

THE GIFT OF GOD

a passion play

By Robert Hyde

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There are approximately 7,329 words in the narration of this script. This would give a word value of .013644%. The direct scriptural quotes, mostly from the New English Bible, copywritten in 1961, amount to 5,593 words, which constitutes 76.31% of this script. This leaves 1, 736 words of creative writing, or 23.69%.

Research by Ken Faulkner

THE GREAT PASSION PLAY

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THE ASCENSION

This is Page 8, SCENE III ??? Need Pages 1-7

CAIAPHAS: To arrest Him before the eyes of the people might lead to a disastrous uprising – and this we must avoid.

ANNAS: We must take Him subtly and secretly. If one could spy out where He passes the night.

MONEY CHANGER: Someone could easily be found to help us locate His place of lodging – if the High Council sees fit to offer a suitable reward.

CAIAPHAS: Patience, my brothers. His own words will trap Him.

SCENE IV SUPPER AT BETHANY

SETTING: SIMON THE LEPER'S HOUSE

JUDAS: Master! For three years I have followed Thee. We all left our wives, our fathers, our

mothers, our worldly possessions. Now that the hour is right, why not act with boldness, and proclaim Yourself king? When you come into power and deliver Israel, we will overthrow the hated Roman rulers and the corrupt Sanhedrin. And we, Your faithful disciples, may sit beside Your throne and claim what is rightfully ours.

JESUS: Do you not yet know that My kingdom is not of this world? Lazarus – many come to the Temple to see you, for they wonder at the sight of a man who has risen from the dead. Are you not frightened that the Chief Priests have received to do away with you as well?

LAZARUS: Lord, Your voice called me from the grave. Now, all the world listens to Your voice. So, what is it if they take my life? It would glorify Thee and the Father.

(MARY ANOINTS JESUS' FEET)

JUDAS: Why this waste, Master? Why has this perfume not been sold for a good sum and the money given to the poor?

PETER: What is it to you, Judas Iscariot? You do not say this out of any care for the poor, but because you pilfer money into the common purse!

JESUS: Peace. Judas, why must you make trouble for this woman? It is a fine thing she has done for Me. Let her keep it till the day when she prepares for My burial. For you have the poor among you always. But you will not always have Me. She has done what she could when she poured this oil on My body. It was her way of preparing Me for burial. I tell you this, wherever My gospel is preached in the world, what she has done, let it ... let it be a memorial for her.

When a man believes in Me, he believes in Him who sent Me, rather than in Me. Seeing Me, he sees Him who sent Me. I have come into this world as light, so that no one who has faith in Me shall remain in darkness. But if anyone hears My words and pays no regard to them, I am not his judge. I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the man who rejects Me and does not accept My words. The word that I spoke will be his judge for the last day. I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself commanded Me what to say, and how to speak. I know His commands are eternal life. What the Father has said to Me, therefore, that is what I speak.

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

SCENE V JUDAS' PLOT

SETTING: GATE 2 TO PALACE OF CAIAPHAS

JUDAS: What right did Jesus have to rebuke me, Judas, treasurer of the twelve disciples? Defend a wastrel damsel against me? Very well, then, I will bring the matters to a head. We'll force a showdown between the Master and the Sanhedrin. We shall see where the real power lay.

SANHEDRIN
GUARD: Yes?

JUDAS: I am Judas, one of the twelve.

CAIAPHAS: Some way must be found to destroy this Jesus. Otherwise, the Sanhedrin is doomed.

SANHEDRIN

GUARD: It is one of the disciples.

CAIAPHAS: Bring him in.

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

SCENE VI JESUS TEACHING AT THE TEMPLE

SETTING: JERUSALEM STREET SCENE – SECOND DAY

PART 1 MARKET ACTIVITY SETTING STAGE FOR JESUS' ENTRY

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

PART 2 JESUS HEALING THE BLIND MAN

VOICES: Hosannah! Blessings on Him who comes in the name of the Lord –

Hosannah! He comes for Israel! Hosannah!

What is it? What's happening?

It's the man blind from birth!

Look! He's picking up clay!

Now He's putting it on his eyes!

JESUS: Now – go wash in the pool of Siloam.

VOICES: Praise – blessings on the King – Blessings on Him who comes in the name

of the Lord!

Blessed be the Prophet – the Prophet comes – Redeemer!

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

He's splashing water on his face!

SARA:

Wasn't he born without any eyes?

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

He's washing clay off his eyes!

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

Look – the blind man sees!

SARA:

He sees?

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

To open the eyes of a man born blind – it's unheard of!

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

Look – he threw his cane away!

SARA:

It's a miracle!

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

He's coming this way!

PRIEST:

Speak the truth before God – how did He open your eyes?

BLIND MAN:

He spread a paste on my eyes – then I washed. Now I can see!

MONEY CHANGER: This fellow is no man of God! We do not know where He comes from!

BLIND MAN: What an extraordinary thing! This man has opened my eyes – and you do not know where He came from!

VOICE: He is the promised Prophet

JESUS: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

BLIND MAN: Lord, I believe!

PART 3 CONFLICT AT THE TEMPLE

NATHANAEL: The people are calling You Lord. By what authority are You acting like this?

(VOICES OF PRAISE)

NATHANAEL: The people are calling You Lord. By what authority are You acting like this?

ANNAS: You cast out the money changers and the traders in the Temple terrace. Who gave you this authority?

JESUS: I have a question to ask too. Answer it, and I will tell you by what authority I act. The baptism of John – was it from God, or was it from man?

NATHANAEL: What shall we say?

ANNAS: If we say, from God, He will say, “Then why did you not believe him?”

CAIAPHAS: But if we say, from man, the people will turn against us and stone us. For they are all convinced that John was a prophet.

ANNAS: How are we to answer Him?

NATHANAEL: Caiaphas, what are we to say?

CAIAPHAS: We – do not know.

JESUS: Then neither will I tell you by what authority I act.

PART 4 JESUS TEACHING

SETTING: TEMPLE STEPS

JESUS: But what do you think of this? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, “My boy, go work today in the vineyard.” I will, sir,” he replied, but then he never went. The father came to the second son and said the same. He replied, “I will not, sir.” But afterwards he changed his mind and went. Which of these two did as his father wished?

NATHANAEL: The second.

JESUS: I tell you this: tax gatherers and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

(CROWD VOICES)

So, when John came to show you the right way to live, you did not believe him. But the tax gatherers and prostitutes did. And even when you had seen that, you did not change your minds and believe him.

CENTURION: Master, you are an honest man, we know. You teach in all honesty the way of life that God requires, truckling to no man, whoever he may be. Give us your ruling on this: are we or are we not permitted to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor? Shall we pay, or not?

JESUS: You hypocrites!

(CROWD VOICES)

Why are you trying to catch me out? Show me the silver piece in which the tax is paid. Whose head does this bear? And whose inscription?

CENTURION: Caesar's!

VOICES: Caesar's!

JESUS: Then pay Caesar what is due Caesar. And pay God what is due God.

SAUL THE
SADDUCEE: We are the holy order of the Sadducees – the sect which does not believe that there will ever be a resurrection. A question.

GAMALIEL: Master – Moses laid it down for us, that if there are brothers and one dies, leaving a

wife but no child, then the next should marry the widow and carry on his brother's family. Now we now of seven brothers. The first married and died, and he was without issue. His wife was left to his brother. The same thing happened with the second, and the third, and so on with all seven. Last of all, the woman died. At the resurrection then, whose wife will she be – for they all had married her?

JESUS: You are mistaken, because you know neither the Scripture nor the power of God,

(CROWD VOICES)

JESUS: At the resurrection, men and women do not marry, but are like angels in heaven. Now, about the resurrection of the dead, have you never heard or read in the book of Moses, in the story of the burning bush, how God spoke to him and said, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for Him, all are alive. And you are greatly mistaken.

SAUL THE
SADDUCEE: Well spoken, Master.

JESUS: What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose Son is He?

GAMALIEL: The son of David.

JESUS: How then is it that David, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calls Him Lord? For he says, "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." If David calls Him Lord, how can He be David's son?

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA: Which commandment is first of all?

JESUS: The first is, the Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: Well said, Master. You are right in saying that God is one, and beside Him there is no other. And to love your neighbor as yourself – that is far greater than any burnt offerings or sacrifices.

JESUS: You are not far from the kingdom of God. The doctors of law and the Pharisees sit in the chair of Moses. Therefore, do what they tell you. Pay attention to their words. But do not follow their practices, for they say one thing and do another.

(CROWD VOICES)

JESUS: Beware the doctors of law and the Pharisees, who love to walk up and down in long robes, receiving respectful greetings in the street, and to have the chief seats in synagogues and places of honor while feasting. These are the men who eat up the property of widows, while they say long prayers for appearance's sake.

(CROWD VOICES)

And they will receive the severest sentence. Alas for you lawyers and Pharisees – hypocrites!

(CROWD VOICES)

You build up the tombs of the prophets and embellish the monuments of the saints. And you say, “If we had been alive in our fathers’ time, we should never have taken part with them in the murder of the prophets!” So, you acknowledge that you are the sons of the men who killed the prophets! Go on, then. Finish off what your fathers began.

JOHN: Look, Master. What fine buildings! What huge stones!

JESUS: You see these great buildings, which you are marveling at? The time will come when not one stone of them will be left upon another. All will be thrown down.

JAMES: Master, tell us – when will this happen?

JUDE: Yes, when will it all come about? What will be the sign when it is due to happen?

JESUS: Take care that no one misleads you. Many will come claiming My name, and saying, “I am he, and the day is upon us.” And many will be misled by them. But do not follow them. And when you hear the noise of battle near at hand, and the news of battles far away, do not fall into panic, but.....

PART 5 SANHEDRIN PLOT CONTINUES

SETTING: TEMPLE STEPS

NATHANAEL: Blasphemy!

ANNAS: Blasphemy against the Temple – and God!

GAMALIEL: There is unrest in the city. The events of this day excite the populace.

SAUL: We must devise some cunning plan to have Jesus arrested and by some trick, put Him to death.

NATHANAEL: It must not be during the festival, or there may be rioting among the people.

SAUL: Look at the crowd! He's always with them. Or away in hiding – who knows where?

ANNAS: It is agreed that we are all fearful of the crowds that follow Him. So, now is the time for Caiaphas to tell all who are here what happened last evening.

CAIAPHAS: One of the twelve, Judas, has agreed to look for an opportunity to betray this Jesus, without collecting a crowd. We were greatly pleased and undertook to pay him a sum of money.

SAUL: Money? How much?

GAMALIEL: By the law of Moses, a slave is worth thirty pieces of silver.

ANNAS: Right. For a false Messiah, 'tis a good payment. We weighted him out thirty pieces of silver and he will lead us to their secret place – a garden outside the city wall.

GAMALIEL: Let us go and confer on our scheme.

SCENE VII PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER

SETTING: SIMON'S HOUSE

PART 1 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION

JESUS: As you all know, this is the first day of unleavened bread and the law commands that the Passover be kept. Peter and John, you will go on before us and see to it that the Paschal lamb is ready for us to eat together.

PETER: Where would You like us to go and prepare for Your Passover supper?

JESUS: Go into the city and you will see a man carrying a jar of water. He will lead you to a house. Give the house-holder this message; "The Master says, 'My appointed time is near. I am to keep the Passover with My disciples at your home. Where is the room reserved for us?'" There will be a large room set out in readiness. Make the preparations for us there.

PETER: God's blessings be upon You.

(Peter and John exit stage left down behind the wall, coming down state on the Via Dolorosa to the well, where they meet the Man with the Jar of Water.)

PART 2 MAN WITH A JAR OF WATER

SETTING: JERUSALEM STREET

SCENE VIII PASSOVER FEAST

SETTING: UPPER ROOM

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

PART 1 STRIFE OVER AUTHORITY AND JESUS WASHING THE APOSTLES' FEET

JAMES: Soon the throne will be ascended and we will sit in power over the kingdom.

PHILLIP: That is true and one of us will surely be ranked as the most high apostle.

JAMES: And he alone will have the most power.

JOHN: Who do you believe will sit at the right hand and have the greatest authority?

JUDAS: I am the treasurer. Surely I will have the greater power.

PETER: It is not always the purse that has the authority over man. Perhaps it will be I, Peter.

JUDAS: Surely it will be me!

JUDE: Perhaps we should establish a council and select the one who is to be ranked the highest.

JUDAS: No! Then he becomes a man of pleasing and popular qualities and not a man who can lead and govern with firmness.

JAMES: Then surely the Master will select the one who is to be the greatest among us.

PHILLIP: That is as I say, by appointment, only.

JUDE: By council election!

PETER: The one who has the greater will should be ranked with the greater power!

JUDAS: The one with the purse, he alone has the authority over the needs of others!

JOHN: Let us ask the Master. Lord –

PART 2 JESUS' TEACHING ON WASHING THE APOSTLES' FEET

PETER: You – the Lord – washing my feet?

JESUS: You do not understand what I am doing. But one day you will.

PETER: I will never let You wash my feet!

JESUS: If I do not wash you, you are not in fellowship with Me.

PETER: Then Lord, not my feet only! Wash my hands and head as well!

JESUS: A man who has bathed needs no further washing. He is altogether clean. And you are clean.

Though not every one of you.

Do you understand what I have done for you? You call Me Master, and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Then if I have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have set you an example. You are to do as I have done for you.

In the world, kings lord it over their subjects. And those in authority are called their country's benefactors. Not so with you. On the contrary, the highest among you must bear himself like the youngest; the chief of you like a servant. For who is greater – the one who sits at table or the one who waits on him? Surely the one who sits at the table. Yet here I am like a servant among you. You are the men who have stood firmly by Me in My times of trial.

And now I vest in you the kingship which My Father vested in Me. You shall eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones as judges of the twelve tribes of Israel.

PART 3 THE BREAD AND THE CUP

JESUS: Our Father, who alone knows our needs, we ask Your blessings on this food. Take this and eat. This is My body. O Lord, we give thanks for this and Thy blessings. Drink from it, all of you, for this is My blood, the blood of the Covenant, shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you; never again shall I drink from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.

PART 4 JESUS TEACHING – FORETELLS JUDAS' BETRAYAL

JESUS: I am not speaking about all of you. There is a Scripture to be fulfilled; he who eats bread with Me has turned against Me. I tell you this now, before the event, that when it happens you may believe that I am what I am. In very truth I tell you, he

who receives any messenger of Mine, receives Me. Receiving Me, he receives the One who sent Me. In truth, in very truth I tell you, one of you is going to betray Me.

PETER: Surely not I!

JUDE: Who could He be speaking of?

JAMES: Is it I, Lord?

PETER: Ask who He means.

JOHN: Lord, who is it?

JESUS: It is the man to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it into the dish.

JUDAS: Can you mean – me?

JESUS: The words are yours. Do quickly what you have to do. Now the Son of Man is glorified. And in Him, God is glorified. My children, for a little longer, I am with you. And then you will look for Me. And I will tell you now where I am going, you cannot follow. I give you a new commandment. Love one another as I have loved you. If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are My disciples.

PETER: Lord, where are you going?

JESUS: Where I am going, you cannot follow Me now. But one day you will.

PETER: Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for You!

JESUS: Peter, will you indeed lay down your life for Me? I tell you in very truth, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

PETER: Even if I must die with You, I will never disown You!

THOMAS: Not I, Lord!

JUDE: Nor I!

JAMES: Lord, 'tis not true of me!

JOHN: Master, not I – never!

JESUS: Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God, always. Trust also in Me. There are many dwelling places in My Father's house. If it were not so, I should have told you. For I am going there on purpose to prepare a place for you. I shall come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also. And My way there is known to you.

THOMAS: Lord, we do not know where You are going. So how can we know the way?

JESUS: I am the Way, I am the Truth, and I am the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me.

Peace is My parting gift to you – My own peace, such as the world cannot give. You heard Me say I am going away and coming back to you. I have told you now, beforehand, so that when it happens you may have faith.

I shall not talk much longer with you, for the Prince of this world approaches. He has no rights over Me. But the world must be shown that I love the Father and do exactly as He commands. So up, let's go forward.

SCENE IX "GATHER A CROWD!"

SETTING: JERUSALEM STREET SCENE

CAIAPHAS: Gather a crowd! Pay them for their time, if need be.

ANNAS: Get a crowd! Spread it through the streets!

CAIAPHAS: Take along the Temple guards and some high priests, to have supervision, that all may go according to order.

This word has been burning on my tongue, and now it is spoken – let Him die! He must die for our safety.

VOICES: I will get my weapons!

Kill the Nazarene!

HEAD SANHEDRIN

GUARD: All those who believe in the Great Sanhedrin, follows us!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE WITH LIGHT ON CHALICE)

SCENE X JESUS' AGONY

SETTING: GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

PART 1

JESUS' PRAYER

JESUS: Peter, James and John – come with Me into the garden while I pray. Let the rest stay and watch here at the gate. Tonight you will all fall from. Your faith on My account, for it stands written, “I will strike the shepherd down, and the sheep of his flock will be scattered.” But after I am raised again, I will go on before you into Galilee.

PETER: Everyone else may fall away from Your account, but I never will. I am ready to go with You to prison, and to death!

JESUS: I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow tonight until you have three times over denied that you know Me. When I sent you out barefoot, without purse or pack, were you ever short of anything?

PETER: No, no, Lord!

JAMES: Never!

JESUS: It is different now. Whoever has a purse had better take it with him, and his pack too. And if he has no sword, let him sell his cloak to buy one; for Scripture says, “And He was counted among the outlaws.” And these words, I tell you, must find fulfillment.

SANHEDRIN
GUARD:

Jesus of Nazareth!

JESUS: I am He.

Who is it you want?

SANHEDRIN

GUARD: Jesus of Nazareth!

JESUS: I have told you I am He. If I am the man you want, let these others go.

PETER: Lord! Shall we draw our swords?

(MALCHUS' EAR IS CUT)

JESUS: Sheath your sword. This is My cup that My Father has given Me. Shall I not drink it?

(CROWD NOISES)

JESUS: All those who take the sword die by the sword. Do you suppose that I cannot appeal to My Father, who would at once come to My aid with more than twelve legions of angels? But how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that this must be? Do you take Me for a bandit, that you have come out here with swords and cudgels to arrest Me? Day after day I sat teaching in the Temple, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this has all happened to fulfill what the prophets wrote. This is your moment – the hour when darkness reigns.

PRIEST: Seize Him!

SANHEDRIN

GUARD: Seize Him – on to the house of Caiaphas!

(CROWD SCREAMING)

NATHANAEL: Now we have Jesus, and we have the coins to return to the Temple fund.

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA: This can't be put back into the Temple fund! It's – It's blood money!

CAIAPHAS: What is it you would do?

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA: We...

GAMALIEL: We might acquire an acre of land as a burial place for strangers and foreigners.

CAIAPHAS: Is a suitable one to be had?

ANNAS: Yes. A potter in town has a piece of land that is to be had for that price. We could call it Potter's field.

CAIAPHAS: Then – gather the coins and close the bargain. Let us be on our way.

NATHANAEL: Why not call it Blood Acre?

(LAUGHTER)

CAIAPHAS: No – No! Others may take it to refer to us. No, we will call it Potter's Field!

PART 2 BRINGING JESUS TO TRIAL BY CAIAPHAS

SETTING: FROM BEHIND THE GARDEN WALL TO PALACE OF CAIAPHAS

(CROWD VOICES)

VOICE: Enemy of Caesar!

PART 3 DISPERSAL OF CROWD

HEAD SANHEDRIN

GUARD:

You may all return to your homes now. We have Him in hand.

You may all return to your homes now. We have Him in hand.

Everyone come to Pilate's Porch of Judgment early in the morning for the

Governor's Tribunal. We will meet with Pontius Pilate early.

Everyone be there!

VOICES: Enemy of Caesar!

Blasphemer!

SCENE XII TRIAL BY CAIAPHAS AND PETER'S DENIAL

SETTING: PALACE OF CAIAPHAS

(OUTSIDE PALACE – PETER'S FIRST DENIAL)

SARA: You were there too, with this Man from Nazareth – this Jesus!

PETER: I know nothing! I do not understand what you mean.

(INSIDE PALACE)

ANNAS: I would like to ask you about these – uh – disciples. And about the doctrine that You teach, which has misled the people

JESUS: I have spoken openly to all the world. I have always taught in the synagogues and in the Temple where all Jews congregate. I have said nothing in secret. Why question Me? Ask My hearers what I told them. They know what I said.

(GUARD SLAMS JESUS)

HEAD SANHEDRIN

GUARD: Is that any way to answer the High Priest?

JESUS: If I spoke amiss, state it in evidence. If I spoke well, why strike Me?

ANNAS: You hear how this man speaks? Blasphemy! Take Him away! I'm tired of this malefactor. He is yours to questions!

(OUTSIDE PALACE) – PETER'S SECOND DENIAL

SARA: This man was with Him too! You also are one of them!

PETER: Woman, I do not know Him! I do not know what you mean! I know nothing!

(INSIDE PALACE)

CAIAPHAS: ---Sedition...sorcery...treason...blasphemy...an enemy against the state...and rebellion against Caesar. I have enough allegations here to warrant a death sentence. Are there witnesses here to these charges? If so, speak up, give your evidence.

NATHANAEL: I can testify that this man excited the people by publicly calling the members of this council and scribes – hypocrites – wolves in sheep’s clothing – blind leaders of the blind – and He told them not to follow our works!

SAUL: I also can bear witness to that. And can add that He forbade the people to pay tribute to Caesar.

ANNAS: Such things I have also heard, and more. He said He would soon ascend His throne – the King of Israel!

SAUL: No! It was the King of Jews that He said!

ANNAS: I heard Him say He was a prophet – a Messiah!

NATHANAEL: Yes, and He said He was Christ the King!

GAMALIEL: No, it was ore than that! He said He was the Son of God!

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: It was not the Son of God, but the Son of Man.

ANNAS: Blasphemy! Blasphemy against God – and the Temple!

CAIAPHAS: Can’t you agree on one thing? You say blasphemy – you say He was plotting against the Roman Emperor. But we must have one bit of solid evidence that all agree on.

NATHANAEL: What difference? Son of Man, Son of God – it’s all blasphemous!

ANNAS: All we need show Pilate is that He claims to be King of the Jews. That is high treason!

CIAIAPHAS: what have You to say to these charges brought against You?

(OUTSIDE PALACE) – PETER’S THIRD DENIAL

GUARD: Did I not see you with Him in the Garden?

PETER: No! No!

GUARD: Of course this fellow was with Him! He must have been – he is a Galilean. His accent gives him away!

PETER: Man, I do not know what you are talking about!

(COCK CROWS)

SARA: He was at the garden! He is one of them!

CROWD VOICES: He was there! He is one of them!

PETER: No! No! I do not know the man! Curse you – Curses on all of you! I am not one of them! No, I am not! I do not know Him! I do not know Him! I do not know Him...

(INSIDE PALACE)

CAIAPHAS: Guard! Close that door! Speak up, man! Have you no defense for these accusations?

ANNAS: I was an eyewitness – how on the Sabbath day He did what is forbidden by God’s law – healed the sick and the afflicted without shame!

Yes, He even incited others to break the Sabbath day. He commanded a man to carry his bed home on the Sabbath, and another to bathe in the pond of Siloam

SAUL: He has called God His Father, and did proclaim that He and the Father were one. He has made Himself equal to God!

NATHANAEL: I heard Him say, “I can pull down the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.”

GAMALIEL: His exact words were, “I will throw down this temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another not made with hands.”

CAIAPHAS: Have You. No answer to the charge that these witnesses bring against You? By the Living God, I charge You to tell us – are You the Messiah, the Son of God, the Blessed One?

JESUS: The words are yours. If I tell you, you will not believe Me. And if I ask questions, you will not answer. But I tell you this, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God and coming on the clouds of heaven!

ANNAS: You are the Son of God then?

JESUS: It is you who say I am.

CAIAPHAS: Blasphemy! Need we call further witnesses?

ANNAS: We have heard it ourselves, from His own lips.

CAIAPHAS: You have heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?

GAMALIEL: He is guilty! He shall die!

CAIAPHAS: You – masters of law – I summon you to answer! What say the holy law of him who is disobedient to the authority instituted by God?

GAMALIEL: Whoever is proud and will not obey the commandment of the priest, who serves at the same time the Lord thy God, according to the judgment of the judge – that man shall die! And thou shalt blot out the evil from Israel.

CAIAPHAS: And he who threatens the law of the Sabbath.

SAUL: Keep My Sabbath, for it is sacred to you. Who profanes it shall be guilty of death. Who does work on that day, his soul shall be cast out of the people.

CAIAPHAS: What punishment does the law decree to the blasphemer?

GAMALIEL: Tell the children of Israel, a man who curses his God shall bear his punishment. And he who slanders the name of the Lord shall die. The whole community shall stone him, be he a native or a stranger – who slanders the name of the Lord shall be put to death!

CAIAPHAS: Fathers of the people of Israel, it is now your due to speak the final sentence about

the guilt and punishment of this man!

SANHEDRIN (unison) He is guilty of blasphemy! He has deserved death!

CAIAPHAS: Lead Him away.

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

(Guard leads Jesus out of Palace into street for beating by Guards and Priests.)

GUARD: Now, Messiah – if You are a prophet, tell us who hit You!

(LAUGHTER)

GUARD: Prophecy this – who struck You, great miracle worker?

(LAUGHTER)

GUARD: Who hit You? Prophecy, Son of God!

GUARD: Tell me who I am?

GUARD: Am I the Son of Man?

GUARD: Who am I, prophet?

GUARD: Our king has fallen from His throne!

GUARD: Which subject am I – O King of Israel?

GUARD: Am I the Son of Man?

GUARD: Tell me who I am?

GUARD: Who am I, prophet? Son of God?

GUARD: Who hit You? Prophecy!

(VOICES ASKING QUESTIONS)

CAIAPHAS: Enough now, Enough! Back away – let Him up. It is daylight now. Guards, get Him to His feet. We will take Him to Pontius Pilate. We have our evidence.

GUARD: Rise up, mighty king! Receive our homage again!

GUARD: Come, we will help Him to His throne!

(LAUGHTER)

GUARD: He neither speaks nor makes any signs!

GUARD: The High Priest and Pilate will make Him eloquent!

GUARD: On to Pilate! He has been king long enough!

GUARD: Away with Him! His kingdom is at an end!

(LAUGHTER)

GUARD: On to Pilate!

SCENE XIII TRIAL BY PILATE

SETTING: PILATES PORCH

ANNAS: We have arrested a Galilean. We seek Pilate to pass judgment.

PILATE: What charge do you bring against this man?

CAIAPHAS: If He were not a criminal, we should not have brought Him before you.

PILATE: Well, of what misdeed is He guilty?

ANNAS: He has, in many ways, gravely offended the holy laws of the children of Israel.

PILATE: Then take Him away and try Him by your own law.

CAIAPHAS: By the Sanhedrin He has been tried – and judged worthy of death.

GAMALIEL: By our laws He deserves death.

CAIAPHAS: It is not lawful for us to pronounce the death sentence upon anyone. Therefore, we bring the petition for the execution of the sentence to the representative of Caesar.

PILATE: Sentenced to death? What is He accused of?

GAMALIEL: The sentence of the High Council against the man was unanimously pronounced and founded upon the most exact examination of His crime. It does not appear necessary that the illustrious governor should trouble himself with further examination.

PILATE: What? You dare to demand that I, the representative of Caesar, will be a tool in your hands, to carry your designs to fulfillment. I must know what law He has broken and how He has broken it.

ANNAS: We have a law, and by this law He must die – for He has called Himself the Son of God!

CAIAPHAS: We have all heard this blasphemy from His own mouth.

SAUL: Therefore, we insist that He must pay the decreed penalty of death.

PILATE: After such talk as this, which at most is only the fruit of the most fanatical imagination, no Roman can find this man guilty. Who knows – He may be the son of some god. If you have no other crimes to lay to His charge, do not suppose that I will fulfill your request.

CAIAPHAS: Also, against the Emperor himself is this man guilty of the most serious offenses.

We

found this man subverting our nation. He is opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and He claims to be a Messiah – a King!

UNISON: King of the Jews!

PILATE: Are You King of the Jews?

JESUS: The words are yours.

PILATE: I find no case for this man to answer. If He has transgressed your law, then punish Him according to your laws – as far as you are able. I cannot pronounce the death sentence on Him because I find nothing in Him, according to the law by which I am authorized to act, worthy of death.

CAIAPHAS: If anyone declares himself a king in the province of Caesar, is he not a rebel? Does he not deserve death as the punishment for high treason?

PILATE: Even if this man has called Himself a king, this word of many meanings would not by any means authorize me to sentence Him. With us, it is publicly taught that every wise man is a king. Proof that He has assumed royal power, you have not brought forward.

ANNAS: Is it not enough when through Him the entire people are stirred up – when He fills the whole of Judea with His false teachings?

CAIAPHAS: His teachings is causing dissatisfaction among the people! All through Judea! It started from Galilee and has spread as far as this city.

PILATE: Very well. Let me have the charges and we will question Him further.

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

PILATE: You see how many charges they are bringing against You? You have nothing to say to these charges in Your defense? Are You the King of the Jews?

JESUS: Is that your own idea? Or have others suggested it to you?

PILATE: What am I – a Jew? Your own nation and their chief priests have brought You before me. What have You done?

JESUS: My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it did, My followers would be fighting to save Me from arrest by the Jews. My kingly authority comes from elsewhere.

PILATE: You are a king then?

JESUS: King is your word. My task is to bear witness to the truth. For this was I born. For this I came into the world. And all who are not deaf to truth listen to my voice.

PILATE: What is truth?

(TO THE PEOPLE) For my part, I find no case against Him!

CAIAPHAS: We demand – death to the traitor!

(CROWD VOICES) Crucify Him!

PILATE: Why? What wrong has He done? I have not found Him guilty of any capital offense. He is only a lost, wandering soul, who wants to teach truth and love – a simple dreamer. I will therefore let Him off with a flogging.

(CROWD IN UNISON) Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

PILATE: Is not this man a Galilean?

ANNAS: He is. His teachings came over all the land from Galilee.

PILATE: Then He belongs to Herod's jurisdiction. Herod is now in Jerusalem. I remit Him therefore, to Herod's guards that He may be flogged.

SCENE XIV TRIAL BY HEROD

SETTING: HEROD'S COURTYARD

SANHEDRIN: Health and blessings be upon the mighty King from the Almighty!

CAIAPHAS: The Sanhedrin has taken this prisoner, and brings Him before the King, that he may confirm the sentence as lawful.

SAUL: The law demands His death.

ANNAS: May it please the King to confirm the sentence of the synagogue.

HEROD: How can I be a judge in a foreign territory? Go to your own Governor – he will do justice.

CAIAPHAS: Pilate sent Him here – because He is a Galilean – and your subject.

HEROD: Is this man in my jurisdiction? Who is He?

ANNAS: He is Jesus of Nazareth.

CAIAPHAS: “Therefore,” said Pilate, “let King Herod pronounce sentence upon this subject.”

HEROD: Pilate said that? That is singular. Pilate sent Him to me? He grants me leave to act as judge in his own province?

ANNAS: It seems as if the Governor wishes to make approaches to the great King.

HEROD: So, they have the famous miracle worker – Jesus of Nazareth – a prisoner. I have wished for a long time to see this man, about whose works the whole land is speaking. Is it possible that John has come to life again?

(SPEAKS TO JESUS - LAUGHING)

So, this is the prophet! I have been hoping to see You!

CAIAPHAS: He is a deceiver!

ANNAS: An enemy to our holy law!

HEROD: I’ve heard that You can read the secrets of men, and tell of deeds that pass the bounds of human knowledge. Let us have proof – a token of Your wisdom and great power. Come on – perform a miracle for me! Come on.... Come on.... A miracle! Are You not a prophet? Show me a little sign!

(LAUGHTER)

It is easy to deceive the foolish people. It is a different thing to stand before the wise and mighty King. Come on – show me a little sign, Prophet – and You may go free! Speak! Hah! There’s nothing in Him. He’s a foolish fellow whom the applause of

the people has made mad. Let Him go. He is not worthy of the trouble you are making about Him!

CAIAPHAS: Do not trust this crafty fellow. He makes Himself out a fool, only in order to obtain a milder sentence.

ANNAS: If He is not put out of the way, He will put the King's person in danger, for He has dared set Himself up as King!

HEROD: This man as a King? As King of fools – that is more credible! As such, He deserves to be acknowledged. I will present Him with a royal mantle and install Him with due formalities as King of all fools!

(LAUGHTER)

Take His robes off! Put this purple mantle on our new King! Now – crown Him!

HEROD'S GUARD: Here is Your crown, O King!

HEROD'S GUARD: Here, O King – Your scepter! Hail! Hail! King of the Jews!

(LAUGHTER)

HEROD: Hail, King of the Jews! Go ahead, pay homage to your new King!

HEROD'S GUARD: Hail! Hail!

HEROD'S GUARD: Hail! King of the Jews!

HEROD'S GUARD: Hail, O King! Hail! Hail, King of the Jews!

HEROD'S GUARD: Hail, King of the Jews!

HEROD: Wait! Wait! Flog Him!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF FLOGGING WHIP)

(CROWD SCREAMS)

GUARDS: Hail!

(SCREAMS)

GUARDS: Hail!

(SCREAMS)

GUARDS: Hail! O King!

GUARDS: Hail!

HEROD: That's enough. That's enough! Now, return him to Pilate. Tell Pilate I am not in my own district and that he must pass any judgment there is to be. But tell him that the King has been flogged!

(LAUGHTER)

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

CROWD VOICES: Look at His back!
 Did you see the beating He took?
 He never cried out once!
 Come on, let's get on with this!
 Somebody help Him get up!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

SCENE XV TRIAL BY PILATE

SETTING: PILATE'S PORCH

CLAUDIA: Have nothing to do with that innocent man. I was much troubled on His account in
 my dreams last night.

PILATE: Behold! The Man!

NATHANEL: Flogging is not enough! He has led a rebellion against the state!

ANNAS: We have the promise of Caesar that our laws will be upheld. How is it possible that
 He could be found without fault when He treads these laws under foot?

NATHANEL: He is guilty!

(CROWD) Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

PILATE: Take Him and crucify Him yourselves! For my part, I find no case against Him!

CAIAPHAS: We have a law – and by that law He ought to die! Because He has claimed to be the

Son of God!

PILATE:
(TO JESUS) Where have You come from? Do You refuse to speak to me? Surely You know that I have authority to release You. And I have authority to crucify You.

JESUS: You would have no authority at all over me – if... if it had not been granted you from above. Therefore... the deeper guilt lies with the man who handed Me over to you.

PILATE:
(TO CAIAPHAS AND ANNAS)
You brought this man before me on a charge of subversion. But as you see, I have myself examined Him in your presence and found nothing in Him to support your charges. No more did Herod, for he referred Him back to me. Clearly, He has done nothing to deserve death. I therefore propose to let Him off with the flogging.

NATHANAEL: He is blasphemous! An enemy of the state!

CAIAPHAS: There is a custom whereby you must turn over one prisoner to us during the feast of the Passover.

PILATE: Hmmm – I remember the custom. Then who shall it be – the condemned murdered and thief called Jesus Barabbas or this man who calls Himself King? Jesus, the Messiah.

NATHANAEL: Away with Him! Give us Barabbas!

(CROWD) Barabbas! Give us Barabbas! Barabbas!

NATHANAEL: Release Barabbas!

(CROWD) Give us Barabbas!

PILATE: Then what am I to do with this Jesus called the Messiah?

NATHANAEL: He must be crucified!

(CROWD) Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

PILATE: Why? What harm has He done?

(CROWD) Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

PILATE: What! Shall I crucify your King?

ANNAS: We have no king but Caesar!

CAIAPHAS: If you let this man go, you are no friend to Caesar! Any man who claims to be a king is defying Caesar!

NATHANAEL: Is this rebel to remain unpunished and spread still further the seed of revolt?

GAMALIEL: We have done our duty as subjects of Caesar and delivered this rebel over to you. If you do not hear our accusations and the voice of the people; we are free from guilt. You alone, O Governor, are responsible to Caesar for the consequences!

ANNAS: It is the duty of the Governor to put Him out of the way!

PILATE: Bring water!

CAIAPHAS: Execute the traitor – or else there will be no peace in the land!

PILATE: I was my hands in full view of these people. My hands are clean of this innocent man's blood. See to that yourselves!

(CROWD) His blood is on us! And on our children!

PILATE: Here is your King! Away with Him!

(CROWD) Crucify Him! Crucify Him!

(CROWD SCREAMING)

SCENE XVI THE WAY OF THE CROSS

SETTING: VIA DOLOROSA

(CROWD MURMURING)

MARY: (Weeping) Oh God! It is my Son! It is my Jesus!

CENTURION: Here is a stranger – Hey you – what's your name?

SIMON OF CYRENE: Simon. Simon of Cyrene.

CENTURION: Pick up that cross and carry it!

SMION OF CYRENE: I have committed no offense.

CENTURION: Silence! You have broad shoulders that can carry something and He is too feeble.
Pick it up!

SIMON OF CYRENE: Yes – yes, sir! What do I see? It is the holy Man of Nazareth! For the love of Thee
will I carry it!

CENTURION: Now! Forward! Follow the beam of the cross!

(WOMEN WEEPING)

JESUS: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me. No, weep for yourselves and your
children. For the days are surely coming when they will start saying to the
mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” – and if these things are done
when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

(CROWD YELLING)

SCENE XXVII CALVARY

SETTING: GOLGATHA

PART 1 DEATH SENTENCE AND TWO THIEVES CRUCIFIED

CENTURION: The death sentence will now be read:

I, Pontius Pilate, Viceroy of the mighty Claudius Tiberius Caesar in Judea, at the desire of the High Priests, the Sanhedrin, pronounce the sentence of death upon a certain Jesus of Nazareth, who is accused of having incited the people to revolt and forbidden them to pay tribute to Caesar, and of having proclaimed Himself King of the Jews. The same shall be taken outside the city walls and there shall be nailed to a cross between two malefactors, who have also been condemned to death for many robberies and murders, and be brought from life to death. Given at Jerusalem on the evening before the Passover. Signed, Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea.

(TWO THIEVES ARE CRUCIFIED)

PART 2 JESUS CRUCIFIED

(SOUND OF NAILING)

ROMAN SOLDIER: Let us raise the King of the Jews up on His throne!

NATHANAEL: Not King – Malefactor! Blasphemer!

JESUS: (1st Cry) Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

CAIAPHAS: You would pull the temple down, would You, and build it again in three days?

(LAUGHTER)

NATHANAEL: Come down from the cross and save Yourself, if You are indeed the Son of God!

GAMALIEL: He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross. If we see that, we shall believe!

(LAUGHTER)

ANNAS: He saved others – now let Him save Himself – if this is God’s Anointed – His chosen!

SAUL: He cannot save Himself! King of Israel! Indeed!

PRIEST: Let God rescue Him. If He wants Him! For He said He was God’s Son!

(LAUGHTER)

PRIEST: Didn’t He trust in God?

(LAUGHTER)

FIRST THIEF:

(STAGE LEFT) Are you not the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!

SECOND THIEF:

(STAGE RIGHT) Have you no fear of God? You’re under the same sentence as He. For us, it is plain justice. We are paying the price for our misdeeds. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus – remember me when You come to Your throne!

JESUS: (2nd Cry)

I tell you this – today you shall be with Me in Paradise!

ROMAN SOLDIER:

See! He even commands the gates to Paradise!

(LAUGHTER)

ROMAN SOLDIER: Here are His garments. He has no further need of them.

ROMAN SOLDIER: I'll take this one.

ROMAN SOLDIER: I need this pair of sandals.

ROMAN SOLDIER: This is mine. I'll get the only rag left.

ROMAN SOLDIER: Wait – just look at this tunic – a seamless tunic!

ROMAN SOLDIER: Let's cast lots for it.

ROMAN SOLDIER: Yes – it is too valuable to tear into four pieces.

ROMAN SOLDIER: We'll toss for it.

JESUS: (3rd Cry) Moth... Mother... there is your son... there is your mother.

INSERT A PILATE'S PORCH

CAIAPHAS: Pilate! Pilate!

PILATE: What is it, Caiaphas?

CAIAPHAS: You should not write "King of the Jews". Write "He claimed to be King of the

Jews”!

PILATE: What I have written, I have written.

CAIAPHAS: Bah!

(MUSIC ITERLUDE)

PART 2 CONTINUED

SETTING; CALVARY

JESUS: (4th Cry) Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabach-thani?

ROMAN SOLDIER: What was it? I didn't understand.

MARY MAGDALENE: My God, My God – why hast Thou forsaken Me?

NATHANAEL: He is calling Elijah!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

JESUS: (5th Cry) I thirst...

MOURNER: Let us see if Elijah is coming to take Him down.

INSERT B PETER'S CONFESSION

PETER: O, best of Masters – the most Holy! How low have I fallen? I'm a weak, miserable wretch. Thee, my loving Friend and Master, have I denied – denied three times. Thee, for whom I had promised to die! Cursed by my infamous unfaithfulness. Eternally shall my heart feel this contemptible cowardice. Lord – my kind Lord – have You still mercy for me. Mercy for an unfaithful servant? If so, then give it to me. This time listen to the voice of a repentant. The sin has been done – I – I cannot undo it. Forever I shall weep over it and do penance for it. Never, nevermore will I leave Thee! O, kindest of men – do not cast me out nor despise my bitter repentance. No! No! The soft, compassionate look that Thou gave to me, Thy deeply sunk disciple – that look tells me my Lord will forgive me. This trust I have in Thee and the whole love of my heart shall henceforth be Thine, and nothing – nothing shall prevail on me to part from Thee. I am Your servant – Peter!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

(THUNDER)

PART 2 CONTINUED

SETTING CALVARY

JESUS: (6th Cry) It... is... finished!

(7th Cry) Father... into Thy hands... I commend My spirit!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

(THUNDER and LIGHTENING)

PART 3 RESURRECTED SAINTS

SETTING: CALVARY

MOURNER: Look! The dead – raised from the grave!

MOURNER: They are resurrected!

MOURNER: What is it they want?

1st RESURRECTED
SAINT: Fear not. We have been raised from the grave to give testimony.

2nd RESURRECTED
SAINT: This holy Man, Jesus, whom you crucified – is the Son of God!

3rd RESURRECTED
SAINT: He is the glorified Son of the Almighty Jehovah!

4th RESURRECTED
SAINT: Beyond all doubt, this Man was innocent!

CENTURION: Truly, this Man was the Son of God!

INSERT C SUDDEN STORM

SETTING: PILATE'S PORCH

ROMAN SOLDIER: What is it? What's happening?

PILATE: Only a sudden storm.

The Jews are anxious that the bodies should not remain on the crosses for the coming Sabbath, since this Sabbath is a day of great solemnity. See to it that the legs are broken and the bodies taken down.

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA:

Pilate! Pilate! I am Joseph of Arimathea – a follower of Jewish law and a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin.

PILATE:

Yes, yes – what is it you desire?

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA:

The body of Jesus for burial.

PILATE:

Body? Is He dead already?

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA:

That He is. We wish to wrap Him and place Him in my own tomb near Golgotha.

PILATE:

Very well. If the centurion on guard, Longinus, declares that He is dead, you may take the body.

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

PART 4 JESUS' SIDE PIERCED

SETTING: CALVARY

CENTURION:

He is already dead. No not break the bones.

ROMAN SOLDIER:

As you say. To be sure of His death, I'll open His heart with my lance.

(WOMEN WEeping)

MARY: Noble men, bring to me the body of my beloved Child.

MARY MAGDALENE: Mother, will you rest a while on this stone, until we arrange a place for Him in your arms?

JOHN: Oh! How the mad fury of His enemies has torn His flesh!

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA: Come, friends. Let us arrange this linen to receive His body.

JOHN: Once again the beloved Son rests in His mother's arms.

MARY: Oh, my Son. How Your body is covered with wounds. (Weeping)

JOHN: Mother, from these wounds flow blessing and salvation for mankind.

MARY MAGDALENE: See, Mother – the peace of Heaven rests upon His still white face.

JOHN: Let us anoint Him and wrap Him in this new, clean linen cloth.

JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHEA: He shall be laid in the new tomb that I have had hewn out of the rock in my garden.

MARY: Just one more tear of love upon His lifeless body.

MARY MAGDALENE: Yes, Mother. Remember, Mother, the words that He spoke to thee as He departed from Bethany? We will share His death struggle with Him, and also His victory.

MARY: That is my hope – my comfort.

MARY MAGDALENE: Truly, He is not separated from us forever. We shall see Him again. He has promised it to us. His word is truth.

PETER: Let us take Him to the tomb – gently!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

SCENE XVII GUARD THE TOMB

SETTING: JERUSALEM STREET SCENE

PART 1 STREET ACTIVITY

PART 2 SANHEDRIN ASKS FOR GUARD FOR TOMB

SETTING: PILATE'S PORCH

CAIAPHAS: Your Excellency! We recall how that imposter said while He was still alive, “I am to rise after three days.” We fear His disciples may come, steal the body, and then tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. The final deception will be worse than the first. So, will you give orders for the grave to be made secure until after the third day?

PILATE: Guard – a dead man? (Laughter)

CAIAPHAS: What would Caesar say should those followers of that dead man, through such a

deception, cause Him to be greater than Caesar, who is himself a god?

PILATE: You may have your guard. Go and make it secure as best you can.

SCENE XIX VICTORY OVER DEATH (RESURRECTION)

SETTING: THE TOMB

PART 1 MARY MAGDALENE AT TOMB

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

MARY MAGDALENE: Ah! Ah! They have taken Him! They have taken Him! They have taken the Lord!
They have taken Him! Oh! They have taken the Lord out of His tomb and we do
not know where they have laid Him!

PETER: What is it, Mary?

MARY MAGDALENE: Oh, Peter! They have taken the Lord

PETER: Go! Gather the others! Come, John!

(MUSIC INTERLUDE)

JOHN: See the linen wrappings lying there!

PETER: Look! The napkin that had been over His head, rolled up in a place by itself!

JOHN: Yes, where His head was laying!

PETER: Let's hurry back to the others. Mary, you remain here and keep watch!

(MARY WEEPING)

FIRST ANGEL: Why are you weeping?

MARY MAGDALENE: They have taken my Lord away and I do not know where they have laid Him!

FIRST ANGEL: Why search among the dead for One who lives?

SECOND ANGEL: Fear nothing! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here!

FIRST ANGEL: Go, give this message to His disciples: He will go on before you into Galilee and you will see Him there as He told you. Go!

PART 2 JESUS APPEARS TO MARY

MARY (WEEPING) Oh!

JESUS: Why are you weeping? Who is it you are looking for?

MARY MAGDALENE: If it is you, sir, who removed Him, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away!

JESUS: Mary!

MARY MAGDALENE: Rabboni! Master! My Master!

JESUS: Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and tell them that I am now ascending to My Father – My God, and your God!

MARY MAGDALENE: I have seen the Lord! I have seen the Lord! I have seen the Lord!

SCENE XX THE ASCENSION

SETTING: HOUSE OF THE ASCENSION

PETER: Now we are all here. Lock the door, Thomas.

JOHN: I have seen the Lord Thomas! He is risen!

THOMAS: Unless I see the mark of the nails on His hands – unless I put my hand into His side – I will not believe it!

PETER: He said to me, “Simon, Peter, son of John, do you love Me more than all else? I answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You!” then He said, “Tend to My sheep.” And then He asked me the same again, and my – my answer was the same. And a third time. Each time He said, “Then tend to My sheep!” And after the third tie He said, “Follow Me!”

JUDE: I heard Him say, “I am sending you My Father’s promised gift. So, stay here in the city until you are armed with the power from above.”

JAMES:

He said, "Go forth into every part of the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. Those who believe it and receive baptism will find salvation. Those who do not believe will be condemned."