Sacob - Prince of God

A Musical Drama in Two Acts by Gloria L. Emmerich

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

MALE: FEMALE: ABRAHAM DEBORAH JACOB LEAH **ESAU** REBEKAH **LABAN** RACHEL **ISAAC NEHUSHTA SERVANT GIRL HAMUL NUMEROUS ANGELS (Male or Female) GUNI SERVANT MAN**

SERVANT MAN WRESTLING ANGEL

SONG ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>ACT ONE:</u>

1.	SEED OF ABRAHAM	Company
2.	A SALE TO STEW OVER	Jacob and Esau
3.	THE BLESSING WILL BE M	IINERebekah and Jacob
4.	THE BLESSING WILL BE M	INE/FATHER'S BLESSING Jacob/Isaac
5.	THE BLESSING SHOULD I	BE MINE Esau
6.	THERE IS A PRICE TO BE	PAID Principle Solos & Company
7.	THERE IS NO LIGHT	Jacob
8.	A DREAM OF HOPE	Angels
9.	THERE IS A LIGHT	Jacob & Angel Chorus

ACT TWO

10.	REMEMBER MY LOVE	Rachel
		Leah, Deborah & Nehushta
12.	GOD IS OUR WITNESS	Laban, Jacob and chorus
13.	GOD OF MY FATHERS	Jacob
14.	GOD HAS RESTORED/	Esau, Jacob & Company
	SEED OF ABRAHAM FINALE	Company

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Jacob - Prince of God

By Gloria L. Emmerich

[CUE #1] (OVERTURE with Baby cries.) **OVERTURE:**

DEBORAH starts the scene at SR tent, then moves center stage to ACT ONE SC 1:

> celebrate in song the birth of Jacob and Esau. Scene begins with two prerecorded baby cries. Lights come up after the second baby cry.

DEBORAH: Twins! Twin boys! Finally, after praying for a son for twenty years, God blesses Isaac and Rebekah with not just one son...but TWO sons: Esau and Jacob. Isaac's father, Abraham, has planned a grand celebration...more magnificent than the one he and Sarah had when their son Isaac was born 60 years ago! And, as you can imagine, Rebekah was very relieved when they were born. She endured months of discomfort, as if a war was going on inside of her. (Pauses to look at the audience with a "knowing" smile.) I know...I know. "Why do *you* know all of this?" you ask yourself. Well, I'm Rebekah's childhood nurse, Deborah. Her family sent me along when she married Isaac. I delivered Rebekah, and it was I who brought Esau and Jacob into this world. So, now you know why I know so much! Anyway, Rebekah was so uncomfortable that she asked God what was going on. That's when we all found out Rebekah was carrying twins! God told her there were two nations in her womb. Everyone was so excited to hear the news. (CUE #2) Now today is the eighth day after the birth...the day of their circumcision, and despite Abraham's very old age, he has organized the most wonderful feast and celebration!

SONG # 1 - SEED OF ABRAHAM Company

ISAAC: This day we celebrate what God has done.

For God has blessed us twice by giving us two sons!

God said we'd multiply, like stars up in the sky; ABRAHAM:

No one could ever count them all!

ALL: We celebrate the seed of Abraham,

> And pass the blessings on from God, the Great I Am! God said, "I will bless you; for I have promised to,

Give all of Canaan's land to you!"

"I will bless those who bless you. I will curse those who curse you.

I made a covenant with Abraham and Isaac,

A promise to the seed of Abraham."

(Key change)

This day we celebrate what God has done. ALL:

For God has blessed them twice by giving them two sons.

God said we'd multiply, like stars up in the sky:

No one could ever count them all.

Like grains of sand, so you will be; like stars as far as you can see;

Just as there's no one who can count the sand or stars,

So with the seed of Abraham, it will be!

ALL: This day we celebrate what God has done,

For God has blessed them twice by giving them two sons.

(Key change)

And now we celebrate the seed of Abraham, And pass the blessing on from God, the Great I Am! God made a covenant with Abraham and Isaac, A promise to the seed of Abraham. God said, "I will bless the seed of Abraham!"

(BLACKOUT) [CUE #3]

ACT ONE SC 2: DEBORAH at SR tent.

DEBORAH: (Sits on stool by tent opening, laughing.) Oh my! There was so much joy and laughter with Esau and Jacob. They were quite a handful to care for, yet, watching them grow up was delightful—most of the time. But, Jacob was so competitive; always challenging Esau in some way or another. Jacob just had to be first with everything. Even in birth, Jacob tried to be first! Why, Jacob had hold of Esau's heel trying to pull him back in so he could be the firstborn. (Chuckles.) And Esau looked like a woolly bear: all red and covered in hair. Maybe that's why Jacob grabbed Esau's heel: he thought he'd caught a red, hairy llama! (Sound of a llama backstage. DEBORAH jerks her head toward the sound, shrugs her shoulders then continues.) Huh...I didn't know we had any llamas! (Laughs.) Anyway, Isaac and Rebekah were doting parents, both amused with the boys' harmless "tug-of-war" competitions. But, as each grew older their constant struggle to be first, strongest, bravest, and the best at everything, only proved to drive a wedge between them. And, it didn't help matters that their parents chose to "take" sides" when the two of them would start fighting or arguing. Isaac always seemed to favor Esau while Rebekah showed more affection toward Jacob.

REBEKAH: (Comes out of the tent carrying a blanket.) Good morning, Deborah.

DEBORAH: (Quickly rises, offering REBEKAH the stool.) Good morning, Mistress.

REBEKAH: (*Declines.*) No, that's all right, Deborah. I just wanted to know if you'd seen Isaac this morning.

DEBORAH: Yes. He was up very early with Esau.

REBEKAH: (Curious.) Doing what?

DEBORAH: Esau left for a few days on a hunting trip with some friends. His father was seeing him off. Did you not know he was going, Mistress?

REBEKAH: (Shrugs it off.) Oh, well I can't keep up with everything. I knew his father would take care of it.

DEBORAH: Why didn't Jacob go with his brother? They never do anything together anymore.

REBEKAH: *(Chuckles.)* Oh Deborah, don't be silly. Esau would never stand for Jacob tagging along. And you know Jacob doesn't even like hunting. Besides, he'd rather stay here and help me. It's such a joy to have him here while I'm busy doing things around the tent. *(Hands blanket to DEBORAH.)* Will you take this to Isaac for me? It gets chilly in the afternoons now. I need to get back to Jacob. *(Smiles.)* He wants to learn how to make the stew we had the other night. He takes after me so I'm sure he'll be a great cook! Isn't that wonderful? *(Goes into the tent.)*

DEBORAH: (Looks at audience.) See what I mean? Ever since the twins were little, I've tried hinting to Rebekah that she should show love equally to Esau...but she

always replies, "His father shows him love enough for *both* of us." Once I even spoke to Isaac about favoring Esau. His reply was similar to Rebekah's: "The way Rebekah dotes on Jacob, Esau needs *my* reassurance that he's loved as much as his brother." So, I've given up trying to tell them how to be good parents. After all, who was I? I had no influence on Rebekah and Laban's parents when it came to childrearing, so why should Isaac and Rebekah take my advice on raising *their* sons? I was just the nurse, the midwife. I tend to the children's basic needs, not their upbringing. Each of them favoring one son over the other seemed harmless at first, but now that the boys have grown into young men, both "favored" twins are turning into twin *monsters*. (Lights up on center stage as DEBORAH walks over to JACOB who is preparing stew over a fire pit.)

JACOB: (Sees DEBORAH approaching and calls out, excitedly.) Deborah! Please, you must try some of my stew! I think it's the best I've ever made.

DEBORAH: (Laughs.) Now Jacob, you say that every time!

JACOB: No, no! This time I really mean it.

DEBORAH: Well...it sure does smell good! It's been making my mouth water since early this morning. You can even smell it from inside the tent, Jacob. It's been slowing wafting around the camp all day.

JACOB: (Gives her a sly smile.) Really...? Here, taste it. (Lifts the stirring spoon up for her to taste then waits expectantly for her response.) Well...? What do you think? Am I right?

DEBORAH: (Closes her eyes, savoring the taste.) Mmm, Jacob! Yes! This is delicious! The best yet. (Eyeing the stew.) Now, uh...what are you going to do with all that stew, Jacob? Is it for supper tonight?

JACOB: (Sly smile.) Ohhhhh, I was just experimenting with a few new herbs and spices...I'm not sure why I made so much. Do you really think it's good enough to serve for supper, Deborah?

DEBORAH: Absolutely, Jacob.

JACOB: (*Teasing.*) Well then...what would you give me for a bowl of my delicious stew, Deborah?

DEBORAH: (*Laughs.*) Jacob, you're such a tease! You know very well I don't own a single thing you'd be interested in. (*Walks away.*) *So,* I guess I won't be having any more than the taste you gave me.

JACOB: (Laughs too and calls her back.) Wait, come back. I owe you at least a bowl of my stew for bringing me into this world. (Starts dishing up a small bowl.)

DEBORAH: (*Returning.*) AND for all the years I put up with you and your brother's antics!

JACOB: Who...ME?? (Hands her the bowl of stew.)

DEBORAH: (*Takes the bowl, looking around.*) Well, I don't see your brother, so I must be talking to *YOU!* Speaking of Esau, has he come back from hunting yet? He's been gone for nearly three days.

JACOB: (His expression changes as the subject turns to Esau.) Do I look like I care where he is? I'm sure he and his barbaric friends are still on the rampage killing every animal they can find.

DEBORAH: (*Softens.*) Jacob, why can't you and Esau get along? He's a part of you...He's your *twin!* You should be *closer* than brothers, Jacob.

JACOB: (Softens for a moment, then becomes defensive again.) Hmmpf! What's he

ever done for *me?*

ISAAC: (Enters very slowly, quite aged.) Deborah, did Esau return from hunting today?

DEBORAH: Not yet, my Lord. I was just asking Jacob if he'd seen him.

JACOB: (Almost childlike trying to impress his father.) Father, I made some stew. Would you like to try it? (Bends down to grab a bowl to fill for him.) Deborah says it's the best she's ever tasted!

DEBORAH: It's true, my Lord! It is the most delicious stew I've ever eaten. You should try some.

ISAAC: (Looks past JACOB, giving him a dismissive wave.) No, no. It will spoil my supper...and Esau may return any moment with wild game to cook for me. (Starts to wander off, ignoring JACOB.) Send him to my tent as soon as he arrives, Deborah...no matter how late it is...I want to see Esau when he gets back. (Exits.)

JACOB: (Sadly watches his father leave, but his sadness quickly turns to anger. While pointing in the direction his father just exited, he faces DEBORAH.) THAT'S what Esau's done for me, Deborah: he's kept me from him! My father doesn't even know I exist!

DEBORAH: Jacob, your father loves you too. He's just worried about Esau being gone for so many days.

JACOB: (Not believing it.) Ha! Father always "worries" about Esau more than me. He'd rather wait for days to eat what my brother cooks for him than to even taste my stew!

DEBORAH: (*Trying to ease his pain.*) Well, *I* love your stew Jacob. Even if you were a rascal and tormented me with your endless practical jokes, it was all worth it just for this one bowl of your delicious stew! (*She tousles his hair, getting at least a sad smile out him, then exits.*)

JACOB: (Turns back to stirring his stew, upset himself, over ESAU.) I don't know what's so special about Esau's cooked game?! My stew is just as good! If Father would've just tasted it he'd know it too.

ESAU: (Enters tired, dirty, obnoxious, and loud.) Well, well...if it isn't my dear brother... (Mocking.) I didn't expect to see you so "far" from home.... (He laughs and glances over to the tent where JACOB usually is most of the time.) I thought you were tied to mother's tent strings! HA!

JACOB: (*Ignoring ESAU'S jibes.*) Coming back empty-handed, brother? Too bad. What a shame....father will be *sooo* disappointed that you didn't kill anything for him to eat.

ESAU: (Belligerent as always.) I'm a great hunter! And what do YOU know about hunting?! (Shakes it off as if it's nothing.) Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's not.....I was out having fun with my friends, so what's it to you?! (Sniffs, smelling the stew.) What's that?

JACOB: (Doesn't look up but just sits there slowly stirring his stew.) It's a pot of red lentil stew. (Takes a big whiff.) Ahhh! Doesn't it smell good? (Lifts the spoon to his lips and sips loudly.) Mmmmmmm! You know, I do believe Deborah was right. This IS the best stew I've ever made.

ESAU: (Practically drooling, he's slowly been inching closer to the pot.) I've been out hunting for nearly three days, Jacob. I'm starving! Give me a bowl of your stew.

Now....why would I want to do that... dear brother...? JACOB:

ESAU: (Getting slightly perturbed then melodramatic.) Don't be cute, Jacob. I'm

dying here! [CUE #4] Give me some stew! I've had nothing to eat since the

wild rabbit I killed two days ago and I'm famished!

(Feigns concern.) Really? In three days the "great hunter" only killed one JACOB:

big, ferocious, rabbit?!

SONG # 2 - A SALE TO STEW OVER - Jacob and Esau

What would you give for a bowl of my lentil stew? JACOB:

How much would you pay for it?

I'll gladly sell a bowl to you. Just tell me and I'll think it over,

And let you know in a day or two...I may not want to...

ESAU: What do you mean, Jacob? Give me some right now, I say!

I'm hungry now! Can't you tell, I might waste away?!

Just tell me what you want; it doesn't matter, name your price,

And I will pay...have it your way! (Key change)

JACOB: Well, since you asked me, sell to me your birthright.

It's really quite a deal...don't be so uptight!

What do you care since you're Father's fav'rite anyway. Just say the word and the birthright will be mine today.

ESAU: Look, I'm about to die! I'm starving, can't you see?

This silly birthright is of no use to me.

Quit stalling, Jacob, find a bowl and feed me now!

And don't be stingy, fill it up as much as will allow! (Key change)

JACOB: First, swear an oath that the birthright now belongs to me. I want your word so this transaction will end perfectly.

All right, I swear! Take this useless birthright, take it now!

ESAU: I'm feeling faint, man! I think that I could eat a cow!

JACOB: Just one more time, then I'll give you something good to eat.

Swear once again that it's mine, then "bon appetit!"

I said I swear that the birthright now belongs to you, ESAU:

So shut your big mouth! Get me a bowl of stew!

I want some stew now! I want some stew now! I want my stew!

JACOB: You want some stew now. You want some stew now. You want my stew!

JACOB: (Starts to hand ESAU a bowl and spoon.) Here you are, brother. Oops!

(Trades the small spoon for a much larger one.) Big mouth...big spoon!

(Grabs it and starts eating, then talks with his mouth full) Needs more salt! ESAU:

JACOB: (Just smiles.) It served its purpose, brother. No need to "stew" over it...

Where's father? ESAU:

In his tent, I imagine...waiting for that succulent dish you're supposed to JACOB:

prepare for him from the "big game" you killed!

(Raises the bowl, slurps out last drop then thrusts the bowl at JACOB.) More **ESAU:**

salt! (Stomps off.)

JACOB: (Smiling, he watches him go.) Pleasure doing business with you, brother...

> (He turns, picks up the pot of stew, hugs it to himself and, with his ankles crossed, gives a smug grin out toward audience, very pleased with himself.)

(BLACKOUT.) [CUE #5]

ACT ONE SC 3: DEBORAH at SR Tent.

DEBORAH: So, Esau despised his birthright. He never gave it another thought. Well...at least not until his brother tricked him again. Jacob's always been very

clever, and when he sets his mind on something that he wants, he goes after it with a vengeance never turning to the left or right until he gets it. Of course, with a mother to feed that obsession he knew he'd get whatever he wanted. You've heard the phrase "like father, like son?" Well, at this time in Jacob's life...it was "like *mother*, like son." Rebekah was just as obsessed as *he* was when it came to obtaining the rights and blessings of the firstborn son. She proved to be a master manipulator where her husband was concerned. And me? I kept my mouth shut, and my nose clean...and my eyes and ears *wide* open! (Exits through the tent, laughing.)

(BLACKOUT) [CUE #6]

ACT ONE SC 4: Inside ISAAC'S tent. He is very old now. REBEKAH helps him get settled.

REBEKAH: Deborah is bringing some pillows, Isaac, to prop you up so you'll be more comfortable.

ISAAC: (He reaches out blindly, searching for his blanket.) Where is my blanket, Rebekah? I feel a chill in the air. These old, tired bones are always cold.

REBEKAH: (*Takes the blanket from the stool and lays it over ISAAC.*) It's right here, Isaac. You'll be warm soon. Now close your eyes and get some rest, hmmm? You *need* to *rest.* my husband.

I will have plenty of time to rest when I go to be with my father Abraham, Rebekah. And what does it matter if I close my eyes or leave them open? You know I'm almost completely blind now. So, if you insist that I rest, I can rest with my eyes open as well as closed.

REBEKAH: Yes, Isaac...I know.

DEBORAH: (Enters with several pillows.) I've brought you some pillows, my lord. (She places them behind ISAAC.) I wouldn't want you to be uncomfortable.

REBEKAH: I will come by your tent later Isaac and visit with you before dark. (She kisses his forehead and nods to DEBORAH to stay with him a while then exits.)

DEBORAH: (*Pushes the curtain aside.*) And *look*, my Lord; today is a beautiful day. The sun is shining warm and bright and there's a soft cool breeze blowing.

ISAAC: (Fondly.) Now Deborah, how can I enjoy such things with these tired old eyes that cannot see?

DEBORAH: (*Smiles and sits beside him.*) I will be your eyes, my Lord. You can see everything through the eyes of your faithful servant.

ISAAC: (*Pats DEBORAH'S hand and smiles in return.*) And what, my dear faithful servant, is there to see across the land today, hmmm?

DEBORAH: (Looks around searching for things to share.) Well....there are birds in the air soaring high above the earth. They fly here and there searching for something to eat. Can you hear them singing, my Lord? Such sweet music they make. And the trees are softly swaying. You can hear them ever so gently swishing to and fro in the wind.

ISAAC: (Smiles, looking out as if he can really see what she is talking about.) Yes...yes, I can hear it.

DEBORAH: (She then stands and goes to the head of his bed to gently turn his face toward the sun.) And just because you can't see the sun, my lord, doesn't mean you can't feel its brightness touching your eyelids and the warmth it lays across your cheeks. (She breathes in deeply.) Mmmmm, smell the fresh

spring air, my lord...and feel its cool breeze softly blowing through the tent.

ISAAC: Yes...yes, it is a glorious day today, Deborah... (He tries to take in a deep breath of fresh air but it makes him cough.)

DEBORAH: (*Rises to tuck in his blanket.*) Forgive me, my lord. I'm babbling on, and you need your rest.

ISAAC: (Softly chuckles.) Deborah...you've always been my favorite babbler. I never tire of it, you know that, don't you? I never...tire...of it...(His eyes begin to close slightly.)

DEBORAH: You are a kind master, my lord. (Starts to lower the tent flap.)

ISAAC: (DEBORAH'S movement stirs him.) No...no, leave it open. I feel very, very old today, Deborah. (Loud sigh.) I want to feel this beautiful day on my face.

DEBORAH: (Leaves the flap open and smiles.) All right, my lord. When the sun moves behind the hills I'll come back and close it for you. (Turns to leave then ISAAC speaks.)

ISAAC: Deborah, send Esau to me. I need to speak with him. Will you send him right away?

DEBORAH: I'll go find him immediately my lord, and tell him to come right now. (Exits and meets ESAU on her way offstage. She takes him aside.) Esau, your father is calling for you. He wants to see you right away. He's very tired today so try not to stay too long so he can rest.

ESAU: I won't. He usually falls asleep while I'm there anyway. (Watches her leave then goes to his father's tent. He quietly sits beside ISAAC, looks at him for a moment, then speaks.) Father...?

ISAAC: (Looks toward ESAU.) Esau, my son?

(Takes his father's hand in his.) I am here, father.
(REBEKAH enters carrying another blanket but stops just outside the tent opening when she hears ISAAC speaking to ESAU. She hides beside the tent to listen.)

I'm an old man, Esau. I have no idea when I will die, but I know it will be soon. Go now; take your weapons...your quiver and bow. Go into the open country to hunt some wild game for me.

ESAU: Yes, father; I'll go right now.

ISAAC: When you return, prepare the meat just the way I like it, with savory herbs and spices. Then, bring this tasty meal to me to eat, so I may give you my blessing before I die. (*REBEKAH exits.*)

ESAU: I'll be back as quickly as I can, Father; and I'll prepare the game just the way you like it. Rest now, Father. I'll return before dark to give you the meal and receive your blessing. *(Exits.)*

(BLACKOUT.) [CUE #7]

ACT ONE SC 5: JACOB and DEBORAH are talking at SR tent when REBEKAH rushes in.

JACOB: Have you seen my mother, Deborah?

DEBORAH: I saw her earlier taking a blanket to your father's tent. She must still be there talking to him.

REBEKAH: (Rushes over to them.) Jacob! Jacob! I need to talk to you right now.

JACOB: Yes, mother?

DEBORAH: Is something wrong, mistress? Is my master ill?

REBEKAH: (Slightly flustered.) No, Deborah, he's not ill. I...I just need to talk to Jacob... (DEBORAH just stands there waiting to hear the news.) Alone...

Deborah.

DEBORAH: Oh...well, I do have some things to do inside... (Turns to go inside then looks back.) If you need anything, I'll be in here... (Once through the opening she turns again.) Are you sure you don't need anything before I go, mistress?

REBEKAH: (Becoming impatient.) No, Deborah... I'm just fine!

DEBORAH: (*Taking her time going inside.*) All right...

REBEKAH: (Turns quickly to JACOB but is stopped again by DEBORAH.) Now Jacob...

DEBORAH: (Pops her head out of the tent.) Jacob? Do you need anything?

(Waves his hand in dismissal.) No, no thank you, Deborah; I'm just fine too. **IACOB:**

DEBORAH: All right then... (Smiles and pops her head back inside tent.)

REBEKAH: (Both stare at the tent flap for a moment before speaking again.) Jacob, I just overheard your father talking to Esau. There's no time to waste!

JACOB: What do you mean? What's so urgent, mother?

DEBORAH: (Comes through the tent with drinks on a tray.) Here we are! I thought you both could use a drink of water right about now. (Chuckles.) It's such a warm sunny day, isn't it? You both look parched! (She hands them each a cup of water and remains there, smiling.)

REBEKAH: Deborah, I thought you said you had something to do inside...

DEBORAH: Oh! Well, yes. . .nothing pressing of course...but I have a few things to do...

REBEKAH: Well, we don't want to keep you from your work... (She waves her hand toward the tent...urging DEBORAH to go inside.) We'll just be out here...having a nice mother-son talk...

DEBORAH: (Backing into the tent as she speaks.) Good! Good! And I'll just be inside...doing my chores... (Disappears for a second, only to pop her head back out.) Just call if you need me!

REBEKAH: (Finally loses her patience.) DEBORAH! If you so much as pop your little toe outside of that tent again I'm sending you to the fields to tend the sheep!!

DEBORAH: (Jumps when REBEKAH raises her voice.) Well then...have a nice chat! (In a blink, she is gone.)

REBEKAH: (Gives out a huge sigh of relief then proceeds.) You must listen to me closely, Jacob, and do exactly as I say. (They both turn their heads toward the tent flap half expecting DEBORAH to appear but she doesn't so Rebekah goes on this time uninterrupted.) Your father just told Esau to go out hunting for some game and bring it back here to prepare a savory meal for him to eat. He also said he is getting old and wants to give Esau his blessing before he dies.

(Thinking aloud.) Father's blessing for the firstborn.... JACOB:

REBEKAH: Yes! And it's supposed to be given to you! God told me before you were born that the older would serve the younger and Isaac knows this. He's trying to secretly give the blessing to Esau. [CUE #8] Jacob, this is what you must do, my son.

JACOB: I'm listening, Mother.

SONG # 3 - THE BLESSING WILL BE MINE Rebekah and Jacob

REBEKAH: Pick two young goats among the flock and bring them back to me. I'll cook the meat the way your father likes for it to be.

Then take the meal to Isaac so he'll eat, and when he's through, He'll raise his hands and give the firstborn blessing unto you!

JACOB: But Esau's hairy, I am not; he'll touch my arm and see,

That I have tricked him and instead bring down a curse on me!

(Key change)

REBEKAH: Do what I say, obey me, Jacob; bring the goats to me.

We'll use the skins, you'll wear his clothes; so let the curse...fall on me!

The blessing will be yours, my son!

JACOB: The blessing will be mine!

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