

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

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Part I You Shall Be Gathered to Your People

1. Introduction NUMBERS 27:12-13

Go up! Go up into this mountain
and see the land
Which I have given Israel.
And when you have seen it,
You shall be gather'd to your people.

2. Scene DEUTERONOMY 3:23-25

And I besought the Lord
At that time, saying,
O Lord God,
You have begun to show thy servant
Thy greatness and thy mighty hand.
For what god is there, in heaven or in earth
That can do according to thy works
And according to thy might?
I pray thee, let me go over
And see the good land that is beyond Jordan.

3. Fugue DEUTERONOMY 3:27

Thou shalt not go over Jordan.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

Part II The Call of Moses

4. Recitative EXODUS 3:1

Now Moses kept the flocks of his father-in-law,
The Priest of Midian.
And he led the flock to the side of the wilderness,
And came to the mountain of God.

5. Aria EXODUS 3:2

And the angel of the Lord
Appeared to him in a flame of fire
Out of the midst of a bush,
And he looked, and lo!
The bush burned with fire.
But the bush was not consumed.

6. Scene EXODUS 3:4-6

When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see,
God called to him: Moses, Moses.
And he said, Here am I.
I am the God of your fathers,
The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.
And Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look at God.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

7. Chorale EXODUS 3:7

I have seen the affliction

Of my people who are in Egypt.

I have come to deliver them

Out of the hand of the Egyptians.

8. Scene EXODUS 3:11-13

Who am I, that I should lead the sons of Israel

Out of Egypt?

I will surely be with you.

For this shall be a token to you:

You shall serve God on this mountain.

If I come to Israel and say, the God of your fathers

Has sent me to you?

And if they ask me, what is his name?

What should I tell them? What should I say to them?

9. Fugue EXODUS 3:14-15

Say this, I AM THAT I AM,

Say this to the people of Israel.

Say to the people of Israel, I AM.

I AM the Lord, God of Abraham and Isaac.

I AM has sent me, say I AM THAT I AM.

Say I AM, the Lord, your God.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

10. Recitative EXODUS 4:10

Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent,

Not now, not before, and not since

Thou hast spoken to thy servant,

For I am slow of speech and of tongue.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

Part III The Successes of Moses

11. Chorale NUMBERS 24:5-6

How fair are your tents, O Jacob,
Your encampments, O Israel.

Like valleys that stretch afar,
Like gardens beside a river.

12. Recitative NUMBERS 24:3-4

The oracle of Balaam, son of Beor.

The oracle of one whose eye is opened.

The oracle of one who hears the words of God,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,

Falling down, but having eyes uncovered.

13. Duet NUMBERS 23: 21-24, 9-10

He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob,
Nor has he seen trouble in Israel.

The Lord their God is with them,
And the shout of a king is among them.

For from the top of the mountain I see him,
From the hills I behold him.

Lo, a people dwelling alone,
Not reckoning itself among the nations.

Who can count the dust of Jacob?

Like a lioness it rises up.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

And like a lion it lifts itself,
It does not lie down, till it devours the prey
And drinks the blood of the slain.

14. Recitative DEUTERONOMY 2:32

Then Sihon came out against them,
He and all his people, to fight at Jahaz.

15. Chorus DEUTERONOMY 2:33-35

And the Lord our God delivered him before us.
And we smote him, and his sons, and all his people.
And we took all his cities at that time.
And we utterly destroyed the men,
Utterly destroyed the women,
Utterly destroyed the little children,
We left none to remain.

16. Recitative DEUTERONOMY 3:1

Then Og the King of Bashan came out against them,
He and all his people, to battle at Edrei.
But the Lord said to Moses:

17. Chorale DEUTERONOMY 3:2

Do not fear him,
For I have given him unto your hand.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

Part IV The Laws of Moses

18. Recitative DEUTERONOMY 4:5

Behold I have taught you statutes and judgments
Even as the Lord commanded me.

19. Canon EXODUS 20 3-17 (KJV)

Thou shalt have no other god before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image

or any likeness of any living thing in heaven
or on earth or in the water;

thou shalt not bow down to them and serve them.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.

20. Recitative DEUTERONOMY 4:6

Keep therefore, and do them,

For this is your wisdom and your understanding

In the sight of the nations,

Which shall hear all these statutes and say:

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

21. Chorus DUETERONOMY 4:6-9

Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

For what nation is there so great

Who hath God so nigh unto them as the Lord.

Teach your children, teach this law to your children.

Teach it to your children's children.

Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

What great nation has statutes and rules

so righteous as all this law?

What nation has God so nigh as the Lord is unto you.

Take heed to yourself and keep your soul closely

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ACT II

Part V The Troubles

22. Exodus 14 (Numbers 14, Exodus 5)

The Lord look upon you and judge.

What have you done to us now?

You made of us an offense

in the eye of the Pharaoh.

What shall we eat? What shall we drink?

Would we had died by the hand of the Lord

In the land of Egypt. Would we had died!

The Lord look upon you and judge.

What have you done to us now?

You made of us an offense

in the eye of the Pharaoh.

Would we had died by the side of the fleshpots,

We sat there and ate to the full.

Would we had died.

What shall we drink? Would we had died.

The Lord look upon you and judge.

What have you done to us now?

Now our strength is gone

There is nothing at all but this manna.

Now our strength is gone

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

There is nothing,
Nothing at all but this manna.

23. Complaint (Numbers 11)

Why hast thou dealt ill with thy servant?

Why have I not found favour in thy sight?

That thou dost lay

The burden of all this people upon me.

Did I conceive all this people?

Did I bring them forth, all this people?

Did I carry them on my bosom?

Did I nurse them?

They weep unto me, your people.

Whence should I have flesh for all this people?

I can not carry them on my shoulders,

Lord the burden is too heavy.

If thou wilt thus deal with thy servant,

If I have found favour in thy sight,

Then thou shouldst kill me

And end this wretchedness.

Why hast thou dealt ill with thy servant?

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

24. Chorale (Exodus 32)

Up! Make us gods who will go before us.

As for Moses, we do not know.

25. Scherzo (Numbers 13)

And the men who were the heads

Of the people of Israel

Spied out the land, and said:

'And there we saw the Nephilim.

We seemed like grasshoppers'.

26. Chorus (Numbers 14 and Numbers 16)

Would that we had died.

Would that we had died there in the land of Egypt.

Or that we had died here, here in this wilderness.

Would we had died there, the land of Egypt,

Or would we'd died here, here in this wilderness.

Why does the Lord bring us into this desert?

Why bring us all here to fall and die by the sword.

Take us from milk and honey, land of the Pharaoh,

Kill us in the wilderness, our little ones will fall a prey.

And for this, you would exalt yourself? You'd be a prince?

Take us from Pharaoh, the land of milk and honey,

Into this desert, we'll fall and die by the sword.

Take us from milk and honey, land of the Pharaoh,

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

And in the wilderness all to fall a prey.

(Numbers 16:3)
You, Moses, have gone too far.

Every one of the congregation is holy, every one of them,
And the Lord is among them,
Every one of them, Moses.

Moses you have gone too far.

Why did you bring us into this desert?

Why must we die here, here in this wilderness?

Take us from milk and honey, land of the Pharaoh,

Kill us in the wilderness, our little ones will fall a prey.

And for this, you would exalt yourself, you'd be a prince.

Take us back to Egypt!

Take us back to Egypt, Moses.

Let us go back to Egypt!

Would we had died.

Part VI Face to Face

27. Recitative

And Moses went up to God

And the Lord called him out of the mountain, saying:

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

28. Chorale (Exodus 19)

Eagles, on eagles,

On eagles' strong wings I brought you.

You shall be my people of all the nations,

You shall be my people of all.

29. Chorus Deuteronomy 32

Give ear, o ye heavens, and I will speak,

Hear, o God, the words of my mouth,

My doctrine shall drop as the rain,

My spirit shall distill as the dew,

Like small rain on the tender herb,

As showers on the grass.

Ascribe ye greatness unto our God,

Who is the rock, whose work is perfect;

For all God's ways are judgment.

Ascribe ye greatness unto our God,

A God of truth and without iniquity.

30. Recitative (Deuteronomy 34 ?)

For ask now,

Ask of the days that are past

Since the days that God created man;

Ask from one side of the heavens to the other

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Whether there hath been any such thing
As is this great thing.
There arose not a prophet like unto Moses
Whom the Lord knew face to face.

My servant Moses,
Whom I knew face to face,
He is entrusted with all my house.

Part VII Miriam Sang

31. Chorus (Exodus 15)

Sing to the Lord!
Sing to the Lord, overcoming,
Glory, glorious, gloriously.
Horse and rider overturning,
Over into the sea.

32. Scene

Behold I will strike the waters which are in the Nile.
And all the waters turned to blood,
All the waters which were in the Nile.
And the frogs came up and covered the land.
And the frogs came up and the frogs came over the land.
Stretch out your rod and strike dust from the earth
That it may become lice.
Then there came a grievous swarm of flies.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

Sing to the Lord.

Behold the hand of the Lord then sent a very severe plague

On all the cattle which were in the fields.

All the cattle died.

Take handful of dust and it shall become boils.

And the Lord sent thunder and lightning, and great hail and fire.

33. Scene (Exodus 10)

How long refuse us?

How long refuse to let us go?

Thus say'th the Lord, how long?

How long refuse my people,

How long refuse to let them go?

How long refuse us?

How long refuse to let us go?

Thus say'th the Lord, how long?

I will bring locusts into the country,

And they will cover over,

For them no one will see the land.

Locusts! Locusts! Locusts!

They will cover over,

For them no one will see the land.

And they will eat what is left

After the hail.

Moses, Facing Jordan 2.01

34. March

Darkness, darkness.

Heavy darkness, darkness.

Heavy dark,

Dark that can be felt.

Darkness: it can be felt.

Then Pharaoh said, Get away, go,

Never see my face again.

As you say. I will not see your face again.

35. Recitative (Exodus 12)

At midnight the Lord

Smote all the firstborn

All the firstborn in the land of Egypt.

There was a great cry in Egypt.

36. Chorus (Exodus 2)

Then did Pharaoh's daughter

Bring him up to be her son.

She called him Moses,

She called his name Moses.

She said, I drew him from the waters.

Go up, and see the good land.

I called him Moses, I drew him from the waters.

Go up. You shall be gathered to your people.