

The Man on the Middle Cross

Music, Lyrics, and Book By:
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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Principle Characters

Dathan - 12 years old & Adult

Gadias - 12 years old & Adult

Jesus - 12 years old & Adult

Supporting Characters

Adulterous Woman, Angels, Anna, Bandit Leader, Bandits,
Barabbas, Bread Vendor, Chief Priest, Clement,
Deceitful Man, Gatekeeper Angel, Joseph, Mary, Mary
Magdalene, Mary Magdalene's, Friends, Pharisee Leader,
Pharisees, Regem, Roman Citizens, Roman Soldiers,
Supervisor Angel, Tax Collector, Temple Teachers,
Ensemble

TIME:

1st Century

PLACE:

1 Israel

2 Entrance to Heaven

SCRIPTURE PERMISSION

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Character Descriptions

Dathan: (Male) Primarily motivated by the need for thrill-seeking and control, Dathan tries to manipulate most situations for his own benefit. Although he has these negative traits, he genuinely likes his friend, Gadias. He can show signs of compassion from time to time in different situations.

Gadias: (Male) He has big dreams and wants to someday become a well-known and respected person. Gadias is naive and easily led by his friend Dathan. He may half-heartedly question or disagree with Dathan, but his desire to maintain his friendship and belief that Dathan can help him achieve his dreams challenges his sense of right and wrong.

Jesus: (Male) God incarnate, sinless and perfect in every way.

Regem: (Male) Dathan's friend and confidant, who is loyal and trustworthy .

Bread Vendor: (Male) Always helpful to whomever visits his cart, he is quickly embarrassed by compliments. His desire to please his patrons gets in the way of practical business sense.

Gatekeeper Angel: (Male or Female) This is a confident angel, having overseen heaven's entrance for quite some time. Since most of the people coming to the gate know exactly why they are there, he is taken off-guard by the confused Dathan.

Supervisor Angel: (Male or Female) This angel is also a confident angel, and he speaks with greater authority than the Gatekeeper Angel.

Clement and Anna: (Females) These two women are the wives of Gadias and Dathan, respectively. Clement and Anna have known each other for a long time, similar to Gadias and Dathan. They are very much in tune with each other's feelings and desires, and they both love their husbands very much.

Barabbas: (Male) He is the leader of the Zealots, a gruff, secretive, and untrusting man. His sole purpose is the liberation of Israel from Rome.

Temple Teachers: (Male or Female) The Temple Teachers are very religious and pious men, who garner the respect from everyday people by their titles, authority, and knowledge of the Torah.

People in the Market: (Male and Female Ensemble): They are present in the market, both shopping and as vendors and sing a supporting role for "Find Me a Loaf."

Bandit Leader: (Male) Leader of a small criminal group of bandits in Jerusalem. Respected by his the group members, wary of strangers, and confident in his criminal abilities.

Bandits: (Male and Female) Followers loyal to the Bandit Leader.

Mary Magdalene: (Female) A kind woman and devoted follower of Jesus.

Friends of Mary Magdalene: (Females) Woman 1, Woman 2, and others, who are also followers of Jesus and good friends with Mary Magdalene.

Roman Soldiers/Guards: (Male) Staunch and generally emotionless military men.

Pharisee Leader/Pharisees: (Male) Very religious and pious men.

Chief Priest: (Male) Very religious and pious man.

Musical Numbers

ACT 1

1. Peace Now Eternal.....Ensemble
2. Up to the Gate.....Dathan
3. Who Is That Kid?.....Gadiaz/Dathan/Temple Teachers
4. If I Could Tell the Future.....Gadiaz/Dathan
5. I Dare You.....Dathan/Gadiaz
6. You're Not a Good God.....Gadiaz
7. Roman Rule.....Dathan/Gadiaz
8. Find Me a Loaf.....Dathan/Ensemble
9. Safe Within These Walls.Dathan/Gadiaz/Clement/Anna
10. Man of Mystery.....Dathan/Gadiaz
11. In My Hands.....Gadiaz
12. Revenge.....Dathan/Gadiaz
13. The Rebel's Crown.....Dathan

ACT 2

14. We're Not to Blame.....Dathan/Gadiaz
15. Are You Willing to Die with Me?.....Barabbas
16. Woe Is Us.....Dathan/Gadiaz
17. Save Yourself.....Ensemble
18. Remember Me.....Dathan
19. Tell Me What You're Doing Here.....Angel #1
20. The Man on the Middle Cross.....Dathan
21. Peace Now Eternal (Reprise).....Ensemble
22. The Man on the Middle Cross.....Instrumental

ACT ONE

Scene One

Dathan is at the gates of heaven, not really knowing how he got there.

The stage is dark as Peace Now Eternal begins to play.

1. Peace Now Eternal

Heaven illuminates brightly on the first beat of Measure 17. The gate to heaven is closed, with angels and people interacting behind the gate. Dathan can be seen as a shadowy figure lying face-down at a distance from the entrance to heaven.

ENSEMBLE

ALLELUIA

PERSON 1

DELIGHT IS THE PROMISE WE RECEIVED

ENSEMBLE

ALLELUIA

PERSON 1

GREATER JOY HAS NEVER BEEN CONCEIVED

ENSEMBLE

PEACE NOW ETERNAL

GENTLE RAIN OF CALM AND REST

NEVER ENDING COMFORT COVERS US

ENSEMBLE

ALLELUIA

PERSON 2

SWEET FELLOWSHIP SOARING EVERYWHERE

ENSEMBLE

ALLELUIA

PERSON 2

CELEBRATIONS RISE FOR ALL TO SHARE

ENSEMBLE

PEACE NOW ETERNAL
GOLDEN RAYS OF GOD'S PURE LOVE
BRIGHTLY SHINING, EVERY NEED FULFILLED

PERSON 3

THERE'S NO SORROW, PAIN OR TEARS

PERSON 4

THERE'S NO SUFFERING

PERSON 5

GOODNESS VANQUISHED EVERY FEAR

PERSON 6

ALL DEATH IS GONE, NO GRIEF, NO STING

ENSEMBLE

PEACE NOW ETERNAL
WAVES OF BLISS UPON THESE SHORES
HAPPINESS IS WASHING OVER US
PEACE NOW ETERNAL
EARTHLY BURDENS PURGED AND GONE
PERFECT FREEDOM HERE FOREVERMORE

ANGEL

PERFECT FREEDOM HERE FOREVERMORE

A spotlight shines on Dathan at Measure 33. He is still lying with his face to the ground, at a distance from the entrance to heaven.

DATHAN staggers to his feet and shakes the dust out of his hair and clothes. He looks around the area away from the direction of the gate with a puzzled look on his face. As Peace Now Eternal ends, he turns toward the gate and is mesmerized by the sight.

DATHAN

What happened? (pause) Am I dreaming?

2. Up to the Gate

DATHAN

THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE MUST BE HERE FOR A REASON

I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH SPLENDOR BEFORE
LIKE WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL IN ONE SEASON
A RAINBOW OF COLORS AND FLAVORS AND LIGHTS
I SEE WONDERFUL WONDEROUS WONDERWORK SIGHTS

IF I WALK UP TO THE GATE
SHOULD I WALK UP TO THE GATE?
AM I WORTHY TO PASS INTO BRILLIANCE AND LIFE?
DO I WANT TO GO IN?
WILL THEY LET ME GO IN?

But what if they don't? What will I do then?

DO THEY KNOW WHAT I HAVE DONE?
I COULD TURN AROUND AND JUST RUN
WOULD A PAST AS TROUBLED AS MINE
NOT BE SHUNNED?
REJECTION?
EJECTION?
A DOORWAY DEFLECTION?
VIEWED AS AN INFECTION
FROM A THOROUGH INSPECTION
LEAVING ME WITH A PERMANENT SCAR OF DEJECTION

There's only one way to know

OK, HERE I GO, SCRAPPING ALL THE EXCUSES
I MAY NEVER BE AT THIS PLACE ONCE AGAIN
LIKE MOUNTAINS AND STARRY SKIES, AWE THAT SEDUCES
I WANT TO EXPERIENCE ALL THAT I SEE
NO MORE WAVERING WAVERY WAVERER ME

One step at a time
Left foot, right foot
You can do this, Dathan

DATHAN takes a deep breath in, deep breath out, gathering courage.

One step at a time
Left foot, right foot
Up to the gate

DATHAN approaches the gate of heaven, still observing the surroundings.

Lights dim and there is a breeze that is strong enough to move his clothing.

DATHAN

Hello? (long pause) Hello?

Lights down immediately on second "Hello."

Scene 1/Scene 2 instrumental transition music.

ACT ONE

Scene Two

The twelve-year old Jesus is sitting among the teachers at the temple complex, listening to them and asking questions. Dathan and Gadias, also twelve years old, are walking through town on their way to go swimming in the Siloam pool. They are walking toward the temple complex through the crowd of people in the outer court near the temple steps. The people include beggars, money changers, merchants, and tax collectors.

It is daytime. There are approximately 10 people in the temple complex in addition to Jesus, three Temple Teachers, Gadias, and Dathan.

DATHAN

Wow! It's hot! (*wiping his forehead*) I cannot wait to jump into the Siloam pool. Today's the day for swimming, Gad!

GADIAS

He sees all the people at the temple.

Yep. Hey, what do you think is going on there? I really don't like swimming anyway.

DATHAN

I don't know. But I do know it's not getting any cooler outside, and the pool is calling our names.

He calls their names in a high-pitched voice.

Dathan...Gadias.

Back to his regular voice

Come on. Swimming builds character. I have it. Someday I'll kick the Romans out of here (*kicking the dirt*).

GADIAS

Let's stop for a few minutes to check it out. It will still be light out *(pause)* and hot *(laughing)*. We might learn something.

DATHAN

Walking backwards facing Gadias.

We're supposed to be swimming already. Religious talk. Blah. Blah. Blah. No brains required. Besides, you're smart enough already.

GADIAS

Just a couple of minutes and we'll be on our way to that watery paradise. Look ou---!

DATHAN bumps into a Tax Collector's table, almost knocking items off of it.

TAX COLLECTOR

Agitated with a disdainful tone, grabbing Dathan.

Hey! Watch where you're going street rat!

DATHAN

Very apologetically and ready to catch any items that might fall off of the table.

Sorry! Sorry! I didn't see you there.

TAX COLLECTOR

A little less agitated.

Move along now, troublemaker. This is important business.

DATHAN

To Gadias.

He's as bad as the Romans. Might as well be one.

TAX COLLECTOR

What's that?

DATHAN

To the Tax Collector.

Nothing, sir. Have a good day.

To Gadias as they walk up the temple steps into the temple complex.

Where was I? Oh, yeah. We can stop, but I'll have to toss you into the pool if this takes too long. You have two minutes. Otherwise let the tossing begin!

They both laugh then turn their attention to the people at the temple and try to blend in with those in attendance.

TEMPLE TEACHER 1

Clearing his throat, he proclaims loudly and with confidence.

We must care for all those who worship the Lord our God as we worship. This is the command of God. Revile those who do not and have nothing to do with them.

JESUS

Teacher, I see that you are very wise, full of the knowledge of God.

All the TEMPLE TEACHERS look at each other, smiling and nodding with self-approval.

Can you tell me, what is the meaning of these sayings in Proverbs? "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink" (CSB) and "Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you." Shouldn't we see our enemies as our neighbors also?

The TEMPLE TEACHERS again look at each other, smiles turning to looks of astonishment.

TEMPLE TEACHER 2

Looking at Jesus with amazement in his voice. Softly.

Your words are...simple, yet profound.

TEMPLE TEACHER 1

Looking at Temple Teacher 2, then Jesus momentarily before speaking. Clearing his throat, monotone and quietly.

The teaching for today is concluded. Go in peace.

All of the people, including JESUS, separate into a loosely formed group opposite the TEMPLE TEACHERS, who have puzzled looks on their faces. DATHAN and GADIAS are still trying to look inconspicuous as they sit among the people.

3. Who Is That Kid?

The Temple Teachers are singing to each other in the verses. GADIAS and DATHAN address each other in the bridge.

TEMPLE TEACHER 1

WHERE DID THIS BOY COME FROM?

TEMPLE TEACHER 2

HE BEATS A DIFFERENT DRUM

TEMPLE TEACHER 3

HIS INTERROGATION LEAVES US NUMB

TEMPLE TEACHER 1

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

GADIAS

WHO IS THAT KID?

HE HAS SO MUCH MATURITY

HIS WORDS RANG TRUE

I OBSERVED COMPLETE SINCERITY

WE ALL DID

TEMPLE TEACHER 1

HOW DID HE GET SO WISE?

TEMPLE TEACHER 2

THERE'S PASSION IN HIS EYES

TEMPLE TEACHER 3

HIS DISCERNMENT IS NO SLICK DISGUISE

TEMPLE TEACHER 1

WHY IS HE SO SPECIAL?

GADIAS

WHO IS THAT KID?
HE SPOKE WITH GREAT DEXTERITY
HIS TONE WAS PURE
NOT A TRACE OF CRITICALITY
HE WAS KIND

DATHAN

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE POOL
I DON'T NEED TORAH SCHOOL

GADIAS

THERE IS MORE WISDOM THAT I COULD LEARN
UPON HIS NEXT RETURN

WHO IS THAT KID?
HE'S TWELVE WITH ODD SENIORITY
THEY PUT HIM FIRST
LEARNING IS HIS TOP PRIORITY
HE'S A WHIZ

As the song ends, MARY AND JOSEPH arrive at the temple complex and speak to Jesus.

DATHAN

Anxiously wanting to go swimming.

Satisfied? You see the sweat dripping down my face, don't you? Let's go. He talks too much anyway.

GADIAS

Wait. Wait. What did you think? Especially that boy... what was his name again? (pause) Oh yeah, Jesus. Those questions. Like he had practiced ahead of time or something. Maybe someone told him what to say. You know, to embarrass those religious guys. He's different.

DATHAN

He's different all right. Did he put a spell on you!? Aha! Maybe he's a sorcerer!

GADIAS

No, that's not what I'm saying.

DATHAN

This is what I'm saying: He's just a kid like you and me. Maybe a little strange and a lot smart, but that's it. You can stay here and ponder the meaning of life. I'm off to the Siloam pool. You coming or what?

DATHAN starts to walk away.

GADIAS

Okay. Okay. I'm sorry. Wait up!

GADIAS runs and catches up to Dathan.

DATHAN

Pleased and with anticipation, DATHAN rubs his hands together.

All right then, my curious friend. Ready to swim like the fishes?

DATHAN purses his lips and moves his arms like fins on a fish.

GADIAS

Breathing heavily from running.

Hey Dathan, you ever thought about...

DATHAN interrupts abruptly and with frustration.

DATHAN

Not again! One last question.

GADIAS

Um, ok. Yeah, that boy...

DATHAN interrupts under his breath.

DATHAN

Oh, here we go again...

GADIAS continues seamlessly from where he started the sentence.

GADIAS

...seemed to be doing something very special with his life. What kid goes to the temple to talk to those guys? Look at us.

GADIAS and DATHAN look at each other.

You ever thought about what you want to do when you get older?

DATHAN

Disinterested.

Nope. Nope. Nope. What matters is right now.

In a choppy manner.

To-day-is-the-day-that-mat-ters.

GADIAS

Whimsically.

Tomorrow, too? I sometimes think about *(pause)* tomorrow.

4. If I Could Tell the Future

GADIAS

IF I COULD TELL THE FUTURE
SUCH A GIFT WOULD MEAN SUCCESS
THE RICHES WOULD COME SOONER
MY LIFE WOULD BE DEEPLY BLESSED

GADIAS

I would own a whole bunch of big estates.

DATHAN

With what money, hmm?

GADIAS

They would have huuuuge walls and beaut-ee-ful entry gates.

DATHAN

You're chasing the wind.

GADIAS

All the people would say, "Yes, that Gadias, he is so great!"

DATHAN

You can be very grating.

GADIAS

IF I COULD TELL THE FUTURE
MY FAME WOULD FILL ALL THE LAND
REVERED IN MY DEBUT TOUR
EVERYONE WOULD SHAKE MY HAND

GADIAS grabs DATHAN' hand and shakes it, but DATHAN keeps his arm limp. They both laugh.

GADIAS

I'd become the head temple priest - the big boss.

DATHAN

You mean, teeny tiny boss? Ha ha!

GADIAS

In charge of all the Sadducees.

DATHAN

No way! You can't even make it to the pool.

GADIAS

All the people would listen very carefully to me.

DATHAN

What? Did you say something? Crickets, crickets.

GADIAS

IF I COULD TELL THE FUTURE
MAYBE I'D BE JUST LIKE HIM

Smiling and pointing back to the temple with his thumb.

YOU NEVER CAN BE TOO SURE

DATHAN

CHANCE OF THAT IS LESS THAN SLIM

DATHAN smiles and gives Gadias a little shove.

GADIAS

IF I COULD TELL THE FUTURE

DATHAN points at Gadias.

DATHAN

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL THE FUTURE

DATHAN

Unless you're going to tell me that swimming is in our future!
And swimming is why the boy had those guys baffled.

GADIAS

Huh? How did swimming help him?

DATHAN

He was like a fish. Fish glide through the water, avoiding getting eaten by bigger fish. That's what he did.

GADIAS

Really?

DATHAN

Yep.

GADIAS

Teach me to swim better.

DATHAN

I can. But let's take a vow first, as friends.

GADIAS

A vow? That's serious.

DATHAN

You and I have been by each other's side since before I can remember. We're best friends. Always have been, always will be. There's nothing we won't be able to accomplish if we put our minds to it. So, let's vow right here right now: Together forever - no matter what.

GADIAS

Together forever - no matter what.

DATHAN

Let's cross lines in the dirt to seal the vow.

DATHAN takes his foot and draws a line in the dirt. GADIAS takes his foot and draws another line intersecting with Dathan's line.

DATHAN AND GADIAS

In unison.

Together forever - no matter what.

They shake hands, hug, then head off to the pool.

Lights down.

ACT ONE

Scene Three

Gadias and Dathan have left the pool, and with the temple in the distance, are on the street where there are houses on each side. Their hair is still wet from swimming. No one else is on the street.

DATHAN is kicking small rocks, picking them up, tossing them into the air, and catching them. There is the sound of a baby bird chirping.

DATHAN

DATHAN sees a baby bird that has fallen out of its nest and walks over to it. Bending over, DATHAN gently cups the bird in his hands and then stands up and looks directly at the bird.

Shalom, little birdie. Let's get you back home where mom can take care of you.

DATHAN very carefully places the bird back in the nest.

You're safe now.

GADIAS

Dathan, you do have a heart!

DATHAN

Sometimes.

GADIAS

Maybe you are more like that boy Jesus than you are willing to admit. *(laughing)* Do I sense com-pas-sion?

DATHAN

You've been in the sun too long. Or you swallowed too much water. Or both. You're not thinking straight.

GADIAS

I'm thinking just fine. You're flustered because I know you so well.

DATHAN

Yeah, yeah. You're a dreamer and a mind reader. Hey, let's do something fun.

GADIAS

Like what?

DATHAN

See that house? (*pointing to a house on the block*).

GADIAS

Questioning hesitantly.

Ok?

DATHAN

Throw a rock at it.

GADIAS

What? At the temple they were talking about being nice to others and doing what's right. Remember? Like we learned in the Torah.

DATHAN

Here we go. Torah time? Come on, Gad. Are your sandals too tight? This is how great leaders get their start. Kings. Princes. Alexander the Great. Me. So many targets for practice.

Moving his arm in a sweeping motion.

GADIAS

I don't know. This seems like a bad idea.

The Tax Collector they encountered outside of the temple is walking down the street. HE enters the home where Dathan and Gadias are talking about throwing the rock. As HE enters the home, HE looks around to see if anyone is

watching (not seeing Dathan and Gadias), then pulls a money bag out from inside his cloak. HE quickly enters the home.

DATHAN

Did you see that? That was the tax collector from the market. Looks like he dipped into Caesar's purse. *(Sarcastically)* Who's the street rat now?

GADIAS

What do we do? Tell on him?

DATHAN

Tell on him? Nobody would believe us. I have a better idea. You're the dreamer, right? Pretend the pot in front of the house is that guy.

DATHAN'S back is turned to Gadias. He then turns facing Gadias, smirks, and holds out a rock for Gadias to take, but GADIAS keeps moving away throughout the song, until the end.

5. I Dare You

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU

GADIAS

HEY, ARE YOU NUTS

DATHAN

I'M TRYING TO PREPARE YOU

GADIAS

YEAH, I'M NO PUTZ

DATHAN

YOU'RE MOVING LIKE A RUSTY LOCK
YOUR FIRM RESISTANCE IS A LIMESTONE BLOCK

GADIAS

PLAIN AND SIMPLE I'M NOT GONNA' THROW THE ROCK

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU

GADIAS

THIS DON'T SEEM RIGHT

DATHAN

ADVENTURE SHOULDN'T SCARE YOU

GADIAS

WE SHOULDN'T FIGHT

DATHAN

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF ALL THIS TALK
THE STONE IS READY NOW LET'S HEAR THE KNOCK

GADIAS

DO YOU PROMISE THAT WE REALLY WON'T GET CAUGHT

DATHAN

ARE YOU AFRAID?

GADIAS

I AM NOT AFRAID

DATHAN

SEEMS LIKE YOU ARE

GADIAS

NO SIR, I AM NOT

DATHAN

READY AIM MAKE THIS ONE YOUR BEST THROW

LET'S GO!

GADIAS

OH NO!

DATHAN

LET'S GO!

GADIAS

NO NO!

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU

GADIAS

LET'S TAKE IT SLOW

DATHAN

YOU FINALLY HAVE A CLEAR VIEW

GADIAS

I JUST DON'T KNOW

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU

Starting on "DARE."

GADIAS

I WON'T TOUCH THE ROCK

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU

Starting on "DARE."

GADIAS

I WON'T HOLD THE ROCK

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU

Starting on "DARE."

GADIAS

FINE, GIVE ME THE ROCK

GADIAS takes the rock during his last line and throws it at clay pot exactly when they sing the last word of the song, "ROCK." The pot shatters and the shards clatter as they hit each other and the ground.

DATHAN

I D - D - D - D DARE YOU - THROW THE ROCK

Starting on "DARE."

GADIAS

I WILL THROW THE ROCK

I told you I didn't want to do this!

DATHAN

But you did. And with perfect aim!

DATHAN bows to Gadias.

GADIAS

Stop it!

DATHAN

Let's get out of here! Who knows what will happen if we get caught.

TAX COLLECTOR

The TAX COLLECTOR opens the door, sees the broken pot, then looks up to see Dathan and Gadias running away. Yelling loudly.

Rotten street rats! You'll pay! *(taking a few steps outside and shaking his fist)* You'll pay!

DATHAN grabs Gadias and they run away down the street through a fog-filled archway, laughing.

DATHAN

You did it!

GADIAS

Did what?

DATHAN

Broke a Roman soldier!

Lights down.

Scene 3/Scene 4 instrumental transition music.

ACT ONE

Scene Four

Dathan and Gadias, now adults, are in the temple court near of the marketplace. They are listening to Jesus teach, interrupted by the Pharisees bringing a woman caught in adultery to Jesus.

GADIAS

He seems different, but still the same as when we saw him as kids.

DATHAN

After all these years you're still mesmerized by a deceiving demon. That's what some people say he is.

GADIAS

Incredulously.

Really? Have you ever heard a demon talk like that? Demons don't teach; they trick.

DATHAN

You have obviously been fooled for a long time by this smooth talker. I'm right. Wait and see.

Two Pharisees drag a woman to Jesus, followed by a group of men.

What's going on here? Maybe we'll see a demon in action.

PHARISEE LEADER

This woman was caught in adultery. The Law of Moses requires her to be stoned. What do you say?

JESUS

JESUS bends down and writes on the ground, then speaks to the group of men.

Whoever is without sin, cast the first stone.

JESUS again bends down and writes on the ground while the men look at each other. One by one they leave. When the last man has departed, JESUS looks up at the woman.

Where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?

ADULTEROUS WOMAN

No one, sir.

JESUS

Neither do I. Go and leave your life of sin.

DATHAN and GADIAS turn their attention away from where Jesus is standing to talk about what they saw.

DATHAN

Do you see what just happened, Gadias?

GADIAS

He forgave the woman.

DATHAN

No! Injustice! A sinful woman does not get what she rightly deserves, and all of Israel remains a slave to Rome!

DATHAN scans the area and sees Roman soldiers manhandling two Jewish citizens in the distance. He points to where the brutality is occurring.

Some Messiah. Forgiving a woman and doing nothing for his country? Look at that, Gadias! And I've seen worse than that.

GADIAS

So, why is all this happening to our people? Chosen people? Chosen for what? To live under Caesar's yoke?

DATHAN

Look, something has to be done, and you might be the man to do it. Help is not coming, especially not from this so-called Messiah!

GADIAS

What? Me? I'm nobody.

DATHAN

You have what it takes. Great civilizations arise because of visionaries who aren't distracted by religious teachings. Don't get distracted. We can do this. You and I. Together forever - no matter what.

GADIAS

Dathan, I don't know. You may be right.

GADIAS throws his hands in the air, looks briefly toward the sky, and turns away from Dathan.

6. You're Not a Good God

GADIAS

GOD ARE YOU VAGUELY AWARE?
HOW THE CHILDREN SUFFER HERE
YOU IGNORE THE CRIES AND THE PRAYERS
YOU'RE NOT A GOOD GOD

I AM PLAGUED BY MISERY
ANGER GROWS INSIDE OF ME
I SEE THINGS THAT YOU DO NOT SEE
YOU'RE NOT A GOOD GOD

IN A TRANCE, HYPNOTIZED
TIMID OR OUT OF TOUCH
COULD BE YOU ARE DISORGANIZED
MAYBE THE JOB'S TOO MUCH
PERHAPS YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK

During the instrumental, GADIAS and DATHAN continue to look in the distance, still watching the manhandling of the Jewish citizens. GADIAS and DATHAN begin to look frustrated.

ALL I HEAR IS MY VOICE
AM I TALKING TO ME
NOT A PEEP OR A LITTLE NOISE
THE SILENCE IS EXTREME
THIS COULD BE A BAD DREAM

I AM SURE YOU CAN'T EXIST
YOU WON'T SEE ME SHAKE MY FIST
I'M FAREWELLING WITHOUT A KISS
YOU'RE NOT A GOOD GOD
YOU'RE NOT A GOOD GOD
YOU'RE NOT A GOOD GOD

GADIAS

With conviction, addressing Dathan.

Together forever - no matter what.

DATHAN and GADIAS leave the area and make their way down the temple steps and into the marketplace.

Lights down.

ACT ONE

Scene Five

GADIAS AND DATHAN walk into the marketplace, which is filled with beggars, money changers, merchants, and tax collectors. GADIAS abruptly stops.

GADIAS

I don't understand all of this. God? No God? Which is it? Where is this headed?

DATHAN

Think of it like this: We're on a journey together, sailing toward freedom.

GADIAS

How? Freedom seems like it's out of reach, beyond the horizon.

DATHAN

Maybe so. Maybe not. If we don't chart a course - make a plan, we can never get there. Let's think about this. Any ideas?

GADIAS

GADIAS runs his hands through his hair and scratches his chin.

This is a hard question. We could gather people for our own rebellion. Talk to them individually and get them on board.

DATHAN

Starting a new rebellion? That would clash with the Zealots and we don't want that. Talking to individuals? Takes too much time. Time we don't have.

GADIAS

We could talk to groups of people. Get them on our side quicker.

DATHAN

There would be Roman sympathizers scattered in any group. We'd be arrested and crucified before you could say, "Shalom, I'm Gadias."

GADIAS

I know. There must be Roman soldiers that are not happy with the way Israel is treated. We could find them (*emphasizing "them"*). They know how to fight.

DATHAN

There might be one. Maybe two. But twenty or more is like jumping into a viper pit. You're going to get bit. Hmm, I don't know. Is there a way?

Pausing and pondering more quietly.

Is there a way? (*pause*) Yes! What do you do with a feeble branch?

GADIAS

What are you saying?

DATHAN

Barabbas is the feeble branch. The tree will become stronger if the branch is cast off. Follow? Three steps: Cast off Barabbas, you become leader, then cast off the Romans.

7. Roman Rule

GADIAS

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FIGHTING SKILL

DATHAN

YES, THAT IS A PROBLEM

GADIAS

THEY WOULD WANT US KILLED

DATHAN

I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL OUTSMART THEM

GADIAS

WE'RE NO MATCH FOR RUTHLESS ROMAN RULE

DATHAN

LET'S BE WISER
THINK AGAIN

GADIAS

THEY CAN CRUSH US LIKE RED GRAPES

DATHAN

FEAR SHOULD NOT CONTROL YOU

GADIAS

WE COULD MAKE MISTAKES

DATHAN

THERE'S NO TIME TO CONSOLE YOU

GADIAS

HELP ME FIND THE CRACKS IN ROMAN RULE

DATHAN

LISTEN CLOSELY
WE WON'T FAIL

GADIAS

NOW BARABBAS MEETS HIS MATCH

DATHAN

FIRST, WE HAVE TO FIND HIM

GADIAS

SHOULD WE LAY A TRAP

DATHAN

A TREASURE WILL ENTICE HIM

GADIAS

WE'RE THE ONES WHO'LL TOPPLE ROMAN RULE

DATHAN

YOU ARE READY
MONEY TALKS

During the song outro, DATHAN and GADIAS wander around the marketplace separately, going from vendor table to vendor

table inspecting the various items. As the outro ends, they meet up back at the edge of the marketplace, where no one can hear them.

DATHAN

DATHAN scans the marketplace.

So many doors to wealth. There's plenty of money all around the market.

GADIAS

Problem: None of the money is ours.

DATHAN

This is the snare for Barabbas. With money you can get access and convince him that you are a shrewd leader. Maybe you can become his trusted companion, or more.

GADIAS

Are you suggesting that we walk up to merchants and ask them for money? Beg?

DATHAN

No, no, no. See that bread vendor over there?

DATHAN points to the Bread Vendor.

He's a silly man. Always happy, smiling, and helping people in the market. We'll use his niceness to our advantage. I'll distract him while you grab the money bag under his cart. Got it? And grab a loaf of bread while you're at it. I'm kind'a hungry. Ready?

GADIAS

Wait. Steal money? Isn't there a better way? There are people everywhere in the market. We'll get caught, and Roman soldiers are sure to be close by. This is nonsense.

DATHAN

Nonsense? No Gadias, this is necessary. Trust me. I've never misled you, and I can't do this alone.

GADIAS

Together forever - no matter what?

DATHAN

Together forever - no matter what. Follow me.

DATHAN and GADIAS move near the Bread Vendor and inspect the loaves of bread as they walk around a Bread Vendor's table. They are trying to look inconspicuous and pretend not to know each other while the Bread Vendor arranges loaves on the cart.

To the Bread Vendor.

You have lots of bread here.

BREAD VENDOR

I do. I do. Best bread around. Anything in particular you're looking for?

DATHAN

Sheepishly.

Not really. I've seen better days.

BREAD VENDOR

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. How can I help?

8. Find Me A Loaf

DATHAN

Addressing the Bread Vendor, insincerely.

I AM JUST A GUY

HUNGRY AND ALONE

SEARCHING FOR SOME SCRAPS, PERHAPS

YOUR KINDNESS COULD BE SHOWN

Addressing the Audience, slyly with his hand to the side of his mouth.

BUT EVEN IF HE WON'T

I'LL CONSIDER IT A PERMANENT LOAN

Addressing the Bread Vendor.

HEY THERE MISTER, CAN YOU FIND ME A LOAF?

PEOPLE IN MARKET

FIND HIM A LOAF

DATHAN

WHATCHA' THINK GOES GOOD WITH GOAT

MAYBE STEEL-CUT OATS

HEY THERE MISTER, CAN YOU FIND ME A LOAF?

PEOPLE IN MARKET

FIND HIM A LOAF

DATHAN

THERE'S TWO, COULD I PLEASE HAVE BOTH

MORE WILL BOOST MY GROWTH

YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME

YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF

I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME

Instrumental Verse - During the instrumental, DATHAN appears to continue asking questions of the bread vendor and pointing to bread on the cart.

YOU HAVE WIT AND CHARM TO SPARE

A LADY'S MAN I SEE

THEY CRANE THEIR NECKS TO STARE

HEY THERE MISTER, CAN YOU FIND ME A LOAF?

PEOPLE IN MARKET

FIND HIM A LOAF

DATHAN

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT ONE THAT'S BROKE

Over there, see, not a joke.

The BREAD VENDOR moves from side to side, straining to see where DATHAN is pointing, GADIAS takes the money bag from under the cart, hesitates briefly, then continues. HE pauses and looks at a loaf of bread and takes it, too. He tucks the bag and the bread under his cloak.

End Verse - Scat vocal: DATHAN shrugs his shoulders with a smirk, pats the BREAD VENDOR on the back, joins Gadias, and they begin to walk away nonchalantly from the BREAD VENDOR cart towards the exit to the market.

The BREAD VENDOR sees the spot on the table where a loaf of bread used to be. He also sees that his money bag is gone from a lower shelf on the cart. Flustered, he sees Gadias and Dathan walking away.

BREAD VENDOR

Agitated and urgently to the people in the market, pointing in the direction of Gadias and Dathan.

Stop them! They took my money!

DATHAN and GADIAS start to run. It takes a few seconds for the people in the market to realize what happened, but when they do, a few of them begin to chase Dathan and Gadias.

DATHAN and GADIAS run in different directions around the market being chased by the people. During the scene, carts are tipped over and/or items fall to the ground. Items are thrown at Dathan and Gadias but miss, and in some cases the items hit an unintended target. DATHAN and/or GADIAS at times almost get caught, losing a piece of clothing in the process. THEY eventually meet up at the exit of the market, still being pursued.

Gadias stops, turns, and throws the loaf of bread at the Bread Vendor and a handful of coins at the people in

pursuit. But the loaf too high for the Bread Vendor to catch, and he stumbles over his cart. The PEOPLE stop the chase to scramble for the coins. Two ROMAN SOLDIERS appear near the Bread Vendor and help him up. HE points to the market exit, where DATHAN and GADIAS make their getaway.

DATHAN

Playfully annoyed.

Why did you do that? I'm still hungry!

GADIAS

Don't worry. I'll see you tonight. *(Laughing)* We might have some bread for you.

(Lights down.)

ACT ONE

Scene Six

The scene is set in Gadias' home. Gadias and his wife Clement are making the final preparations for the arrival of their guests, Dathan and his Anna.

There is a knock on the door and both Gadias and Clement go to answer it. Gadias pulls the door open.

GADIAS

With cheer.

Welcome! So nice to see you.

CLEMENT

Are you hungry? The food is ready and so are we.

ANNA

Yes! Thank you for inviting us. You know, we were almost late. Dathan is always making us late for one reason or another.

DATHAN

Anna, please. Gadias and Clement don't want to hear about our little problems.

Looking at Clement, then at Gadias.

We are famished! I certainly hope you have bread. For some strange reason, I have a taste for bread tonight.

GADIAS

Surprised and startled looking back at Dathan.

Yes, we have bread. Come in. Let's sit down.

DATHAN

I have worked up a hunger.

Gadias looks at Dathan with raised eyebrows and eyes widened. They are seated on the floor and begin to share a meal together.

DATHAN

DATHAN holds his cup out to make a blessing.

May blessings be upon this drink, and our friendships.

GADIAS

Blessings.

Clement and Anna simultaneously say, "Yes," look at each other and giggle.

DATHAN

DATHAN looks at Clement.

And the blessing of a child is at hand. May I?

DATHAN reaches his hand out slightly towards Clement's stomach.

CLEMENT

Of course. We are like family.

Clement takes Dathan's open hand and places it on her stomach.

DATHAN

Gadias, you are a blessed man indeed.

GADIAS

More than you know. We have been trying for almost a year now.

DATHAN

With a friendly laugh.

Then you are blessed many times over! With many more to come, I'm sure.

CLEMENT

With surprise.

Oh! Did you feel that?

DATHAN

Yes! He, or she, has quite a kick. This may be a sign of imminent *(pause, then smiling at Dathan)* liberation.

GADIAS

Clearing his throat while looking at Dathan.

Yes, of course. The baby may be here any day now.

ANNA

And I'm sure he, or she *(laughing)* will have a wonderful friendship like you two. Do you have any stories to share of your boyhood together? You do tend to get into trouble from time to time.

DATHAN

Oh, yes. Yes. Gadias, remember the rock? You tried so hard to get me to throw it at that clay pot? I wouldn't, but you did. You were so brave. And we never did get caught.

GADIAS

Looking suprised.

Well, that's...

DATHAN

Interrupting Gadias.

...when your leadership qualities started to shine? You were always looking out for me and the other kids. We were safe, along with all our boyhood secrets.

CLEMENT

Proudly. leaning over and grabbing Gadias' hand.

He is a man of integrity today, too. Taking care of me and the baby. Always the protector.

9. Safe Within These Walls

CLEMENT

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY TO COME

ANNA

ME, TOO! I'M HAPPY FOR YOU

CLEMENT

A GIRL OR BOY, WRAPPED IN OUR LOVE
THIS HOUSE IS A FORTRESS
WE ARE SECURED
OUR REFUGE ENSURED
SAFE WITHIN THESE WALLS

GADIAS

THE TIME IS A SURPRISE FOR US

DATHAN

WE'LL CHEER, AND CELEBRATE HERE

GADIAS

WHILE WE AWAIT NEW LIBERTY
THIS JEWEL IS SET TO GO
STAYING UNTOUCHED
DISCRETION A MUST
SAFE WITHIN THESE WALLS

CLEMENT

OUR LITTLE ONE WILL GROW

ANNA

I CAN HELP TO TEACH, YOU KNOW

GADIAS

THE PRECIOUS GIFT FOR US TO SEE

DATHAN

WILL MARK A CHANGE IN HISTORY

ALL

NO DOUBT REMAINS
OUR UNITY'S PLAIN
SAFE WITHIN THESE WALLS
SAFE WITHIN THESE WALLS

The group laughs and smiles at each other.

GADIAS

Ah, sweet friendship. Within these walls.

CLEMENT

Gadiaz, speaking of walls, did you do some work on the wall in the back room? It looks different.

GADIAS

Yes, the wall was beginning to crumble, so I...

Gadiaz is interrupted by a knock on the door. HE gets up, followed by Dathan while the women continue smiling, laughing, and talking.

DATHAN

In a quiet voice as they are walking together toward the door.

That was close, Gadiaz. We can't afford any mistakes.

GADIAS

She's not interested in home repairs. Don't worry, she's already forgotten about it. The money is safe in the wall.

DATHAN

Are you absolutely sure?

GADIAS

Absolutely.

GADIAS and DATHAN reach the door and GADIAS opens it.

GADIAS

Regem my friend! Come in. Come in.

DATHAN

Shalom, Regem.

REGEM

Gadidas. Dathan. Sorry to interrupt your meal.

DATHAN

To Regem.

We were done eating anyway. Just sitting and enjoying each other's company. Have you found the man's location?

Clement shouts from the other room.

CLEMENT

Gadidas. Can you come here please? I need your help.

GADIAS

To Regem and Gadidas.

I'll be right back.

GADIAS leaves Dathan and Regem to assist Clement.

REGEM

We haven't found him yet. His people keep him in the shadows, moving from place to place.

DATHAN

You need to push harder. Gadidas is ready. When we pull this off, I'm sure there will be something in it for you.

REGEM

We haven't looked in the Hebron Hills, so we'll go there next. But you might ask around in Jerusalem. People may talk, if appropriately compensated. Know what I mean?

DATHAN

Yes, of course.

REGEM

And be cautious. There are rumors around town that a "rebellion of the rebellion" is being planned by someone.

DATHAN

Ok. Tomorrow, we'll search Jerusalem...carefully.

Gadias hurriedly returns to Dathan and Regem.

GADIAS

What did I miss?

Lights down.

ACT ONE

Scene Seven

Dathan and Gadias are on the streets of the Lower City of Jerusalem near the marketplace, trying to find people with knowledge of Barabbas' whereabouts. It is toward the end of the day, when the sun will be setting in a few hours.

GADIAS

Nervously.

This place makes me uneasy. Let's get out of here. Is this really the best place to look?

DATHAN

If you want to catch a snake, you have to go down into the snake hole. This is the snake hole, Gadias.

GADIAS

I'm trusting you on this one, but let's make it quick.

DATHAN

Scanning the area.

Plenty of people here but do any of them know where Barabbas is? That's the challenge before us.

GADIAS

So, where do we start?

DATHAN

There's a group that looks promising. *(Dathan points and nods in the direction of a group of four men who are milling around, having brief conversations.)* Or troublesome.

DATHAN and GADIAS cautiously walk up to the men. The men watch intently as they approach.

Shalom.

BANDIT LEADER

What do you want?

DATHAN

We are looking for someone.

BANDIT LEADER

Bandits grumbling.

Does "someone" have a name?

GADIAS

Barabbas. Do you know Barabbas?

BANDIT LEADER

Laughing along with the other bandits.

Ah, Barabbas. The famous Zealot, Barabbas? That's a name few dare to say around here, and asking can have serious consequences.

GADIAS

We're willing to take that risk.

BANDIT LEADER

Are you? Sometimes the consequences can be very permanent.

DATHAN

Look, we could make it worth your while.

BANDIT LEADER

Slowly, with heightened interest.

You have my attention. What are you suggesting?

DATHAN

We have resources to share, if we got the right information.

BANDIT LEADER

Resources? What kind of resources?

GADIAS

Plenty of money.

All of the bandits begin to move toward Dathan and Gadias, who back up.

BANDIT LEADER

Ahhhh. We like money. Don't we? *(looking around at the other bandits)*

They continue to slowly move toward Dathan and Gadias, grumbling in agreement with the Bandit Leader.

GADIAS

Nervously, starting to hold out his hands as a "slow down" motion.

Friends, friends.

DATHAN

We don't have it with us.

BANDIT LEADER

First, we're not your friends. Second, we have no information for you. I suggest you leave before we take something you can never get back. Try Mary Magdalene. She's usually just around the corner from here when she's in this part of town. And she won't want your money.

DATHAN and GADIAS slowly walk away from the group of bandits.

Stop! One more thing.

DATHAN and GADIAS suddenly stop, turn around and look worried, anticipating a physical altercation.

No charge.

All of the bandits break out into an uproar of laughter, slapping knees and each other on their backs. The laughing stops abruptly as the BANDIT LEADER walks up to Gadias.

BANDIT LEADER

Poking Gadias in the chest with his forefinger...

This time.

DATHAN and GADIAS back away and begin to walk to the location where they might find Mary Magdalene.

10. Man of Mystery

DATHAN

WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING, SCOURING, PROBING
CITY STREETS CAN BE FORBODING
RUNNING INTO BANDITS HERE
WON'T IMPEDE THIS TENSE AFFAIR
UP TO THE MOUNTAINS, DOWN ALONG THE SEA
CAN'T CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE MAN OF MYSTERY
WHERE IS HE?

GADIAS

ALL OUR DIGGING, SIFTING, COMBING
GAVE US THREATS AND FRUITLESS ROAMING
EVERY LEAD'S A GHOSTLY BLUR
WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO INFER
YOU THINK HE'S SOMEWHERE, WE JUST DISAGREE
WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM, THIS MAN OF MYSTERY
WHERE IS HE?

DATHAN

TIME FOR ASKING, URGING, PLEADING

GADIAS

CRUMBS OF HOPE ARE WHAT I'M NEEDING

DATHAN

DON'T GIVE UP, DON'T SHUT THE DOOR

GADIAS

I'M EXHAUSTED FROM THIS CHORE

DATHAN

WE'LL GET A CLUE FROM MARY MAGDALENE
SHE'LL POINT THE WAY TO THE MAN OF MYSTERY

WHERE IS HE?

WHERE IS HE?

WHERE IS HE?

*DATHAN and GADIAS see a few women standing on the corner,
and they approach the women.*

DATHAN

Sisters, we are looking for a woman. Mary Magdalene. Is she here?

WOMAN 1

We know Mary. Why are you looking for her?

GADIAS

She may have some information about a man we are trying to find.

WOMAN 2

What man?

DATHAN

His name is Barabbas. He...

DATHAN is interrupted by Woman 1.

WOMAN 1

Barabbas. What do you want with Barabbas? Are you seeking an early grave?

GADIAS

So, you know who he is?

WOMAN 1

Yes, of course. Everyone does. But that doesn't mean, we, or Mary can or will help you. Barabbas is a violent man and we are peaceful women. You, on the other hand, are gambling with your breath and your blood.

DATHAN

Understood. We are peaceful men as well. When we find Barabbas, we want to convince him that revolution is not the right way. Peace is.

MARY MAGDALENE steps out of the shadows from the back of the group to address Dathan and Gadias

MARY MAGDALENE

I am Mary. Why do you think that I can help you?

GADIAS

We heard that you know a great many people, and that perhaps you might have heard where Barabbas is.

MARY MAGDALENE

True, I know many people. But my knowledge of Barabbas and the Zealots is very limited, except that they are stirring up trouble. You may be stirring up trouble as well. Why should I believe you?

DATHAN

We are simple men wanting to do the right thing.

Pointing to Gadias.

His wife is pregnant. We both want a better future for our families, regardless of the cost.

MARY MAGDALENE

MARY MAGDALENE ponders for a second.

I have heard that he sometimes likes to mingle among the large crowds where Jesus is teaching. I think he tries to recruit for his cause in those places.

MARY MAGDALENE pauses again.

Jesus is teaching in Capernaum, three days journey from here. You might try, but no guarantees. Barabbas is a rugged man with a half-moon scar on his face.

DATHAN

Thank you.

GADIAS

Yes. Thank you.

MARY MAGDALENE

As long as you're there, listen to Jesus' teaching. You may discover a better way.

*DATHAN and GADIAS look at each other and roll their eyes.
THEY leave Jerusalem and head to Capernaum near the Sea of Galilee.*

(Lights down.)

ACT ONE

Scene Eight

JESUS is sitting on grassy slope with a crowd of people, who are also seated, surrounding Him and listening intently. DATHAN and GADIAS arrive and sit among the crowd.

DATHAN

This was a long journey. Are you ok?

GADIAS

Except for these blisters. The trip better be worth it.

DATHAN

Or what?

GADIAS

Or go back to our own lives. Our wives. I'm going to have a baby. That's more important than chasing a rebel. I miss her.

DATHAN

Have you forgotten everything we've worked for? This isn't for us; it's for our wives and your baby. For our country. A better future never comes without a cost. Together forever - no matter what. Don't ever forget that.

GADIAS

Hesitantly, slowly.

Together forever - no matter what.

DATHAN

(Scanning the area)

Good. Now let's get back to the mission at hand. Do you see Barabbas anywhere? A curved scar on his cheek, like Mary said.

GADIAS

No. Don't see him.

DATHAN

Look around. He's our golden calf.

GADIAS

I'll keep looking. Lots of men. No scars.

DATHAN

Let me know if you spot him. Today's the day.

JESUS

JESUS begins to speak with authority.

I have come to fulfill the law, and there has been a serious misunderstanding of God's commands. If you love God, want to obey Him and desire righteousness, listen carefully to all I have to say.

(The crowd of people look at each other in amazement.)

DATHAN

More nonsensical talk. People are so gullible.

Jesus is talking to some of the people while GADIAS and DATHAN listen close by. As the crowd begins to disperse, REGEM urgently runs up to Gadias.

DATHAN

Surprised.

Regem? What are you doing here?

REGEM

I borrowed a donkey to get here as soon as I could because *(pause)*...

Gadias, it's your wife. She's, *(He slows his speech and lowers his voice)* she's dead.

GADIAS

In disbelief.

What?

He pauses as he begins to hang his head. He looks up at the man again, very animated.

When? How?

REGEM

The Romans heard about some stolen money, and they went searching house to house for it. There was an altercation, and they killed Clement.

GADIAS

Incredulously.

That's crazy talk. What's wrong with you! I just saw her before we left! The baby. What about our baby?

REGEM

I'm sorry, Gadias.

Gadias collapses to his knees, wailing. He slowly gets up and walks away from Dathan and Regem to be alone.

11. In My Hands

GADIAS

HOW DID I LOSE SO MUCH
WE HAD A PERFECT PLAN
REALITY HAS CRUSHED MY SOUL
GUILT IS WEIGHING HEAVY ON ME
THE WORLD HAS CRUMBLLED IN MY HANDS
DEBRIS EVERYWHERE

I'LL NEVER HOLD HER CLOSE

OR HEAR THE BABY'S CRY
CATASTROPHE HAS ROBBED WITH SPITE
LIFE IS NOW A MEANINGLESS TASK
THE WORLD HAS VANISHED IN MY HANDS
NO MORE MEMORIES

WHAT SEEMED SO GOOD AND RIGHT WAS ONLY PRIDEFUL
FOOLISHNESS
NOW I'VE PAID THE COST WITH DEADLY LOSS
SHE'S GONE, SHE'S GONE

I WANT TO SCREAM OUT LOUD
UNTIL MY LUNGS EXPLODE
BUT SILENCE CALLS, "THERE IS NO NEED"
STILL A FIRE CONSUMES ALL I AM
THE WORLD HAS MELTED IN MY HANDS
I CAN'T FEEL A THING

GADIAS

Softly with a cracking voice.

Is this my fault? Did I cause this?

Loudly.

Dathan! What have we done? The money. We took the money!

DATHAN

DATHAN grabs Gadias and shakes him.

Gadias! Get a hold of yourself! What's done is done. You didn't kill Clement. The Romans killed her!

GADIAS

GADIAS is silent with a blank stare. He speaks quietly.

What do I do now?

DATHAN

If Barabbas was a real leader, Clement and the baby would still be alive. You know that. Let her death be your inspiration, not your defeat. You could save even more people with Barabbas out of the way.

12. Revenge

DATHAN

THEY HAVE TAKEN ALL THAT'S DEAR FROM YOU
RIPPED YOUR HEART OUT CUTTING THROUGH AND THROUGH
SHE CRIES FROM THE GRAVE
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?

GADIAS

THERE IS ONE CHOICE
HEAR HER VOICE
GET REVENGE, OH, OH

DATHAN

ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THE PATH YOU'RE ON
REACH THE END, THE DEED CAN'T BE WITHDRAWN
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK
YESTERDAY'S GONE

GADIAS

I WON'T FORGET
I AM SET
ON REVENGE, OH, OH
MY PLOT WON'T FAIL
I'VE INHALED
THIS REVENGE, OH OH

DATHAN

I AM BEHIND YOU
LET ME REMIND YOU
WE ARE ALIGNED, TOO
I FEEL YOU'RE PAIN, MAN
LET'S MAKE A GAME PLAN
ONE THING REMAINS AND

JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL

DATHAN AND GADIAS

STRIKE HARD AND SURE
NO DETOUR
FROM REVENGE, OH, OH
NOW IS THE TIME
WE ARE PRIMED
FOR REVENGE, OH, OH

Some bystanders are shocked and staring at Gadias.

GADIAS

With a tense body posture and clenched fists, GADIAS takes a quick step toward the bystanders staring back at them with a grimace.

What are you looking at!

The bystanders quickly look away and disperse. GADIAS turns back to Dathan.

DATHAN

DATHAN turns to Regem, away from Gadias.

Regem my friend, I feel for Gadias, but this is what I've been waiting for.

REGEM departs and DATHAN's posture, mannerisms, and facial expression all show his anxiety about the plot of betrayal during the introduction and throughout the song. The scene darkens with a spotlight on Dathan.

13. The Rebel's Crown

DATHAN

I CAN HEAR THE LAUGHS WE HAD
EVERY VENTURE, GOOD OR BAD
HE WAS THE DREAMER
I WAS THE SCHEMER

AIMING FOR DIFFERENT STARS
THE WORLD COULD BE OURS

A BOND UNBROKEN
LIMITLESS DEVOTION
I LED HIM DOWN EACH CROOKED PATH

THE REBEL'S CROWN IS AN ILLUSION FOR HIM
I'M THE MAGICIAN, A CHARMING TACTICIAN
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TRUSTING DEMEANOR
AND WHOLEHEARTED NAIVETY
WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ME?
FRIENDSHIP SACRIFICED AT AN ALTAR OF
THE REBEL'S CROWN

WHEN HE DOUBTED, I WAS THERE
LOVING HIM WHILE FEIGNING CARE
NOURISHING HIS SOUL
LITTLE DID HE KNOW
I WAS NOT ON HIS SIDE
HIS TRUTH WAS MY LIE

THIS COLD BETRAYAL
HARROWING PORTRAYAL
MY HEART POUNDS WITH GRIEF AND DELIGHT

THE REBEL'S CROWN IS AN OBSESSION FOR HIM
ALL IS IN MOTION LIKE BOATS ON THE OCEAN
HEADING ESTABLISHED WITH NO COURSE CORRECTION
THE SHIP BURNS IN ONE FINAL ACT
CAPTAIN SHOUTS, "NO TURNING BACK!"
HE IS SINKING DEEP PAST THE PROMISE OF
THE REBELS' CROWN

WOULD I HAND HIM MY PLACE IN HISTORY
WHEN I KNOW, YES I KNOW HE WILL FALL
WE ARE LIKE BROTHERS FORGED IN BRONZE THROUGH OUR
TRIALS

BUT I'M THE HOPE FOR OUR COUNTRY
I THINK THAT HE'LL UNDERSTAND

THE REBEL'S CROWN, OBJECT OF MY DESTINY
THIS IS MY BIRTH RIGHT CONCEIVED IN A DARK NIGHT
I HAVE BEEN ARTFULLY PLOTTING MY CONQUEST
THERE'S NOTHING TO STAND IN MY WAY
CLEAR CUT WITHOUT SHADES OF GRAY
NOW THE LOT IS CAST, I WILL SEIZE WHAT'S MINE:
THE REBEL'S CROWN

GADIAS meanders over to Dathan.

GADIAS

Barabbas.

DATHAN

Yes, Barabbas. He's not here. Let's go back to Jerusalem to find him.

Lights down.

ACT TWO

Scene One

Dathan and Gadias are on a path back to town. Boulders and vegetation are on both sides of the path.

GADIAS

I can't shake this guilt. I keep imagining her holding the baby. Then the thought is gone.

DATHAN

I understand, Gadias. I would feel the same way if it was Anna. Maybe worse.

GADIAS

Then how do I get past these feelings that haunt me? They keep coming back.

DATHAN

Hold tight to the good and bury the bad. It's not easy, but it's all you can do. And remember why we're here.

Look, here come a couple of Roman citizens. They are part of the problem, too. They live their happy lives without thinking of us at all.

DATHAN strains to get a closer look at the people.

Wait, is that Barabbas? See the scar?

GADIAS

Very unsure.

Scar? I don't know. Maybe.

DATHAN

Look closer. It's him. He's trying to disguise himself as a Roman citizen. We don't have much time.

GADIAS

Still unsure.

Are you sure? But what if it's not him?

DATHAN

We can't hesitate. Together forever - no matter what.

Two PEOPLE are walking down the path toward Gadias and Dathan.

DATHAN and GADIAS climb behind a boulder with a clear view of the path.

GADIAS

Together forever - no matter what.

DATHAN

The Romans. The rebels and their weak leader.

GADIAS

Smashing his fist on a boulder.

I am ready!

The two PEOPLE pass by the boulders where Dathan and Gadias are hiding.

Unaware that Gadias and Dathan are there, the two PEOPLE walk right by the concealed position.

DATHAN and GADIAS leap out and tackle the people, all disappearing behind the boulders.

There is a struggle and several loud thumps are heard. Then there is silence and several seconds go by. DATHAN AND GADIAS slowly emerge, bloody, and breathing hard. The bodies of the people are not fully concealed.

As they take a deep breath, five ROMAN SOLDIERS appear from the same direction as the people.

DATHAN and GADIAS are surprised by the presence of the Roman Soldiers. The ROMAN SOLDIERS grab Dathan and Gadias with great force, and one ROMAN SOLDIER speaks loudly and with authority.

ROMAN SOLDIER #1

Pointing to the boulders, then looking back at Gadias and Dathan.

What is this!

ROMAN SOLDIER #2 disappears behind the boulders to check.

The remaining ROMAN SOLDIERS manhandle Gadias and Dathan. Then ROMAN SOLDIER #2 returns.

ROMAN SOLDIER #2

They are both dead.

ROMAN SOLDIER #1

Shackle them!

The ROMAN SOLDIERS place GADIAS and DATHAN in chains and push them to face the audience. GADIAS and DATHAN address ROMAN SOLDIER #1 during the song, while periodic scuffling ensues.

14. We're Not to Blame

DATHAN

YOU HAVE WRONGLY ACCUSED
THAT'S OUR ONLY EXCUSE
THERE SHOULD BE NO DEBATE
PAL, YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE

WE'RE NOT TO BLAME
YOU HAVE TWO EARS
WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN?
WE MUST HAVE BEEN FRAMED

THIS IS OUR CLAIM
WE'RE NOT TO BLAME

AFTER RENDERING AID
ALL HOPE STARTED TO FADE
OUR ATTEMPTS WERE IN VAIN
THEY WERE ALREADY SLAIN

WE'RE NOT TO BLAME
IS THERE A GRUDGE
YOU MUST NOT LIKE US
YOU WANT TO DEFAME
THIS IS A SHAME
WE'RE NOT TO BLAME

To the Roman soldiers

THE REAL KILLERS ARE GETTING AWAY NOW

GADIAS

GADIAS turns to Dathan

WE'RE A MESS, LOOK AT US, WE'RE GOING TO JAIL

DATHAN

To the Roman soldiers

WE'LL SWEAR ALLEGIENCE TO ROME WITH A FIRM VOW

GADIAS

GADIAS turns to Dathan

YOU ARE THE REASON WE'VE GONE BEYOND THE PALE

DATHAN

WE'RE NOT TO BLAME
WE DON'T TELL LIES
DON'T YOU BELIEVE US
THE TRUTH IS OUR AIM

WHAT IS YOUR GAME
WE'RE NOT TO BLAME

WE'RE NOT TO BLAME
SO TURN AWAY
CAN'T YOU RELEASE US
WE DON'T KNOW YOUR NAMES
DO NOT DETAIN
WE'RE NOT TO BLAME

GADIAS is broken, looking at Dathan momentarily with regret.

DATHAN

WE'RE NOT TO BLAME
YOU HAVE TWO EARS
WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN?

DATHAN pokes his elbow at GADIAS with a "come on" look.

DATHAN AND GADIAS

WE MUST HAVE BEEN FRAMED
THIS IS OUR CLAIM
WE'RE NOT TO BLAME

ROMAN SOLDIER #1

Scum! You will pay!

DATHAN

No, no, no. You don't understand. We killed Barabbas, the insurrectionist, for you. Pilate would be pleased. You can take all the credit for killing him. We don't care. Just let us go.

ROMAN SOLDIER #1

Barabbas?! You fools! We caught him a week ago. He's awaiting execution. You'll be joining him. Neither of these people were Barabbas.

The ROMAN SOLDIERS scuffle with Dathan and Gadias as they take them off stage.

(Lights down.)

ACT Two

Scene Two

Dathan and Gadias are in a dimly lit and dingy prison cell. There is a man seated in the corner of the cell who is obscured by the darkness. The man is Barabbas. Dathan and Gadias are not aware that he is there.

Dathan and Gadias are talking quietly so the Roman soldiers don't hear their conversation.

GADIAS

Dathan, those people. I can't get them out of my head. I watched him stop breathing.

Wiping his hands on his chest.

I still have blood on my hands, my clothes.

DATHAN

We can never forget the goal - the higher good we set out to accomplish. Israel's freedom.

GADIAS

I thought it would be easy, but it wasn't. Clement's gone. The baby's gone. Barabbas? He's... We're as good as dead. We caused death, now we're reaping death.

DATHAN

Gadias, you know if I could, I would gladly take Clement's place. But I can't. We can't look back either. Pain and regret will cloud our judgment. As long as we are still breathing, there is hope.

Slowly, while putting his hand on Gadias' shoulder.

Together forever - no matter what.

GADIAS

GADIAS takes Dathan's hand off his shoulder.

That vow seems hollow and pointless now. Look around us. What do you see?

DATHAN

Gadias, I see hope, not doom. I see myself and a good friend in a tough situation. One more chance - for a friend?

GADIAS

For anyone else, the answer would be no. Anyone else would not make it out of the prison alive. Together forever - no matter what.

DATHAN smiles.

Can we escape?

DATHAN

Not without help from the outside.

GADIAS

Bribe the guards?

DATHAN

Further outside. Bribing the guards might get us executed right here. We could make our escape if the Zealots came for Barabbas.

BARABBAS

With a gravelly voice, appearing out of a dark corner of the cell into the light.

Barabbas? What about Barabbas?

DATHAN

We wanted to talk to him, and he was supposed to be here in jail.

BARABBAS

That's odd, I heard someone wanted to kill me. Was it you?

GADIAS

Barabbas?

BARABBAS

Shouting with a tense body and clenched fists.

Was it you?

DATHAN

DATHAN responds in a quieter tone and submissive body posture.

No, we wanted to join the rebellion, and to prove our loyalty, we were going to give you money we stole from the marketplace. But now we're in the same predicament as you. Will the Zealots come for you? If you take us with, we can pay you for our freedom.

BARABBAS

Quieter but still in a firm tone.

You think you are rebels? You think you can be Zealots?

15. Are You Willing to Die with Me?

BARABBAS

ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE WITH ME?
GREATER MEN HAVE AND SO CHEERFULLY
ALL MY FOLLOWERS NEVER ASK
HOW HIGH TO JUMP OR WHAT IS THE TASK

ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE WITH ME?
MY WRATH TERMINATES FAKE LOYALTY
LIARS SUFFER A GRUESOME FATE
VENGENCE IS SOOTHED WITH HEADS ON A PLATE

YOU TWO DON'T LOOK LIKE CONQUERING MEN
YOU THINK YOU'RE WOLVES BUT I KNOW YOU'RE HENS

COWARDICE FROM BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BEAK
FRANTIC WORDS TELL ME YOU'RE WEAK

ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE WITH ME?
I'M DISGUSTED BY YOUR INQUIRY
YOU WILL NEVER JOIN ME TO FIGHT
YOUR FATE IS SEALED, YOU'LL DREAM DEATH TONIGHT

I don't know you. I don't want to know you.

BARABBAS turns away from Dathan and Gadias. There is a commotion outside of the cell and a jingling of keys. A Roman guard opens the cell door and steps inside with two guards flanking him.

ROMAN GUARD

Barabbas! Come with us. Pilate wants to present you to the crowd that has gathered. Either you or Jesus will be released.

BARABBAS smiles with surprise and begins to walk out of the cell with the guards. HE stops when HE reaches the cell door, turns to Dathan and Gadias. HE speaks to them with a dismissive tone.

BARABBAS

I don't need your money. *(Scoffing)* But you need a miracle.

BARABBAS is taken from the jail and a ROMAN Guard a ROMAN GUARD returns to the cell.

ROMAN GUARD

Your verdict has been handed down. Death by crucifixion. And you won't be the only ones.

The ROMAN GUARD leaves the cell.

DATHAN and GADIAS look completely defeated. THEY turn to face each other.

16. Woe Is Us

GADIAS

WE'RE ALONE
LEFT TO BEMOAN
UNTIMELY APPREHENSION
UNFORESEEN DETENTION
WE ARE HELPLESS
WOE IS US

DATHAN

DON'T FORGET
WE'RE NOT DEAD YET
THERE MUST BE SOME SOLUTION
WITHOUT EXECUTION
NO MORE CRYING
WOE IS US

GADIAS

WAVE GOODBYE
OUR LAST CHANCE GUY
IS GONE WITHOUT AFFECTION
SNUBBING OUR COLLECTION
HOPE IS SHATTERED
WOE IS US

DATHAN

WE'RE NOT FINISHED

GADIAS

WOE IS US

DATHAN

FADING OPTIONS

GADIAS

WOE IS US

DATHAN

FRIENDS FOREVER

GADIAS

WOE IS US

Shouting angrily.

Dathan! Now the only things we have left are torture and the grave! I trusted you!

(Lights down.)

ACT Two

Scene Three

Jesus is on the middle cross (with "This Is The King Of The Jews" inscription), DATHAN is on the cross to the left of Jesus, and GADIAS is on the cross to the right of Jesus. Other people are milling around the middle cross, while yet others come and go. There are Roman Soldiers, Temple Teachers, Jewish citizens, and Roman citizens. Satan is also in the crowd, motionless between the crosses of DATHAN and Jesus.

The scene opens in daylight and the crowd shouts mockingly at Jesus along with GADIAS and DATHAN, whose voices are heard above the agitated crowd.

GADIAS

In pain.

Jesus, what's the matter?! You healed all kinds of people. Now you can't heal us? And yourself? Look at my hands and my feet.

Groaning loudly.

I'm bleeding. Surely this should be no problem for you! You cured blind people and lepers! Cure us Son of God! Today's the day to prove yourself!

DATHAN

In pain and addressing Jesus.

You talked about love all the time, like love your neighbor.

Groaning loudly.

Look at us, we're your neighbors, right next to you. Show us the love you showed others, Messiah. Or was it all an act? Get us down from here and prove it wasn't!

GADIAS

In pain.

He can't Dathan.

Struggling to take a deep breath

You saved people. Brought them back to life. Clement and the baby! Where were you!? Where were you!? Get down from the cross and perform your magic on *(struggling, quieter, but still angry)* my wife. My baby.

DATHAN

He thinks he's special but just look at him! He's pathetic just like us! Worse than us!

The crowd of people gathered around the crosses begin to move in unison to the beat of the song.

17. Save Yourself

Syncopated with the music.

CHIEF PRIEST

Long ago our fathers rebuilt the sanctuary to cover bloodguilt
Forty-six years was a very long time but we needed a place to
forgive all crime

With Chief Priest.

ENSEMBLE

Crime

Destroy this temple and I'll make one new
"I need three days" was the lie You spewed

With Chief Priest.

ENSEMBLE

Spewed

Syncopated with the music.

CHIEF PRIEST

First things first we can all agree

Remove Yourself from that wooden tree

With Chief Priest.

ENSEMBLE

Tree

CRY OUT TO GOD, HE'LL RESCUE YOU

CHIEF PRIEST

Son of God

ENSEMBLE

SON OF GOD

CHIEF PRIEST

Save Yourself

ENSEMBLE

SAVE YOURSELF

CHIEF PRIEST

Save Yourself

ENSEMBLE

SAVE YOURSELF

CHIEF PRIEST

Son of God

ENSEMBLE

SON OF GOD

Syncopated with the music.

ROMAN SOLDIER

You sure don't look like the Chosen One, Messiah, King, Your
reign is undone

You should be riding on a royal horse but You're up there, so
You can't of course

With Roman Soldier.

ENSEMBLE

Course

Syncopated with the music.

ROMAN SOLDIER

The sign we wrote says King of the Jews
Well Jesus, I have some really bad news

With Roman Soldier.

ENSEMBLE

News

Syncopated with the music.

ROMAN SOLDIER

You're beaten broke and at deaths' door
The joke's on You, hear the laughter's roar

With Roman Soldier on "roar."

ENSEMBLE

He-he Ha-ha

GIVE US A REASON TO BELIEVE

CHIEF PRIEST

Climb on down

ENSEMBLE

CLIMB ON DOWN

CHIEF PRIEST

From the cross

ENSEMBLE

FROM THE CROSS

CHIEF PRIEST

From the Cross

ENSEMBLE

FROM THE CROSS

CHIEF PRIEST

Climb on down

ENSEMBLE

CLIMB ON DOWN

The entire crowd, including GADIAS and DATHAN, becomes silent and motionless. There are three spotlights, one on Jesus, one on Dathan, and one on Gadias. While JESUS sings the bridge, DATHAN is looking at Jesus in amazement, contrite and with sorrow. GADIAS's face is contorted, silently and angrily mouthing insults at Jesus.

JESUS

FATHER FORGIVE THEM
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING
HAVE MERCY ON THEIR SOULS

Spotlights come off the three, lights up, and the crowd begins to move and become vocal again.

During each line of the chorus.

ROMAN SOLDIERS

SAVE YOURSELF
SAVE YOURSELF

CHIEF PRIEST

Is it true

ENSEMBLE

IS IT TRUE

CHIEF PRIEST

What you say

ENSEMBLE

WHAT YOU SAY

CHIEF PRIEST

What you say

ENSEMBLE

WHAT YOU SAY

Is it true

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

IS IT TRUE

Climb on down

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

CLIMB ON DOWN

From the cross

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

FROM THE CROSS

From the Cross

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

FROM THE CROSS

Climb on down

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

CLIMB ON DOWN

Son of God

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

SON OF GOD

Save Yourself

CHIEF PRIEST

ENSEMBLE

SAVE YOURSELF

CHIEF PRIEST

Save Yourself

ENSEMBLE

SAVE YOURSELF

CHIEF PRIEST

Son of God

ENSEMBLE

SON OF GOD

The crowd returns to mumbling in the background.

GADIAS

Loudly and mockingly, but slower and quieter at the end of the sentence.

Prove that You are the Messiah!

Hangs his head. Softly, slowly, and with resignation in his voice.

Bring my wife back. Bring my baby back. Please. *(long pause)*

JESUS is silent.

GADIAS returns to mocking.

Save Yourself and save us! You said...

DATHAN interrupts with a shout.

DATHAN

Gadidas!

In a mild tone, looking at GADIAS.

Listen to me. He's done nothing wrong, but we have. I have. I'm sorry, Gadidas. You have been a good friend, but I have not.

DATHAN bows his head briefly then looks back up at Jesus.

*Softly and with repentance in his voice, turning to Jesus.
The crowd is silent.*

I don't understand how (pause) or why you have such compassion.
But Jesus...

18. Remember Me

DATHAN

I WOULD LIKE TO ERASE
MY LONG RECORD OF WRONGS
I DON'T DESERVE ANY GRACE
HELL IS THE PLACE I BELONG

SON OF GOD IS PROFANED
VILE TAUNTS DARKEN MY SOUL
NO LONGER FILLED WITH DISDAIN
JESUS, I GIVE YOU CONTROL

REMEMBER ME, OH LORD
WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM
YOU HOLD THE KEY
FAST IN YOUR HAND
REMEMBER ME

YOUR LOVE SHINES LIKE THE SUN
KINDNESS VAST AS THE SEA
SALVATION BID TO EACH ONE
EVEN A KILLER LIKE ME

REMEMBER ME, OH LORD
WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM
BY YOUR DECREE
YOUR WORDS GIVE LIFE
REMEMBER ME

YOU CAN FORGIVE THE WORST OF MANKIND
LIKE THOSE SURROUNDING YOU HERE

I WAS YOUR ENEMY FROM MY FIRST BREATH
BUT NOW YOU'RE MY HOPE AND MY REDEEMER

REMEMBER ME, OH LORD
WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM
SET MY SOUL FREE
BREAK ALL THESE CHAINS
REMEMBER ME

REMEMBER ME, OH LORD
WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM
MY FINAL PLEA
AS MY LIFE ENDS
REMEMBER ME

JESUS

Struggling to speak and looking at DATHAN.

DATHAN, today you will be with Me in paradise.

*Silence falls over the crowd and the set becomes dimly lit.
JESUS looks heavenward.*

It is finished.

*JESUS slumps on the cross and there is a massive rumble
from an earthquake and the crowd disperses.*

*The ROMAN SOLDIER who sang part of "Save Yourself" walks to
the foot of Jesus' cross and falls to his knees.*

ROMAN SOLDIER

Truly this man was the Son of God.

Lights down.

ACT TWO

Scene Four

The story resumes where it ended in Act 1 Scene 1, with DATHAN approaching the gate. The spotlight is still shining on Dathan.

DATHAN

Hello?

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

Curiously.

Greetings! May I help you?

DATHAN

Unsure.

Do you think you can?

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

Can what?

DATHAN

Help me.

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

Oh, oh. Well, maybe. But you seem, how do I say this *(pause)* befuddled.

DATHAN

This isn't making sense to me. I think I died, but now I'm here *(pause)* with you *(pause)* outside of *(long pause)*.

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

GATEKEEPER ANGEL completes DATHAN' sentence.

Heaven. It's heaven. Hmmm. Let's try this...What is your name?

DATHAN

I think it's, um, DATHAN. Yeah, that's it. Sorry, my brain's a little foggy.

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

The GATEKEEPER ANGEL pages through a large book as he looks for the name.

DATHAN... (pause) DATHAN...Oh, ok, here it...Oh, no it's not. Spell your name.

DATHAN

Spells out his name.

D-A-T-H-A-N.

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

The GATEKEEPER ANGEL pages through the book then slams it shut.

I don't see your name. You know, you're making this very difficult for me.

DATHAN shrugs his shoulders and shakes his head.

19. Tell Me What You're Doing Here

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE, LAD
GIVE ME SOME CLUES, I'LL BE GLAD
THIS CASE IS QUITE RARE
PLEASE DO PULL UP A CHAIR
AND TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE

MY JOB IS IMPORTANT
I DO IT QUITE WELL

I'M THE ENFORCER OF RULES MY FRIEND
I MUST HEAR ONE REASON

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE, CHAP
DID YOU PERUSE THE WRONG MAP
UNTIL WE ARE CLEARED
MOVE ON BACK TO THE REAR
OR TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE

YOU SEEM VERY NICE BUT
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE, I'M AT A LOSS
I SHOULD CHECK WITH MY BOSS

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE, MAN
GIVE ME THE SCOOP, WHAT'S THE PLAN
LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO
OR TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE

LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO
OR TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE

GATEKEEPER ANGEL

Frustrated.

Well....uh. Hang on a second. I really do want to help you.
Let's try this.

*GATEKEEPER ANGEL speaks into what appears to be an
intercom.*

Hello? This is the East Gate. There's someone here who seems a
bit confused. Can you come down? (pause) OK, thanks. (*addressing
DATHAN*) My supervisor will be right down.

The ANGEL SUPERVISOR approaches the gate.

SUPERVISOR ANGEL

Hello, Dathan, is it? We have a bit of a situation on our hands, wouldn't you say? We want to make sure that you are at the right place. Let me ask you a few simple questions. First, are you clear on what it means to be justified (*pause*) or sanctified?

DATHAN

Unsure.

Just - i - what??

SUPERVISOR ANGEL

Well, ok then. Why is scripture important, or who do you consider the most influential prophet?

DATHAN

Unsure.

Huh?

GATEKEEPER ANGEL and SUPERVISOR ANGEL look at each other and have a brief conversation, turned away from DATHAN. They both turn back to DATHAN.

SUPERVISOR ANGEL

We want to give you every opportunity to pass through the gates. Let's try this one more time. Dathan, on what basis are you here?

20. The Man on the Middle Cross

DATHAN

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL, I DON'T HAVE A RELIGIOUS DEGREE

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SPELL THEOLOGY

THESE QUESTIONS YOU ASK ARE BAFFLING TO ME

IS THIS AN ENTRANCE EXAM?

I DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF JUSTIFIED

IT'S THE SAME WITH SANCTIFIED

I WAS TOLD ONE THING BEFORE I DIED

THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME

BEFORE I SHOWED UP HERE, I WAS NAILED TO A CRIMINAL'S
CROSS

I MOCKED THE MIDDLE MAN, THEN FELT REMORSE
NO SIN WAS IN HIM, BUT I BROKE THE LAW
THE SENTENCE FIT MY OFFENSE

I'M NOT CLEAR ON WHY YOU ARE MYSTIFIED
HIS PLAIN WORDS SHOULD SATISFY
I WAS TOLD ONE THING BEFORE I DIED
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME

"TODAY YOU'LL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE"
THAT STATEMENT IS HIS
GO AND ASK HIM YOURSELF
I THINK HE'LL SAY THAT I PASSED THE QUIZ

*As the song continues, the SUPERVISOR ANGEL walks back into
heaven and disappears from sight.*

I'M NO EXPERT I AM NOT CERTIFIED
THERE'S NO PLAQUE OR CLEVER SIGN
I WAS TOLD ONE THING BEFORE I DIED
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME

IF LOVE COULD BE A FIELD STUDIED AT A UNIVERSITY
THE MIDDLE MAN'S BEYOND A PHD
YOU'RE THINKING TOO HARD SO YOU CANNOT SEE
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO EXPLAIN

*As the final chorus is finishing and the gates are opening,
DATHAN moves back while JESUS is walking with the ANGEL
SUPERVISOR to the gate from the inside. JESUS is wearing
brilliantly white attire, and a spotlight is on Him. The
scars in His hands are visible.*

MY ASSERTION MUST HAVE BEEN VERIFIED

HEAVEN'S GATES ARE OPEN WIDE
I WAS TOLD ONE THING BEFORE I DIED
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME
THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS SAID I CAN COME

During the outro, DATHAN walks through the gates and falls at the feet of Jesus. JESUS helps DATHAN to his feet, they embrace with a brotherly hug, then walk together into heaven. Lights down momentarily.

The lights come back up immediately when the intro to the reprise is done. All the inhabitants of heaven interact with jubilation.

21. Peace Now Eternal (Reprise)

ENSEMBLE

ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA

PEACE NOW ETERNAL
WAVES OF BLISS UPON THESE SHORES
HAPPINESS IS WASHING OVER US

PEACE NOW ETERNAL
EARTHLY BURDENS PURGED AND GONE
PERFECT FREEDOM HERE FOREVERMORE

ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA

22. The Man on the Middle Cross (Instrumental)

Bows and exit.

Black out.

THE END