

Abraham
by
Herb Smith

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Act 1 Scene 1

(A light but steady drum beat begins as the house lights go down, and continues throughout the Voice Of Genesis lines. Stage lights gradually grow to reveal a small, colorful bazaar set up rear stage center. Baskets of grain; rice, oats, seeds etc., vegetables, and fruits as well as jars of honey and oil can be displayed. Pieces of fabric may also be displayed. Lot and the citizens of Haran wait in places around bazaar. Yada, a shop keeper, is in her stall. Citizens can be involved in “activities” such as juggling, flag waving - using the long narrow type flags, etc. when the song starts.)

The Voice of Genesis This is the account of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no children.

(Music starts.) Haran .

Terah took Abram his son, his grandson Lot, son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

(Drum out.)

(Lights come up. Chorus, turns toward audience. Joyfully.)

Music 1.

Haran

Haran! Haran!

This is our homeland of Haran.

Haran! Haran!

This is our homeland of Haran.

This is the place we call Haran,

The place where Abraham has come

To wait awhile before he goes

To Canaan, land of promises

Where God has planned for him a home.

Haran! . . . Haran!

This is our homeland of Haran.

He brought his flocks and herds with him,

Up to the land we call Haran,

To wait here ‘til the time will come

When God will send him out to roam,

To reach the land God promised him.

Haran! Haran!

This is our homeland of Haran.

(Chorus moves aside for Sarai's entrance from left, followed by Hagar. She goes to center stage in front of market stall. She is greeted by some of the people. Noise and Light increase. Then, while Yada speaks, the people continue bargaining and talking in low murmur and pantomime. Music out.)

Yada, a Vendor Woman Sarai! Wife of Abram! Welcome! I have some wonderful fresh figs and excellent cheese! Also fresh bread made this morning.

Sarai *(Handing a woven bag to Yada)* That sounds fine, Yada, and I 'll also need some oil - - - and a measure of finely ground meal. And, oh, yes, some honey. Figs are so good with honey. That's what Abram likes!

Yada *(Preparing items as she speaks.)* Yes, a man with a sweet tooth.

Sarai Yada, does anyone have silk today? I want a new silk headpiece.

Yada Over there - at Mizak's - he has some silk, but it is overpriced! Watch out for him. *(conspiratorially)* Offer him half of what he asks - I always do.

Sarai And what are you asking for this today, Yada?

Yada For you, only the smallest pittance. You are such a very good customer! Twelve and a half. *(Hands Sarai the food during music.)*

Sarai his wife has come with him,
Up to our land we call Haran
And Lot his nephew and Terah
His father, came with him and saw
Our land, our lovely peaceful land.
Haran! . . . Haran!
This is our homeland of Haran.

(Music beat is stronger. Dancing starts.)

(Dancers begin to swirl ribbon flags through crowd, and a juggler or similar act may also start performing. Near end of dance, there is a commotion as Abram (with a walking staff) enters from left. Some men greet him by name. Chorus turns toward Abram.)

Why don't you stay here if you can,
In this, our lovely, peaceful land?
Why do you have to leave to find
The land you say God has in mind

For you and all your folk to dwell?
Haran! Haran!
Why don't you stay here in Haran?
Haran! Haran!
Why don't you stay here in Haran?
(Abraham sees Sarai. Music out)

Abraham Sarai! Sarai! I have been searching for you. Please come back to the tent with me now.

Sarai Just a little while and I will come. I need to look at some silk over at Mizak's. I'll come home soon. Hagar is with me, and she will accompany me home.

(All but Yada and Lot exit.)

Abraham Very well, but come soon. I must talk to you right away.

Sarai Oh, I will. Don't worry. I'll be there soon! *(Sarai exits with Hagar. Abraham and Lot move to left front.)*

Lot Soon? She'll be until after mid-day.

Abraham She does seem to have a difficulty with time. Especially when she's shopping. But I have something really important to say to her. *(Pauses. Turns toward Lot.)* Lot! The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me again! He has told me that I must leave here and go to the land of Canaan. I will gladly go - but I don't know how to tell my wife!

Lot Maybe you should ask the Lord to tell her for you.

Abraham You must not make light of this, Lot. When the Sovereign Lord speaks, he means what he says!

Lot Anyway, I will go with you. I'm tired of Haran. A new life could be very interesting.

Abraham Are you sure? Well, you are welcome to come. - - - But now we must go and wait for Sarai to come to the tent.

Lot I want to stay here for awhile. You go on ahead. And I will go away with you to Canaan. I want to go!

(Abraham exits. Lot, remaining behind, swaggers up to Yada)

Lot *(In a teasing tone)* I need some of that honey, too.

Yada (*Businesslike but angry.*) How much honey do you want? I'll even sell you some, and some figs, too. And I have some sweet smelling soaps. You could certainly use some of them! Will you BUY them?

Lot Why do you say that? Do you still think I'm the one who stole your perfumed soap?

Yada (*coldly*) Be gone if you don't want to buy anything.

Lot That's no way to talk to a regular customer.

Yada I know your kind, Lot from Ur. You - - you - - thief!!

(She turns her back and starts slamming things around. Lot struts offstage. Music rises as he goes. Music - Haran.)

Scene 2

(Outside the tent, where a bench is placed outside the flap, and a large rock/altar is in the rear center. Sarai is seated on a bench and Abram stands beside her.)

Sarai (*In a loud, wailing voice*) But why should we move? I want to live here in a civilized place among people that we know. I want to be able to buy things - and to go to the well and talk with the other women. Why do you want to take me from all this? (*Gestures around herself.*) (*Music out.*)

Abraham Because the Sovereign Lord has told me that I must do this. I would never leave otherwise.

Sarai You are an important man, Abram. You are the head of your family now, and you are wealthy, even by the standards of Haran. But, I know you, and if you believe that God has told you to do this, then you will do it. But why has The Lord asked you to become a nomad?

Abraham Become a Nomad? I've always been a nomad - and so have you! We have no home - not yet, anyway. Come on, we've been here too long! Let's go start to begin to get things ready to go. I have to tell the herdsman. I've already told Lot and he wants to go, too.

Sarai But what about the tents? That will take a long time to get them ready, won't it? And how will I get you honey and figs out in the desert?

Abraham We aren't going back to the desert! We are going toward the Great Sea! (*He hurries right.*) Now come along!

Sarai The Great Sea. Thank God for that!

Abraham (*As he exits*) You are exactly right! (*Music - This Land Is Mine.*)

Scene 3

(*Bags and jars (from bazaar) are stashed in the background, blankets, small earthenware jars, etc. Eliezer is standing front just right of center.*)

Abraham (*Entering*) Do we have enough supplies for the porters we just acquired? And what about waterskins?

Eliezer (*A servant who is marking with charcoal on a small board.*) I've ordered more waterskins - and we seem to have enough food and supplies for everyone for at least a moon and a half. Then we will have to buy more or live off the land.

Abraham By that time we should be close to the Great Sea and things will be easier. And the goats should give milk unless there is a water shortage. . . Or we could camp somewhere for long enough to get resupplied and do some hunting. God will provide for us, in some way, I know. How soon do you estimate we can be ready to go?

Eliezer In less than the half moon. That is about six days away.

Sarai (*Entering from right. Wearing new headpiece and calling behind her.*) Hagar! Hagar! Get the mirrors and the perfumes packed. (*Turns*) Abram, I need to take some things to keep myself looking right. I've bought a few more mantles and some slippers to keep my feet warm. You know how cold I get. It's likely to be colder by the Great Sea.

Abraham I hope that you will be reasonably comfortable, my dear. Whatever it is that you need, be sure to take. (*Sarai exits to R.*) (*Abraham speaks to audience*) She will never understand why I am going, I think. But I still must go. I wish, sometimes, that this would be easier. Especially for my wife.

(*Abraham music - Offstage Chorus . Then Abraham steps forward and raises his hands in prayer as music continues.*)

Music 2.

Abraham

(Chorus)

Abraham, Abraham,
You have heard God calling you,
Abraham.
He is calling you to go
To a land you do not know,
Will you do what God has planned,
Abraham?

(Music continues under Voice.)

The Voice of Genesis Abraham, the friend of God - - - Abraham, the father of many nations - - - - Abraham, the nomad herdsman from Ur who had gone to Haran with his father Terah and nephew Lot and their families. But - he isn't Abraham yet - he is still called Abram, the name his father gave him in Ur. He has just been called by God, who told him a little about the future. God said: "Leave your country and your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation . . . and I will make you name great, and you will be a blessing . . . all peoples on the earth will be blessed through you." Abram is mystified.

Abraham (*Faces audience, eyes lifted - hands raised.*) But why did you choose ME? I'm not anybody important. You know me. I'm just a nomad who travels with his herds. How can I bless the world?

The Voice of Genesis But God didn't speak again yet.

Abraham (*Looking up in wonder*) A great nation. How can this be happening? Please - - - please, tell me what you mean.

The Voice of Genesis God remained silent. So Abram talked.

Abraham I really don't know what to do - or what you mean, or what to say. I'll try to go to Canaan - but I don't know where it is. I've only heard of it once before. I think it's toward the Great Sea. But I *will* find it! I'll go toward the Great Sea - there's a lot of grazing land that way.

(Chorus)

Abraham
Abraham, Abraham!
You have heard God calling you,
Abraham.
He is calling you to go
To a place you do not know,
Will you do what God has planned,

Abraham?

Act 1 Scene 4.

(Abraham is in center, hands raised, as Voice speaks. Abraham Music continues.)

The Voice of Genesis So Abraham left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. He took Sarai his wife, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. (*Music out.*)

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land.." So Abram built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. (*Music : This Land Is Mine*)

Music 3.

Abraham

This Land Is Mine

The Lord called me to travel here,
To bring me to this tree,
To see this land that He will give
To all my sons - and me,

Spoken Except I have no sons - not even daughters!

Sung The Lord, the Sovereign Lord has said
That all this would be theirs,
So there must be a plan for me
To bring forth lots of heirs.

But I don't know how; Sarai has never produced a child, and she's not so young anymore - neither am I, as a matter of fact . . .

This Land Is Mine! This Land Is Mine!
I don't know how or why,
But God has promised it will be
Mine, before I die.

God, I don't know anything about this except what you told me. The people who live here now are a fierce looking bunch! They will defend this land, so if you want me to have it, I'll need your help. I know, I know, there is plenty of room for us all, but do THEY know that? If you will tell them, I will be very grateful.

And to my sons this land will be
Their inheritance!

This land, as far as I can see -
That is God's Covenant!
This Land Is Mine
This Land Is Mine
I don't know how or why,
But God has promised it will be
Mine before I die.
This land is mine,
This land is mine,
This Land Is Mine!!

Act 1 Scene 5

(Music: This Land Is Mine) (Abraham is seated outside his tent.)

The Voice of Genesis After he had built an altar and worshiped the Lord at the Tree of Moreh, Abraham traveled around the land and came to Beth-El, where he pitched his tent. He built another altar there, and after some time, set out again until he came to the Negev desert in the southern part of the land. *(Music out.)*

There was a severe famine in the land at that time, so Abraham went on down to Egypt, as would Joseph and his other great-grandsons to come, and took everything he had with him, including Sarai and Lot. In Egypt he attempted to deceive the Pharaoh, but was found out, and so the Pharaoh sent him out of the country. He had become very wealthy, with large herds and much silver and gold. He went through the Negev again, until he came back to Beth -El, and there he called on the name of the Lord at the altar he had built before. Then disputes arose between Abraham's herdsmen and those of Lot.

Lot *(Gruffly.)* Your herdsmen are getting out of hand, uncle. They are demanding that my men leave certain areas where the best grass is found. I had always thought we would share the land together, and let our herds graze in the same places.

Abraham That is true, but it is getting difficult to separate the animals. Sometimes the men don't know if they are yours or mine. Even with the marks that we have placed on many of them, there are always more to divide and try to find out whose they are.

Lot You will have to do something about this - my men don't want to be chased away - they complain that the best land is always protected and saved for your herds.

Abraham I have been thinking about this, also. Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine. Isn't the whole land before you?

Lot And before you as well.

Abraham Let's part company, then, and go our separate ways. If you want to go to the left, I will go right, and if you go right, I'll go to the left.

The Voice of Genesis Lot looked up, and he saw the whole plain of the Jordan River, well watered, like the garden of the Lord. So Lot chose - - -

Lot Then I will go to the right, uncle, and try to find enough land to support my increasing flocks.

Abraham That is very well, then. We will do as you have chosen. (*Abraham exits into tent.*)

The Voice of Genesis So Abraham set out to the left. Abraham lived in Canaan, while Lot pitched his tents near the infamous city of Sodom.

(*Lot steps, swaggering, to the center of the stage. He stands with feet wide apart and with gestures of pride and defiance, sings his soliloquy.*)

I Am Lot!
Music 4.

I am Lot, I am Lot, I am Lot!
I am known as Lot from Ur.

(On Monotone)
That great city beside the River Euphrates
In the beautiful land of the Chaldean's.

(Sung)
I am Lot, I am Young, I am Strong!
If you think otherwise, you are wrong.
Uncle Abram is the weaker man,
The one who says he knows God's plan,
But he is weak and I am strong
I am Lot! I am Lot! I am Lot!

(Music out.)

When Uncle Abram took us down to Egypt he told the Pharaoh that Sarai was his sister! Can you imagine that - his sister! That was because he was afraid that Pharaoh would kill him and steal his wife. I smiled to myself because I can't fathom anyone wanting to steal Sarai. She is a bitter woman, and she hates me. She has no children, and is afraid that Uncle Abram will make me his heir. I only wish! Uncle is very rich, as you all know. But he is weak. He let me choose the best land to settle in, and he had to go to the dry land. He is afraid of confrontation! I'm not. I always like a little action. It makes things so much more interesting. So Uncle Abram is to be the father of nations? Well, I will be a father of nations, too!

(*Music in*)

I am Lot, I am Lot, I am Lot!
I am known as Lot from Ur.
I came with Uncle Abram, a boy still in my teens,
I went down into Egypt, and came out a man of means!
My Uncle is afraid of life, but I am fearless now,
I plan to take life on, and win at living, and somehow,
I know that in the time to come, I'll find the guts to be
The kind of man that I'll become, so all the world can see
I'm not like Uncle Abram, the "Friend of God," not me!
I'm wily, unafraid, and smart, as young men ought to be -
I am Lot! I am Lot! I am Lot!
If you think I am kind, well, I'm not!
I'm careless, bold, and terrible, Abram I cannot be;
Life has a way of choosing men, so now let life choose me!
I am Lot! I am Lot! I am Lot!
I feel it, I know it, the truth will come out!
I feel it, I know it, I have no doubt
That I will be more famed than he
I am Lot!

(*Two herdsmen enter, bowing, in a hurry to find Lot and tell him the news. (Music out.)*)

Herdsmen One Your excellency, I have some news that isn't good. I don't like to tell you this- - -

Lot (angrily) Out with it!

Herdsmen One Well (*pause*) the Kings of Shinar and Ellasar and some other kings have come to fight the king of Sodom, and so we are all being asked to go fight in the battle for Sodom. I knew that you wouldn't want to do that, so I came here as fast I - - -

Lot (Roaring) You knew what!?!? How could You know? You worthless worm! You insignificant insect! You don't know anything!! I'll go take care of this. Of course we'll fight for Sodom! That is our new home! (*Music enters.*) Now get out before I have you quartered and fed to the jackals!

(*Herdsmen exit hurriedly.*)

I am Lot, I'm a self made man!
Soon the world will see who I am!
That I live for myself and I work for myself
And I think and plan and scheme for myself -
No one does these things for me
I am Lot!!

A victory in battle is exactly what I need to get on the good side of the King of Sodom!

(Exit L.)

Act 1 Scene 6

(Music: I Am Lot)

(Sarai and Abraham are seated on benches outside their tent in the Negev. Sarai is working at some domestic chore, while Abraham is in thought.)

Sarai So, Lot's gotten himself into trouble again! Why do you have to go and rescue him?

Abraham *(wearily)* There is no one else.

Sarai He was always in trouble as a boy in Haran. I had hoped he'd have learned by now. After all, he is a grown man!

Abraham I still get myself in trouble now and again.

(Music out.)

Sarai That is true. Well, don't be hard on yourself. Lot gets into things you never would. He is not a good man. You are.

Abraham Nonetheless, I must go after him.. The Kings of Shinar and Ellasar have made him and his men captives. They are taking them north toward Damascus. We'll have to hurry to catch them.

Sarai But how many men can you take? We have to have some left to defend ourselves here, you know.

Abraham Oh, yes. There will be no need to take many. I have found about three hundred men who are strong and courageous. Those I will take.

Sarai Only three hundred against that army?

Abraham And God - - God will be with us!

Sarai Yes *(sighs)* God will be with you. - - - *(pause)* - - - Abram! I'm not at all sure that I believe in your God! There are many gods people worship.

Abraham *(stricken with surprise)* Don't say that! I forbid you to say that. May the Sovereign Lord forgive you!

Sarai Why do you forbid me, my husband? Has your Sovereign Lord allowed me to have a child even though I have prayed - and YOU have prayed - mightily about that? And wouldn't Astarte the fertility goddess do just as well in this situation?

Abraham Sarai - You do not know what you are saying. May the Lord forgive you!

Sarai If I am forbidden to speak then I will go in to see how the evening meal is progressing. And you'd better be here to eat it! You can't go off to war on an empty stomach! *(Exits right.)*

(Abram is alone for a moment, head in hands. Then a man enters.)

Man We are ready, sire. When do we leave?

Abraham *(with a sigh)* Just after the evening meal. *(Lights fade. All exit.)*

(Music in: Melchizedek's March)

The Voice of Genesis So Abraham went out with three hundred eighteen men to rescue Lot. Lot, the braggart! Lot, the strong! Lot, the self-made man! After the rescue, in which Abram defeated the alliance of the Kings who fought against Sodom, Abram went to the city of Salem to meet with Melchizedek, King of Salem and Priest of God. He brought Melchizedek a tenth of all he had.

(Only the rock remains.)

Abram kneels on stage, front center, facing stage right. Lights change. Abram and Melchizedek are in silhouette.)

Voice Of Genesis

MelchizedekMusic 5.

Then Melchizedek, King of Salem,
Brought out bread and wine.
He was Priest of God most high.
And he blessed Abram, saying:
Blest be Abram by God most High,
Creator of Heav'n and Earth.
And blessed be God, God Most High,
Who delivers your enemies into your hand - - -

(The theme is repeated by the chorus, then instruments alone as the Communion is enacted. M. offers Abram the bread first, then the wine, in slow motion, as he sings. Lights fade at end of the scene.)

Act 1 Scene 7

(Night Scene. Abraham is alone, standing front center stage.)

(Music: Melkizedek's March)

The voice of Genesis After this the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision; “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward.”
(Music out.)

Abraham O, Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus? You have given me no children, so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

The Voice of Genesis “This man will not be your heir; but a son coming from your own body will be your heir. Look up at the Heavens and count the stars, if indeed you can count them. So shall your offspring be. (*Pause as Abraham looks up. He raises his hands and gestures toward the sky. Music begins.*) Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness.”

Abraham Believed The Lord Music 6.

Abraham believed the Lord,
(4 to 8 times; repeat as needed.)

And The Lord credited it to him as righteousness.
(Joyous dancing with tambourines. If the theater arrangement makes it possible, the singing dancers will start at the rear door of the theater and move forward as the light grows to full brightness. They will come onto the stage and dance around Abram, who joins in joyously, then exits with the chorus down the center aisle. Alternatively, the group can enter from left and circle around Abraham, exiting the same direction.) (Lights brighten as chorus comes onstage.)

The voice of Genesis *(As the music dies away for the first time)* On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates - the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephalites, Amorites, Canaanites, and Jebusites. *(Drum and a tambourine ring out between the names of each tribe, gradually growing louder.)*

(When the last name is read, the song bursts out again. The cast leaves the stage down the center aisle, with Abraham in the middle of the dancing line, singing and dancing all the way.)

Abraham Believed The Lord
(Repeated 3 or 4 times, or as needed to exit.)

Act 1 Scene 8

*(Music -Abraham Believed the Lord;
Abraham and Sarah are in front of the open tent, seated.)*

Sarah It is a great trouble to me, husband. I do not know why the Lord has not allowed me to bear children so that they can comfort you in your old age. And now - it is too late. *(She rubs her eye with her sleeve, and makes a small sound, as if crying. Pause.)* But I do have a plan, and would like for you to hear me out. *(Music out.)*

Abraham Yes, I will my Dear Sarai. I will hear you. And I will ask the Lord to hear you as well.

Sarah It is just this - I have a slave, Hagar, who is young and strong. I think I will give her to you as a wife so that she will bear you children and, in that way, I can still raise up a family for you. Her children will be for us as my own.

Abraham Are you really certain that you will be satisfied with that arrangement? You and Hagar are not at all of the same breeding or status. She is only your slave.

Sarah That is well said, but, if she were my equal I would never give her to you because then she would not have to give up her child to me.

Abram She might not want to anyway, you know. Give up her child, I mean.

Sarah She will have no choice. A slave is a slave. That's all.

Abraham Very well, but remember that this is your idea, and that I do not want to have any problems with you as a result of Hagar's bearing children for you.

Sarah I will remember, but you will also need to remember that Hagar is my slave, and that I will always keep her in that position. You will not have anything to say about her to me. Remember that!

(Stage lights down. Filtered spot on VOG.)

Voice of Genesis So Sarai gave Hagar to Abram to bear him a child so that Sarai could build her family despite the fact that she herself was barren. Before very long, Hagar was with child.

(Sarah and Abraham appear as before, but Sarah is very upset and quarrelsome. Stage lights up.)

Sarah *(Wailing)* She despises me. Now that she knows that she is with child she hates me. You should see how she looks at me, and how she walks, even walks ahead of me when we go to the well. And she speaks to me with venom in her voice! Venom!! Like a cobra! I can't take this kind of treatment from a slave! You!! You are the one who has caused this suffering! May the Lord judge between you and me!!

(Sarah dissolves into a flood of tears and self pity.)

Abraham *(Stepping forward to speak to the audience while Sarah weeps.)* What can I do? What can I say? You heard me warn her that this kind of thing might happen. She should have known that Hagar would act this way before she told her she was to bear a family for her. Now I have to decide what to do - - but it will be the wrong thing, whatever I choose. *(Returns to Sarah.)* Sarai, my dear wife, Hagar is your slave and you should do with her whatever seems best to you.

Sarah I will. You can be sure that I will! No more "nice" from me!

(She exits R, vengefully.)

Abraham Now what have I done? I am sorry that this ever happened. Poor Hagar!

Voice Of Genesis Then Sarai mistreated Hagar so that Hagar fled from her.

(Music: Hagar's Lament.)

Act 1 Scene 9

(Music: Hagar's Lament.) (Hagar appears onstage center-left front - in spotlight. Rock remains. It has become a spring of water.)

Hagar's LamentMusic 7.

I was runnin' away down this lonely road
When I stopped at the spring for a drink,
Then an angel from God came down to me
And he told me to stop and think.

Refrain

He said, Go back, Go back to Abram's tent,
Don't be runnin' away to fret,

Go back, Go back to Abram's tent -
God has plans for your baby yet.

But my mistress has treated me bad, I said,
Sarai's been mean to me,
But the angel told me to go back to her
And to live there in harmony.

Refrain

You will bring forth a son, the angel said,
Ishmael is his name, so I'm told,
He'll be like a wild beast, a strong fighter at least,
He'll be hostile and quick, and bold.

Refrain

So I'll go back again to the place I left,
As the angel has said to me,
I'll go back there again, since it is God's plan,
But I'll live there in misery.

Refrain

Voice of Genesis Then Hagar gave this name to the Lord; "The God Who Sees Me", because the Lord looked upon her in her sorrow at the well that is, to this day, called Beer Lahai Roi, The Living One Who Sees Me. The well is on the road between Kadesh and Bered, and is still there, to this day.
(*Hagar steps to center stage.*)

Hagar's HymnMusic 8.

You are the God who Sees Me,
And I have seen you,
The One who sees Me.
You have seen me, and you know me,
And you know what is inside
My heart and mind, and all I am
You see, I cannot hide
A thought from you, Nor anything
That I might ever do,
Because you are,
And always will be
The God who sees Me.

(*Hagar turns to kneel beside the rock and takes up a flask of water to drink, slowly and quietly from the spring of Beer Lahai Roi.*)

Voice Of Genesis (*As Hagar drinks.*) So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave him the name Ishmael. Abram was eighty six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

(Music - Hagar's Hymn)

(Abraham is center front, standing with hands raised.)

(Music: Hagar's Hymn)

The Voice of Genesis When Abraham was ninety nine years old, The Lord appeared to him and said, Walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers. Abram fell face down, *(Abraham kneels)* and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. You will be very fruitful, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant between you and me and your descendants after you for generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants. The whole land of Canaan , where you are now an alien, I give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you, and I will be their God. As for you, this is my covenant with you, that you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You and all the males shall be circumcised, and every male who will be born after you will be circumcised on the eighth day.” As for your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai. Her name is now Sarah. I will bless her and will give you a son by her. She will be the mother of nations, and kings and peoples.

(Music out.)

Abraham *(Rising - steps forward to speak to audience.)* What is The Lord saying? Will a son be born to a man one hundred years old?? Will Sarah bear a child at ninety?? *(Turning, to speak to God)* O Sovereign Lord, If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!

The Voice of Genesis Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for him and his descendants. As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will surely bless him and greatly increase his numbers. He will be father of twelve rulers, and I will make of him a great nation But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear at this time next year.

Music in: The Everlasting Covenant

(Abraham again bows to the ground, facing toward stage front. The Voice Of Genesis brings a Menorah and places it behind Abraham as the stage lights darken. Spot remains on VOG and Abraham.)

The Voice Of Genesis

The Everlasting Covenant Music 9

The covenant of God is with his people,

The everlasting promise of God
Is given them for now and forever,
To bind this nation to the Sovereign Lord.
The Lord has said his oath is forever,
And Abraham has said he will obey.
He'll serve The Lord, and so will his descendants,
And God will listen to them when they pray.
Like sand and stars, to be a mighty nation,
The tribe of Abraham begins today
To live from now as God's own chosen people,
To bless the world, as God shows them the way.

Though they will be enslaved by other nations,
Forget the covenant and serve false Gods,
The sovereign Lord is bound to them forever,
By his own word, The Promise of The Lord.
The covenant of God is with his people,
The everlasting promise of God
Is given them for now and forever,
To bind this nation to the Sovereign Lord.

(During the singing, the V. O. G. lights the Menorah. After the song, the VOG picks up the Menorah and slowly walks down the ramp and out the back door {or exits left}. Abraham remains onstage. Music continues, softly. Everything else is silent and dark. Lights on Abraham fade very slowly.)

Act 1 Scene 11

(Music with Chorus and Abraham and Lot. As scene opens, Chorus is in two semi-circular lines in center of stage. Men on left, women on right.)

(Sung to the tune of This Land Is Mine.)

Covenant ChorusMusic 10.

The Lord, The Sovereign Lord has said
That we should all obey,
And carry out the Covenant
He gave to us today.
From this day on we now agree
To do as He commands,
And be His people everywhere,
In this, or distant, lands.

God's Covenant,
God's Covenant!
Our sign that we will be

The chosen people of The Lord
With our posterity!

This is our story up to date,
Though not completed yet.
There's much more, starting very soon,
This is our Covenant!

God's Covenant,
God's Covenant,
Our sign that we will be,
The chosen people Of the Lord,
With our posterity!

The chosen people Of the Lord,
With our posterity!

End Of Act 1

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Please Purchase The
Script**