

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SYNOPSIS

DAVID tells the story of the biblical David from the rise and fall of Saul to the ascension of David as King of Israel. Following the overture a scribe enters and tells the story of how Samuel the Prophet chose Saul to be King of Israel. Both Samuel and Saul are introduced and through a series of narration and dialogue we discover why God found Saul unworthy to receive His continued blessing.

In *Saul's Lament* Saul sings plaintively of his fall before God's eyes. "Why has thou broken all bonds with me?" he asks as he still longs for the days when "I was next to thee and life was pure" (*Oh Cup of Bitterness*).

David enters. He has been summoned to Saul's court to play music and bring relief to Saul's "troubled soul." David sings *David's Prayer*, a song of praise to God. Saul finds great comfort in David's singing because "You remind me of the time when I was young" (*When I Was Young*).

The scribe introduces us to Goliath. The scene opens with David and Goliath eyeing each other as townspeople wonder, "Who is this boy who comes from out of nowhere?" (*Who Is This Boy?*) David slays Goliath leading to *Freedom!* as all Israel celebrates through song and dance their victory and their new hero.

Prince Jonathan, the son of Saul, enters with soldiers to escort David back to camp. The townspeople laugh when Jonathan introduces himself as a prince. When David

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

asks why they laugh Jonathan answers that he is only a prince by birth, not through any real accomplishment. In *They Call Me a Prince* Jonathan sings, “They call me a prince, but am I as strong as you?” adding that he would probably need “fifty stones and three-hundred men” just to defend Goliath.

David declines to leave with Jonathan so that he may give thanks to God. Jonathan, soldiers, and townspeople exit. David, now alone, praises God then wonders what will become of him as he ages. In *When I Grow Old* he ponders, “Will I think best of days past with no dream to hold?” or will he still believe “that one day the world will cry no more.”

David has now become a great military leader while Saul continues to live in spiritual anguish. In *Saul’s Chant* Saul and his court detail his rise and fall. Soon after David’s troops return from battle praising David’s courage and leadership (*Oh How Proud We Are!*). David enters and is confronted by Saul who has now grown increasingly jealous of David’s fame. Though David insists “I seek no glory for myself” Saul remains unconvinced of David’s loyalty.

David asks Jonathan if he too is jealous. Jonathan replies, “I could never be jealous of you” and in *More Than My Soul* says his love for him is more valuable than any worldly possession. David responds with *Jonathan* confessing that “everyday of the

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

year, with each season passed, I think of you.” They blend their respective songs together in one of the emotional high points of the play. Thus ends Act 1.

Act II opens with David surrounded by townspeople who ask how he is so successful in battle. In *I Thank Him* David replies that he gets his strength from God. Saul enters as the song is ending and misconstrues “I thank Him” (God) with the people thanking David. This is Saul’s breaking point. In *How Could I Have Made Such Mistakes?* He vows to kill David for appearing “stronger than his king.” Jonathan pleads with his father not to kill David but Saul is adamant. Jonathan runs off to warn David.

Jonathan meets David in an open field and tells him to run away or face certain death. Realizing this is their last meeting, David vows to meet Jonathan in another world at another time. Jonathan, however, counters, “What chances are there in times beyond?” (*It Is Said*). Jonathan gives David his cloak “to keep you warm at night” as David leaves for a life in exile.

With Saul in hot pursuit, David asks God to protect him “from those who do harm” and, with a few loyal soldiers, sing “Oh God, guide me, protect me. Make me a brilliant star” (*Make Me a Brilliant Star*). They leave quickly as Saul, Jonathan, and soldiers enter. Saul tells Jonathan that David must be killed in order for him to become the next king. Saul and his soldiers continue their pursuit while Jonathan says the only

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

thing he desires is death since “it will unite me with David for all eternity” (*Death is a Messenger of Joy*).

Three Philistine soldiers enter. A sword fight ensues and, although Jonathan fights valiantly, he is overpowered and slain. Saul enters with a spear carrier and discovers the body of Jonathan. In *The More I Know* Saul realizes that David is destined to become the next king. Saul orders the soldier to “thrust me lest these Philistines thrust and make a mock!” The soldier stabs Saul who dies next to Jonathan.

David enters with his soldiers and townspeople. He discovers the two bodies and sings a song of great lamentation for the two men whom he loved dearly (*How Are the Mighty Fallen*). The scribe enters and says, “David was thirty years old when he began to reign. And he reigned for forty years.” Scribe, soldiers, and townspeople kneel before David as the play ends.