of stage by the power and conviction)

Baptist: You have to change your mind. You're a big fat liar. That's all there is to it. That's what false prophets do. They lie to make people feel better. True prophets get their truth from God and then they tell it to other people. Even if it hurts.

Steve: So instead of telling King Jerry 2.0 that he's a fabulous dresser and he's a great king, I should tell him that he is vain and pretentious and that he's running the kingdom into the ground?

Baptist: King Jerry 2.0? Oh yeah, terrible king. Definitely ran things into the ground.

Steve: There was a prophet among us...Amos...hah, we always made fun of him. But he had the audacity to tell the king what he didn't want to hear.

Baptist: Amos? Oh yes, that was a great prophet. Well remembered. He has his own book in the scriptures.

Steve: Wow...it's like everything I ever thought to be true was the opposite.

Baptist: So does that mean you repent?

Steve: I guess it does!

Baptist: Well hot dog, fam! Let's get in the river then!

Steve: Woah...uh...why?

Baptist: Listen...I know that the Jordan isn't the prettiest of rivers. It's a little muddy and such...but when you go down into the water, it represents a death to your old self. And when you come up out of the water, it represents being born again as a new person: a person who wants to walk with God.

Steve: Ok...let's do it then. Let's get in the river.

(both go back stage, we dump a bucket of water on Steve)

(scene cuts to angels)

Angel 1: Woohoo! Wow, he really did it! He repented! He's being baptized! In the Jordan river no less. He probably doesn't realize...

Angel 2: That Jesus was just there a couple of days ago? He has no idea. But it's interesting he ended up here. And it's especially interesting that he ran into John.

Angel 1: John doesn't hold back! Remember when that one lady ran away crying because he said she needed to stop stealing from people? He called her a little thieving weasel!

Angel 2: Yeah...she stole from like ten people while they were waiting their turn to be baptized. She needed to hear it.

Angel 1: I think Steve needed to hear it too...that he's a liar, that is. No one ever told it to him straight before. He grew up in a world where everyone told him he was destined for greatness and that the best road to success is flattery. But...no one ever told him how important the truth is.

Angel 2: It's sad isn't it? That a person could go an entire lifetime and never learn the truth? And then, that very same person can influence others so that they never hear the truth either. "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator."

Angel 1: That describes King Jerry's kingdom to a "T." When you worship material things...you're really exchanging the truth about God for a lie. Some people worship the things themselves...others worship themselves for having so many things.

Angel 2: It looks like they're getting out now. Are you ready?

Angel 1: Ready for what?

Angel 2: Our friend Steve is finally ready. God has plans for him, you know. Steve just wasn't ready to accept those plans. But now that he's repented...God has a message to tell him.

Angel 1: You don't mean...

Angel 2: The Prophet Steve is about to have his first vision...

(scene cuts back down to Jordan River)

Steve: Wow, I feel so refreshed! Like a new man!

Baptist: You've been born again, brother!

Steve: God...help me believe in something bigger than myself. Help me...to believe in YOU.
For the first time...I really want to serve you.

(vision happens off to the side, lights flicker)

Steve: Woah, friend, are you seeing this? (looks back to Baptist, who is frozen in time)

(King Jerry is off to the side, pointing and laughing, and then falling to the ground)

(Someone raises and chops an axe onto a stump...staff gasp)

(Jesus raises from the grave)

(Steve gets weak and falls onto his hands and knees, head hanging)

Baptist: Woah, you alright?

Steve: Yeah...um...I saw some things.

Baptist: Oh yeah? Like what?

Steve: Well, I saw King Jerry...that he was indeed leading the nation into idolatry and paganism. Then I saw the earthquake shake his kingdom, and his eventual downfall.

Baptist: That checks out...but that's in the past...what else did you see?

Steve: Well...your past is my future. But I did see more. I saw Jesus...he was dead. But then he raised up out of the tomb and was alive again. There's a lot more to this Jesus than I realized. I just thought he was my manager...turns out he's something more.

Baptist: Actually, that's basically my job...aside from calling people to repent...it's pointing others to who Jesus is.

Steve: Who is he?

Baptist: He's the King of Kings. The Lord of Lords. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is the creator, the redeemer, the friend. He's the one who will defeat death and sin. He's so much more than I'll ever be. So my job is to become less so he can become more. Oh...also, he's my cousin.

Steve: Wow (pauses, especially bemused by the cousin tidbit)...I didn't know any of that...and he's been hanging out with me all week. He's been showing me a lot of important things for me to see. He's changed my life.

Baptist: What...else did you see?

Steve: Uh...that's it!

Baptist: Come on...don't be a liar.

Steve: Man...that's really hard for me. Ok, you want the truth?

Baptist: Always.

Steve: You...uh....get a little shorter...

Baptist: I figured as much. Someone has to do it eventually. Who was it? No, don't tell me...ok, I gotta know.

Steve: Herodias.

Baptist: Aw, man! She's the worst...that does make sense. Well...it won't stop me from preaching the truth.

Steve: How do you do that?

Baptist: Do what?

Steve: I've never been willing to endure a minor inconvenience in my life, let alone lose my life for any reason. How do you just...let go?

Baptist: Let me tell you something that my cousin taught me: if you try to gain your life, you'll lose it. And if, for God's sake, you lose your life, you'll gain it.

Steve: Oh...oh, that makes no sense. My head hurts.

Baptist: Basically, if you really want to be a person of God: make his will more important than your own. And sometimes his will can take you to some places you'd normally not choose to go...but through the process, you'll find a more abundant life than you ever could without him.

Steve: Ok...I think I get it. If you want to live the best life God has planned for you...you have to be willing to lose it all, in order to follow him.

Baptist: Yes! That's it. Now, speaking of being willing to lose your life...do you need help getting your contraption there going?

Steve: Oh...well, uh...let's see...you bop this skoozlerbop here, and cross your fingers while you mash this little didlywhosit...Hey! Hey! I think I got it. Ok, I'll see you later!

(scene ends, driving off)

Thursday Morning

Scene opens with Jesus on a donkey (Triumphal Entry)

Trumpeteer: Make WAY for the KING OF THE JEWS!

(crowd members are waving their branches and throwing their cloaks on the ground, and there's lots of cheering and fanfare)

Crowd: "jesus, sign my forehead!" "Jesus, bless my baby!" "Jesus, high five me and I'll be healed!" "Jesus, can you turn my water into wine?" "Jesus, when are you going to defeat the Romans?"

Steve: Jesus!

Jesus: (Jumps off donkey) Steve! Hey, glad you made it back ok!

Steve: I did...but look at you! You're really a big deal here! They're saying you're the king?

Crowdite 1: That's right he is! He's gonna free us from the Romans!

Jesus: In a way, friend, in a way.

Crowdite 2: (bent over) Jesus, my back has been all messed up for years, can you make me well? I believe!

Jesus: (waves) Your faith has made you well! Be free, friend.

Crowdite 2: (standing straight) Wowee! Jesus, I'm going to go tell everyone, you're the best!
(runs off at full speed)

Steve: Wow, there's a lot of energy here.

Jesus: Tell me about it!

Peter: Teacher, let's get moving to the temple, ok? I don't think this crowd is safe to stick around in.

Jesus: Peter, let's calm down, ok? You know that they're going to tear this temple down soon anyway.

Steve: But you're going to rebuild it in three days! (everyone stares at him) Uh...I mean, someone told me that recently, and I was like...cool...man. That Jesus is...something!

Peter: No one is tearing anything down on my watch. I'm armed and ready for anything, Jesus!

Jesus: Again, Peter, put away the sword. We're not in danger here.

Peter: That's what you think...but it never hurts to keep your eyes peeled for a veiled threat
(looks at Steve while talking, hand on sword)

Steve: Why are you looking at me like that.

Matthew: Come off it, Peter. Don't let him bother you, friend. He's just jumpy because Jesus was telling us that some people plan to do some dastardly things to him. But we mustn't let our anxieties trump our manners.

(Peter walks off in a huff)

Matthew: Ok, mister carpenter guy! Where to next?

Jesus: Oh, I think Peter is right. We'll head to the temple next. There's a conversation I've been meaning to have with the money changers. (looking to Steve) They're not going to tear this place down unless I give them the go ahead. And the time is coming soon. (winks)

Steve: Wow...all this time, I thought I was the big shot in this relationship...but I'm realizing more and more that...I'm nothing man. You're the carpenter? The messiah Samuel was talking about!

Thomas: You mean crazy Samuel who fixes shoes, down on the south side?

Steve: No, I mean the prophet Samuel. (people look confused) We...we were just visiting with him the other day.

Thomas: Jesus, I don't know who your friend is, but he's a little kooky.

Jesus: Oh, where are my manners. Everyone, this is Steve. He's an old friend of mine from a long time ago. He's had his eyes opened lately to some things and...well, he's doing some soul searching. Steve, this is everyone. They are my students and I am their teacher.

Steve: I think I'm learning some things as well.

Jesus: Well, I should hope so. Why don't you stick around for a while? These guys all have a LOT to learn too.

Matthew: Aw Jesus, I thought we were all getting close to graduating.

Jesus: If you're lucky, you'll graduate sometime before you're 100.

(all chuckle)

(scene ends, up to heaven)

Angel 1: So now Steve is starting to get it. He sees who Jesus really is for the first time.

Angel 2: That's right. And Jesus isn't having to cloak his identity anymore. He's really in his element. This is his last few days before...you know...

Angel 1: Oh, wow, already? I didn't realize we were getting so close.

Angel 2: Yep, see how the disciples are finding the upper room now? Tonight is the Last Supper. And Steve will get to be a part of it.

Angel 1: Wow...he really gets to see something totally special. I wonder how he'll take it?

Angel 2: Let's watch...

(scene, back to upper room, everyone is on one side of the table)

Matthew: See, whoever prepared these bitter herbs really knows their stuff. The key is to smash up the horseradish and the endives with the lettuce, and then you add vinegar and salt to taste. It tastes like they might have added a little olive oil for moisture, which isn't the most traditional method, but I'll allow it.

Steve: Whatever they did, it's super bitter, and...I mean, mostly edible.

James: I only eat the herbs because you're supposed to. Honestly, this bean stew, mixed up with some of the lamb, wow! The flavors are popping!

John: I just wish the bread was leavened. I mean, I get it. It's tradition. But I just love some fresh fluffy bread. This flat bread makes me sad.

Peter: Right, but if you dip it in the fish sauce, it hydrates right up! (mimes eating a bite)
Mmm! I just love fish.

Matthew: Why does that not surprise me?

Peter: Judas, you've got to try it.

Judas: I don't know...I just can't handle the smell.

Steve: I'll try it...(mimes eating it) Oh, hey, that IS really good! (eats some more)

Jesus: Thank you, to the guys who found the space for this dinner. It's really special that we could all have dinner one last time.

John: You going somewhere, Jesus?

James: Because we're happy to come with. You might need bodyguards. Who better than the Sons of Thunder (both James and John dab and flex).

Jesus: Actually...this is the part where you can't come with me. You really couldn't bear it, even if it was up to me. Actually...tonight, truly I tell you, one of you at this table will betray me.

Peter: (unsheathing sword) It's definitely this Steve guy! I knew he was trouble (stands)

All: "Woah!" "Peter!" "Bruh, chill!" etc

Jesus: (waves his hand for Peter to sit) It's the one who will dip at the same time as me.

Peter: Look...Lord, you don't mean...me?

James: Not I! ...Right?

Matthew: I know you guys think I'm crooked, but Jesus is family. I'd never betray him.

John: Definitely not me!

Steve: (to himself/audience) I mean...I really don't think it's me. I know I'm a little newer here, and yeah, I know I really wanted to get home and start my show up again...but all that is way in the past. I don't even want those things anymore. I just want to spend more time with Jesus...but now he says he's going somewhere and someone is planning some dastardly business...I wonder what's really going on.

Judas: Totally, guys...we all agree it's just one of his famous Rabbi Riddles. None of us are going to betray anyone. Ok, I thought about it, and I'm going to try it...(goes to dip in the bowl. Jesus dips at the same time) Lord...oh, that's awkward, we dipped at the same time. After you said that thing about...uh...you don't think it's me, right?

Jesus: What you must do...do it quickly.

(Judas clears his throat nervously, and then walks, and then starts to run)

Matthew: What's his deal?

Peter: Fish sauce must not have agreed with him.

Jesus: This bread represents my body. It will be broken for the sins of the world. This cup represents my blood. It will be spilt for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you eat and drink like this, do so in remembrance of me.

All: Sing Hymn #1 in SDA Hymnal "Praise to The Lord"

Jesus: Let's take a walk.

(scene ends, act ends)

Thursday Evening

Scene opens in heaven (Gethsemane below)

Angel 2: It's time to gear up.

Angel 1: Really? I mean...it seems pretty quiet. The disciples are all sleeping in the garden. Oh, is someone going to do one of those tricks where you put whipped cream in their hands and then tickle their noses with feathers.

Angel 2: What? No, nothing like that. This is going to be one of our worst skirmishes yet. Jesus is about to be betrayed by Judas, and the fallen angels are already down there, keeping the disciples from praying.

Angel 1: Oh...ok, that makes sense. I was like, "wow it must be late," but it's only like 7:00pm their time.

Angel 2: Rumor has it the Dragon himself is lurking in the garden. They're not playing around. It's showtime.

Angel 1: Wait for me!

(down to the Garden)

Jesus: (to the disciples, who are all sleeping) Guys...really? Again?

Peter: I'm sorry, Jesus. Wow, I don't know what's wrong with me. I slept a solid eight hours every day this week. Why am I so tired?

Steve: Sorry, Jesus. Maybe we just ate too much? Oof, Peter, your breath is really fishy after that nap. Should have taken it easy on the fish dip.

James: No, that's just how his breath always is.

Peter: Like I'm going to apologize for smelling like fish. We are fishers of men after all. And me and Andrew and James and John really are fishermen.

Jesus: Anyway, why don't you all get on your feet? The time of my betrayal has come.

(Peter hops to the ready, good and evil angels approach the stage at opposite sides, Judas wanders onto the stage with soldiers)

Judas: Teacher! (runs up to him) Boy, I'm sorry I missed the end of supper. Just had some quick errands to run. (kisses him on the cheek, soldiers run forward to grab Jesus, angels all start to fight in the background, Steve runs off to get the time machine, Peter dramatically jumps and chops off Malchus' ear)

Jesus: Stop! (all activity stops, even the spiritual warfare) If I wanted my Father in heaven to have twelve legions of angels come and stop this at once. (good angels flex, evil angels look annoyed) But the scriptures must be fulfilled. (picks up the ear and puts it back on Malchus, everyone steps back for a moment, and marvels at the ear...since they are distracted, Steve sees his chance)

Steve: Psst! Jesus...get in. We'll go anywhere, any time you want. I really wanted to spend more time picking Moses' brain. Honestly, I'd go back to the garden of Eden too...the fruits all looked really good, except for the off-limits one in the middle of the garden. Maybe we can even stop Adam and Eve from eating the apple.

Jesus: I'm sorry Steve...but they made their choice. I won't take that away...because I love them too much. But because they did that...someone has to pay the price. Turns out, it's me.

Steve: You?! Not the Dragon? Not these jerks trying to arrest you?

Jesus: The Dragon will be crushed, but first he has to strike my heel. Plus, you saw what happens after three days.

Steve: Still...it's not fair. YOU didn't do anything wrong.

Jesus: "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Steve: So what you're saying is...

Jesus: Listen, Steve, I know you want to be the hero, the main character. Unfortunately...it's not you...it's me. And the victory isn't won by intelligence, or strength, or cunning...but by humility, servitude, and...even...death. Only through my suffering can the world be offered healing. And only by their acceptance of my sacrifice can they one day get back to the tree of life. I want to spend eternity with you, Steve. Let me go...I will see you again soon.

Steve: But...

(Soldiers and Malchus finally snap out of it and drag Jesus off)

Pharisee: (should be one of the same Mobsters from stoning of Stephen) Oh, Judas...

Judas: (grabs money bag from Pharisee) Pleasure doing business with you.

Steve: This isn't right!

(Judas and Pharisee suddenly seem to notice Steve)

Pharisee: Who are you, exactly?

Steve: I'm a friend of Jesus.

Pharisee: (Laughs) So is Judas here. But as you can see...not a very good friend. It's going to be less and less popular to be Jesus' friend. I suggest you take the Judas route: forget about him. (Steve just stares, speechless)

Steve: You are a bad person. And you're going to keep doing bad things. But Jesus is willing to die for you anyway. (turns to Judas) Even you. You saw it. He didn't even put up a fight. He could have gotten away! But he let it happen.

(Pharisee looks highly insulted)

Judas: Look, this man is of no consequence. Don't pay him mind any longer.

(Judas and Pharisee walk off)

Steve: You're a terrible friend! And you know he still loves you.

(Judas pauses, looks pained, and then keeps walking)

(Steve walks off, scene ends, back to heaven)

Angel 1: Wow...Steve is starting to learn what it means to stand up for truth. Good for him.

Angel 2: It's like Jesus says: you have to be willing to lose your life to gain it. At this point, Steve has lost everything. He's lost his job, he's lost his lifestyle, he's even lost his life—in the sense that he's no longer living in the same place or time that he was. And now he's just lost his best friend. But what he does have now is knowledge of the truth. And he has purpose.

Angel 1: That's right! It's like for the first time he has something worth living and dying for. He has the good news.

Angel 2: Now the question is: what will he do with it? What's the next step? He'll have to choose. He knows the truth. He understands God's plan and his place in it. But only he can decide to take it and run with it.

Angel 1: Oh, I hate this part...

Angel 2: Me too...but this is where all of humanity is redeemed to God. This is where the Dragon finally realizes he doesn't win. This is where love is shown in its fullness. This is where God's character becomes clear: He IS as good as he says he is. And the universe can see it plainly.

Angel 1: We'd better get down there.

Angel 2: You're right. Good deeds don't happen without resistance.

(back down, to the cross. Disciples are there, so is Steve, so are the good and evil angels)

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (breathes last breath) It...is...finished.

Dragon: (evil laugh) YES! This is the moment I've been waiting for! Ever since he took away my dignity in the garden, and even before that, when he treated me so poorly in heaven: FINALLY, I have my revenge! (unhinged laughter)

Angel 1: You're wrong, Dragon! This isn't him losing! This is him winning! You don't realize it, but you're done for.

Dragon: I'd watch your mouth when you're on my turf! You're talking to the rightful ruler of the earth. If I can put God on that cross, imagine what I can do to you!

(earthquake makes everyone stumble around)

Evil Angel 1: What was that??

Angel 2: God is moving, friend. You might have killed the man, Jesus, but God is far from through. That earthquake signifies the splitting of the curtain in the temple. The Holy Spirit no longer will be reserved for the high priests, but will freely go throughout the land, empowering God's people to do great and wonderful things in His name. Even greater things than Jesus did during his short time on earth.

Dragon: No matter! I'll stop them, just like I stopped Jesus.

Angel 1: But that's just it! You haven't stopped him. Oh, he'll rest through the Sabbath. But watch out for Sunday. Death cannot keep him! You think the earth is yours? Think again!

Evil Angel 2: Don't worry, our guards will be making sure NOTHING goes in or out of that grave.

Angel 1: Good luck with that. We've got a whole team ready to make sure the guards and any other of your goons are neutralized. Not like it matters, anyway. Because when the Lion of Judah roars back to life, it's only a matter of time before he sits on his throne and opens the scroll. (to the Dragon) Your time is short! Do with it what you will.

Dragon: (scoffs) Yeah, right. Let's get out of here. Our work here is finished. (he and evil angels laugh and walk off)

(Angels walks off to the side, opposite direction, but still hang around)

Steve: I don't think you can hear me...but...uh...thank you. I know I haven't done anything to deserve how kind you've been to me. I was totally lost...but right now...even seeing you hanging there...I feel found. For the first time. I can't explain it, but after our recent travels and conversations, it feels like everything makes sense. It's really NOT all about me. It's all about you. I grew up my whole life hearing about God...but now...not I really think I get it.

Angel 2: So what do you think you need to do next?

Steve: Honestly...I want to go tell King Jerry that he is wrong. He's leading the nation in a bad direction. He's letting selfish people like...well, like me...get ALL the air time on TV. Everyone is too busy listening to all of our nonsense. They're not spending time in God's word and learning the truth for themselves. Honestly, I wouldn't have needed this time travelling experience, if I would have just read the scriptures for myself. Certainly, my stomach would be happier if I didn't keep driving through those wormholes.

Angel 2: It sounds like you know what you need to do. You have the unique experience of having met Jesus...what will you tell those who won't have had the pleasure of being with him in person.

Steve: Even when it seems like all is lost...we can have hope. I know he doesn't stay dead. I know he raises from the grave and conquers death and sin. And I know, one day, he'll come and fix this mess we've made. In the meantime...I just want to live in a way that will make him proud. And I want others to know that my best friend...wants to be their best friend too.

Angel 2: Well, I think you're ready. Your travel arrangements have been made. All you have to do is get in the vehicle.

Steve: Thank you...for everything. I wish I could say I'd be a little easier to guard in the future...but, if not, just know I'm grateful for you.

Angel 2: No need to thank me. I look forward to serving and protecting as you go on God's errands. (hug)

Steve: (looking to Jesus) It's been a wild ride. Thank you for helping this blind man see. I can't wait to see you when you come to take us all home. Until then, I've got a message to share with the world.

Angel 2: Before you do...let's take one more ride...I think there's one more person you should meet before you head back to your time.

(both drive off, scene over, act over)

Friday Morning

(scene opens up on isle of Patmos, with John the Apostle)

John: Ah, hello, Frank!

Frank: Hey, John! Lovely day in paradise, eh?

John: The island life is good. Hey, you need any help with the other prisoners?

Frank: After you got after Garrison the other day, he's been really easy to deal with. Thanks again for talking to him.

John: No worries! Hey, you know, these chains get a little itchy sometimes. If you ever want to loosen them.

Frank: Sorry, John. Emperor's orders. Everyone on Patmos has to stay locked up. This is a maximum security prison for a reason. Same reason I carry old Bessie here with me wherever I go (pats his nightstick, hanging from his hip).

John: Yeah...yeah, I guess so. Well, it was nice to see you. I'm going to take a stroll out yonder.

Frank: Sounds good...Oh, and John?

John: Yeah, Frank?

Frank: Don't try to swim it. No one makes it. You're better off keeping completely dry.

John: Ok, Frank.

(Frank walks off, Steve walks on)

John: Is that...Steve??

Steve: Hey, old fella! How do you know me? And where are we?

John: It's me, John! Jesus' friend! Remember, we did the last supper together! I mean, that was like...sixty years ago, so I'm older now...you haven't changed a bit though!

Steve: Oh wow! Sons of Thunder, right? (both dab) How's it going, man?

John: Well, I have to say, I'm blessed. Some people would think banishment to a prison island that's just rocks and spray would be too much to take. But I say...I'm still alive and Jesus hasn't left me yet.

Steve: Is he here??

John: No, no...but...he did give me a vision.

Steve: What was it about?? If you feel comfortable talking about it, that is.

John: Comfortable? Man, I already wrote the whole thing down and sent it off to the seven churches of Asia Minor. They're about to have a bomb dropped on them! It's literally Jesus' end game for how everything's going to go down before he comes back.

Steve: Comes back?

John: Oh yeah, man! He's coming back to take us with him. We're going to live in heaven with Jesus!

Steve: Oh man, that sounds awesome.

John: And get this, you know how he was always talking about crushing the Dragon's head? Well, he finally does. Death and sin are defeated and they won't exist anymore! And then, after that, he re-creates the whole world. Completely like it was supposed to be in the beginning.

Steve: Wow...so we all really will go BACK TO THE GARDEN? So people know about this?

John: They're reading it right now. So even from prison, they can't stop me from spreading the good news of Jesus.

Steve: Yeah...yeah, this is what I needed to hear...I'm ready to go home.

John: But you just got here!

Steve: This is going to sound crazy, but I'm not from this time...or your time at all...I'm from like seven hundred years in the past. Jesus took me on a trip to see some things and...boy did I learn a lot.

John: You don't have to explain man. One time Phillip baptized this guy in the river, and then just teleported to a different city and kept doing ministry. It's true! Luke wrote about it.

Steve: Wow...that's amazing. Anyway, there's this king, King Jerry 2.0, who is on the wrong track. And I have to go and tell him to repent. Also, I need to say sorry for making fun of Amos and Jonah...they had it right.

John: Well, don't let me stop you. I'm just an old prophet who's lost everything for the sake of the good news. This blasted island keeps me locked up for now...but one day, this sea is going to disappear, and I won't be separated from my loved ones anymore.

Steve: I can't wait until that day for you. And when that does happen, I look forward to seeing you in heaven. In the meantime: I've got a story to tell! Later!

(Steve runs off, Frank walks on)

Frank: Did I just hear voices? John, are you talking to yourself again?

John: Oh, no, just catching up with an old friend.

Frank: (laughs) Okay...

John: Did I ever tell you that I'm the fastest of the disciples? One time I outran Peter something fierce. He was always sore about it.

Frank: Yeah, yeah, I've heard that one before.

(both walk off, scene over, act over, play over)

Theme Song: Back to the Garden (Key of C)

Verse 1

C
When all of the people on TV will say
F
That God is not real
But the world is OK
Am G C
Oh no, I don't believe it's so
C
When hosts on the radio say it's the end
F
That nothing can save us
That God's not a friend
Am G C
Oh no, I don't believe it's so

Pre-Chorus A

F
I'll go back to the stories
C
That bring me hope
Am F
It's in God's word: all of the truth you
G
need to know

Chorus

C
Back to the garden I will go (woooah)
F
Back to the garden I will go (woooah)
Am G C
Back to the garden I will go (woooah)

Verse 2

So don't tell me Jesus
Is not strong enough
To save me from all
That the Dragon has done
Oh no, I don't believe it's so
And when I feel worthless
Like I am no use
Tempted to give up
Instead I will choose
Oh no, I won't believe it's so

Pre-Chorus A

Chorus

Bridge

Am
Oh oh oh, Jesus is good enough
F
Oh oh, yes, he is strong enough
C
Oh oh, and he makes up for
G
Wherever I fall short
Am
Oh oh oh, God give me confidence
F
Oh oh, in your forgiveness of sins
C
Oh oh, show me the words of life
G
Designed to give me hope

Verse 3

No I have no doubt in my finite mind
That the infinite God
Will make all of this fine
Oh yes: It's gonna be fine
And even when I get
So scared I could cry
I will go on God's errands
Until one day we fly
With Christ in the sky

Pre-Chorus B

We'll go back to the stories
That bring **us** hope
The tree of life
Is where we'll make our new home

Chorus

Back to the garden **we** will go

