

THE HOLY BIBLE

TELEPLAY EDITION

Episode 1003

"The New World"

By

George Willson

Based on the novel by God

TEASER

EXT. ARK - DAY

SUPER: "1656 Anno Mundi"

SUPER: "Seventh month, Seventeenth Day"

The ark floats atop the surface of the water. The water is very calm.

INT. ARK - DAY

Noah, his wife Naamah, with his sons and their wives (Shem with Sedeqetelebab, Ham with Ne'elatama'uk, and Japheth with Adatan'eses) work with the animals on the ark in feeding and cleaning up their leavings.

Naamah and the wives work on the upper decks with the smaller animals, feeding and cleaning. Shem, Ham, and Japheth work on the lower deck with the larger animals.

NOAH

Japheth! Where are we on the feeding rotation down here?

JAPHETH

Almost finished, father! Shem has volunteered to clean up after the elephants!

SHEM

I did not!

Shem stops what he's doing and marches up behind Japheth.

SHEM

I cleaned up after the elephants yesterday, and one of them almost sat on me. Today is clearly your turn, since Ham did it the day before.

JAPHETH

I'm the oldest, so that makes me in charge.

NOAH

Japheth, whose turn is it? Really?

Japheth looks defeated.

JAPHETH

All right, I'll do it.

SHEM

You have to do the hippos and rhinoceros, too.

JAPHETH

Now, wait just a minute there.

SHEM

I did all of them yesterday. What's the big deal anyway. You take their business to the top and dump it in the water.

Japheth groans.

JAPHETH

I just hate shaking the bucket. And it stinks.

HAM

Yes, it does.

NOAH

Boys, I know this is unpleasant, but it is our duty to take care of these animals until God takes away the water.

The boys nod. Numbly, they go about their duties. Noah walks up to the women on the middle deck.

With the medium-sized animals on the middle deck, the women do very much the same as the men with the large animals.

NOAH

Naamah, how are we doing?

NAAMAH

Well enough. Our food supplies are plentiful, and after 6 months of this, we're settled into our routines, so we don't wear ourselves out.

Behind them, their sons' wives talk.

SEDEQETELEBAB

So, when do you think this will all be over, so we can settle with our new husbands?

ADATAN'ESES

I have no idea, and neither does our new father, Noah. Whenever God decides it is over, it will be over.

NE'ELATAMA'UK

But how long has it been already? I believe last night Noah told us that today makes day 190 since the waters fell.

ADATAN'ESES

Ne'elatama'uk, we must be patient and go about taking care of the animals until it is time.

NE'ELATAMA'UK

But when will it be, Adatan'eses?

Naamah walks over to them.

NAAMAH

Daughters, it takes time for water to recede. It will not be soon, but the time is coming, and then you will have households of your own to care for.

Japheth walks up the steps to the top of the ark carrying a bucket full of something that makes us grateful smell-o-vision didn't catch on.

ADATAN'ESES

I'm going to help my husband.

NAAMAH

Go, Adatan'eses.

ADATAN'ESES

Japheth, let me get the door for you.

EXT. ARK - DAY

Adatan'eses climbs the steps to the outside of the ark and holds the door for Japheth to carry his unenviable bucket outside. She closes the door behind them and Japheth carries the bucket to the edge of the ark and dumps it.

JAPHETH

Yuck!

ADATAN'ESES

Did you ever think about what it might land on down there?

JAPHETH

What do you mean?

ADATAN'ESES

I mean, maybe you just dumped a bucket of manure on someone's house.

Japheth laughs.

JAPHETH

Maybe it hit an idol's head.

ADATAN'ESES

Maybe it fell on some person's head.

Adatan'eses stops, realizing what she said. Japheth turns to look over the edge.

ADATAN'ESES

(quietly)

Sorry.

JAPHETH

It's ok. This whole thing is different.

Adatan'eses nods. She sidles up to Japheth who puts his arm around her.

JAPHETH

All things considered, this situation did have a positive side.

ADATAN'ESES

And what is that?

JAPHETH

It forced us together. I don't know that we would have been married otherwise.

ADATAN'ESES

Yeah.

They look across the water. Japheth suddenly sees something.

JAPHETH

Look.

ADATAN'ESES

What?

Japheth points out across the water. Below the surface of the clear water, a mountain range is visible.

ADATAN'ESES

What is it?

JAPHETH

Mountains. They're still under the water, but you can see them.

Adatan'eses cheers and they hug momentarily. Suddenly, the ark hits something. They fall to the ground on top of each other.

INT. ARK - DAY

The animals react fearfully. Noah and everyone else still inside lose their footing as the bottom of the ark scrapes across some sort of ground below them. The rumbling of the ark scraping the ground is deafening.

SHEM

What was that?

NOAH

I don't know.

Shem in the lead, they all run up the stairs to the outside door at the top of the ark.

EXT. ARK - DAY

Japheth and Adatan'eses remain as they fell. She is on top of him.

ADATAN'ESES

Well, this isn't so bad.

The door slams open and Shem steps out, followed by Sedeqetelebab. He eyes Japheth and Adatan'eses on the floor.

SHEM

What's this all about?

SEDEQETEBAB

Don't be so accusatory. You're probably jealous that they're getting time and we aren't.

SHEM

Well, I am.

Everyone else comes out behind them as Japheth and Adatan'eses get to their feet.

JAPHETH

What happened, father?

Noah walks to the edge and looks down. Through the clear surface of the water, it is clearly visible that the ark is now resting on the plateau of a mountain.

NOAH

We've stopped. The ark has found a resting place.

HAM

Where?

JAPHETH

Look, you can see the mountains below the surface of the water.

NAAMAH

But we have no way of knowing where this is.

SHEM

Will we recognize it when the waters recede more?

NOAH

I don't know, Shem. But one thing is certain: The ark is at rest.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. ARK - DAY

SUPER: "1656 Anno Mundi"

SUPER: "Eleventh Month, Tenth Day"

Noah carries a raven through the ark to the window. The rest of the family follows him.

HAM

So, we throw this raven out, and then what?

SHEM

We hope it gives us some sort of indicator that the water has receded.

HAM

We know it has receded. We saw the top of the mountains forty days ago.

NOAH

If the bird returns, then it has no place to rest. If it does not, then it has found a place for itself.

HAM

Makes sense. What do we do with the other one, if it doesn't come back?

NAAMAH

Send out the other, I imagine.

Noah opens the window.

NOAH

God be with you, little raven.

He releases the raven into the world.

EXT. ARK - DAY

The raven flies high above the water-covered earth. It flies away from the ark over the uncovered tops of the mountains.

INT. ARK - DAY

Noah watches it for a moment, and finally turns back to the inside.

NOAH

Now, we wait.

INT. ARK - DAY

SUPER: "7 Days Later"

Noah stands at the window. Naamah approaches behind him.

NAAMAH

What is it?

NOAH

The raven didn't return. I suppose it is perched atop a mountain somewhere.

NAAMAH

So what are you going to do?

NOAH

We still need to know if the water has dried up from the earth. Let's send out a dove.

NAAMAH

Okay.

EXT. ARK - DAY

Noah releases a dove into the world. It also flies high above the earth. The water has receded considerably, but covers most of the surface still.

INT. ARK - DAY

Noah watches it go.

NOAH

Well. We wait again.

INT. ARK - LATER

Noah and his family go through their daily feeding/cleaning routine. He checks with the boys on the lower deck. Japheth and Ham are there, but Shem is not.

NOAH

Japheth. Ham. Where is your brother?

Naamah comes up from behind him.

NAAMAH

Where ever he is, Sedeqetelebab is with him.

Noah rolls his eyes.

NOAH

Oh, for crying out loud. Shem!

Noah walks up the steps to the upper deck. He looks in Shem's room. Sure enough, he and Sedeqetelebab are in there.

SHEM

You know, we're going to have to have about a hundred children.

SEDEQETELBAB

Oh, I know. After all, we have the whole earth to repopulate.

They move in for a kiss. Noah clears his throat. They separate.

SHEM

Father!

NOAH

As much as I appreciate your devotion to your duty, we have several hundred animals to feed and clean.

SHEM & SEDEQETELAB

(sheepishly)

Yes, father.

NAAMAH (O.S.)
(calling out)

Noah!

Noah turns and runs down the steps to Naamah, who looks cheerful.

NOAH
What is it?

She points to the bird area.

NAAMAH
Look. It came back.

Noah looks and there with its mate sits the dove.

NOAH
Okay, so it didn't find a place, but
we'll send it out in seven days and
try again.

EXT. ARK - DAY

SUPER: "7 Days Later"

Noah releases the dove again.

INT. ARK - DAY

Some time later, Noah sits next to the window, half-asleep. He hears a fluttering which awakens him. He looks to the window. The dove sits on the sill, holding in its beak a leaf from an olive tree.

Noah reaches out and takes the leaf from the dove's mouth. He looks at it in wonder. Suddenly, he bursts with laughter and cheering.

He runs to the families' rooms where everyone is resting.

NOAH
Look! Look!

NE'ELATAMA'UK
What is it?

HAM

A leaf?

NOAH

Do you know what this means?

JAPHETH

The water has receded?

NOAH

The water has receded!

Everyone cheers and hugs each other.

EXT. ARK - DAY

The ark sits atop a mountain plateau. All around it, grass has grown and the land is green and fertile. Down the mountainside, the land is regrown and ready for a new age of mankind.

INT. ARK - DAY

SUPER: "1657 Anno Mundi"

SUPER: "Second Month, Twenty-seventh Day"

The family of eight walks toward the great door that has been sealed since the beginning of the flood.

GOD

Come out of the ark, you and your
wife and your sons and their wives.

The door falls open of its own accord. Sunlight shines in on them. They walk out of the ark down the ramp and onto the grass-covered ground.

EXT. ARK - DAY

The family walks out of the ark followed by the throng of animals. Shem leads some of the sheep. Japheth and Adatan'eses carry some birds.

GOD

Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you - the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground - so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it.

EXT. GROVE - DAY

Noah stands beside an altar. The other seven members of his family kneel around him. He paces the meat of some of the sheep and some of the birds on the altar. He sets it on fire. The smoke carries high into the heavens.

NOAH

We give thanks, Oh Lord, for your goodness and mercy in bringing us through the evil you set upon the earth to bring mankind to account for his wickedness...

EXT. HEAVEN - DAY

In the vast brightness of heaven, an Angel brings the smoke from the sacrifice before God's throne. An unseen force takes the smoke from the angel into the presence of the throne.

GOD

Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.

EXT. GROVE - DAY

Noah has stepped back from the altar.

GOD

Noah.

NOAH

Yes, God?

GOD

Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. From each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God had God made man. As for you, be fruitful and multiply on the earth and increase upon it. I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.

Noah and his family stand, looking into the heavens, listening to God speak to them. Over their heads, a rainbow appears

GOD

This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, for all generations to come.: I have set my rainbow in the clouds. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears, I will remember my covenant.

An idyllic image of Noah with his family...the couples hand-in-hand standing in a green grove setting...the rainbow spreads over their heads...the ark sits atop the mountain above them...the animals walk away from the scene.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARD - EVENING

SUPER: "1683 Anno Mundi"

Noah is throwing a celebration for their prosperity in the new world. His family is now far larger than it was when the ark landed 25 years ago.

Japheth and Adatan'eses have 5 sons and 3 daughters. Ham and Ne'elatama'uk have 4 sons and 3 daughters. Shem has 3 sons and 4 daughters. They all sit around an enormous table. The food has been eaten. Noah appears to have had a little too much to drink.

NOAH

(standing)

To my three sons, their wives, and their rapidly growing families. We were charged to repopulate, and I believe we have done an admirable job.

Everyone cheers.

NOAH

To my grandchildren...uh...

(to Japheth's sons)

Gomer, Magog...and some more...

(to Ham's sons)

And Cush and Canaan...and...you other two and those girls there...

(to Shem's sons)

And Elam and Asshur and Arf- um...

Arfaxel...no...Arfilex...

SHEM

(clearly embarrassed)

Arphaxad, father.

NOAH

Yes, of course. My family and all.

NAAMAH

Perhaps it is time to turn in.

JAPHETH

I agree.

NAAMAH

Noah, let's go.

NOAH

I can walk, woman.

Noah stumbles out of the tent, and walks to his tent. He flips the tent flap closed. Naamah turns to Shem, Ham, and Japheth who have come up to her.

NAAMAH

I believe the juice of the fruit of the vine has cured too much, Shem.

SHEM

He knows better.

JAPHETH

He was caught up in the moment. Look at us! We made it. We have families and are soon going to repopulate the earth through our children.

HAM

What possessed him to drink so much?

SHEM

Must we dwell on this, Ham?

NAAMAH

I'm going to let him sleep it off. Once he comes to his senses, he'll apologize to you all.

SHEM

I know.

JAPHETH

Yeah.

HAM

I'm going to make sure he's lying
down all right. I'd hate to have
him hurt himself.

NAAMAH

Good idea.

HAM

I'll be back.

Ham walks across the camp to Noah's tent. He opens the tent
flap.

HAM

Father, are you okay?

Inside the tent, Noah lies on his back. His clothing is wide
open exposing him. Ham stands for a moment, taken aback by the
sight. Then, he laughs.

HAM

You silly old man! You have too
much to drink and then you lie
naked in your tent!

He laughs again and walks out. He walks across the camp back to
Japheth, Shem, and Naamah.

HAM

(laughing)

Our father is out of his mind.
He laid down in his tent, but
opened his clothes, exposing
himself.

SHEM

You would make fun of our father?

Ham stops laughing.

HAM

What?

SHEM

Mother, where is a blanket?

NAAMAH

I will get one for you.

SHEM

Would you bring it to father's tent?

NAAMAH

Yes.

Shem and Japheth walk over to Noah's tent, but do not open the flap. Naamah brings them a blanket. They turn with their backs to the tent. Ham walks up and observes them.

They open the tent and back in allowing the blanket to cover Noah. They finally turn to him and make sure he is covered. They exit the tent.

Shem and Japheth walk up to Ham.

JAPHETH

Father will know of this, Ham.

HAM

He did it to himself, Japheth! Why should I be punished for his sin?

SHEM

He may have sinned by drinking too much. But you also sinned by mocking him.

Shem walks away. Japheth follows. Naamah leaves him alone.

INT. NOAH'S TENT - DAY

Noah wakes up. He looks at the blanket and then looks around, confused. He sits up, and holds his head. Realization dawns on him, and he hangs his head, shamefully. He rises and closes his robe. He goes to his knees.

NOAH

Father in heaven, please forgive me for my sin...

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARD - DAY

Noah exits the tent. He looks around. Shem, Ham, and Japheth sit around the table. Their families are nearby. They look up as Noah approaches. Noah holds up his hands.

NOAH

Before anyone says anything, I would like to ask your forgiveness for my shameful actions last night. I did not realize how far the fruit had fermented.

SHEM

There is a far more serious offense that occurred last night, father.

NOAH

What is it?

JAPHETH

We knew you were drunk. In order to spare you any further disgrace, we got you to your tent, where we presumed you fell asleep. Ham decided to check on your welfare.

SHEM

I felt it would be a good idea to ensure you didn't hurt yourself.

NOAH

Agreed. Thank you.

JAPHETH

However, when he walked into your tent and found you were uncovered, instead of hiding his eyes and covering you discreetly, he laughed.

NOAH

Laughed?

Noah looks down to Ham, who is sitting with his head down.

SHEM

Not only did he laugh, but he came to tell us what he saw in order to further mock you.

Noah stands and looks to Ham.

NOAH

My youngest son would do this to me?

HAM

You did it first! You got drunk off your wine.

NOAH

The sin of one does not justify another! You cannot use my actions to justify yours.

HAM

I can, and I do! What can you do?

NOAH

Cursed be Canaan, your youngest son! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers.

Noah turns to his other two sons.

NOAH

But blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem.
May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave.

Shem and Japheth look at each, wondering at the weight of their father's words.

EXT. SHINAR - LAND OF UR - DAY

SUPER: "1947 Anno Mundi"

TERAH, a man of 70 and a prince of the KING NIMROD'S armies, walks across a courtyard into the palace of the king.

INT. NIMROD'S PALACE - DAY

Nimrod, the 40-year-old king of Shinar, is dressed ostentatiously in robes and jewels. A MAN kneels before him, his DAUGHTER with him.

Before the man is a large basket of goods from his fields. Nimrod is flanked by many officials and girls who attend to him. On one side is another of the princes of his armies, KEDERLAOMER.

NIMROD

Is this the best you have to give me?

MAN

The crops do not respond, my lord Nimrod. I plant seeds and thorns come up.

NIMROD

I think you have held some of the best for yourself. The god of the harvest requires more from you, or he will not give you more.

MAN

My lord. I always bring the best to you to offer to Yedazba, our god of harvest. Still, the ground yields little.

NIMROD

You dare lie to your king?

The man whimpers and grovels closer to the ground.

MAN

I am not lying, your majesty!

NIMROD

What am I to take from you in
offering to atone for your
selfishness?

He glances to the daughter and smiles. He grabs her by the hair
and jerks her to her feet. She shrieks in surprise and pain.

NIMROD

What about this?

He checks her out up and down.

NIMROD

She pleases me.

The man looks up in surprise and grovels at Nimrod's feet.

MAN

No, my lord, no! She is my only
daughter!

NIMROD

You do not find me worthy of your
daughter?

MAN

No, you are worthy! You are worthy!

Nimrod kicks the man.

NIMROD

Your presence insults me. Get him
out of here!

MAN

No! Don't take my daughter!

NIMROD

Flog him, and get him out.

Nimrod kicks the basket of fruit, spilling it everywhere.

NIMROD

And that is what Nimrod and Yedazba
think of your offering!

He laughs and gazes upon his new prize, who stands fearfully in place.

NIMROD

Relax, my beauty. You'll learn to love me.

The door opens and Terah enters. Nimrod smiles.

NIMROD

Terah! Prince of my armies. How has been the conquests of today?

TERAH

As always, the gods stand with us, King Nimrod.

NIMROD

Of course they do. I am the king.

Nimrod pushes the daughter to the floor.

NIMROD

Stay there.

(to Terah)

I understand your new wife, Amthelo, is ready to bear you another child.

TERAH

She is. I was heading home to check on her.

NIMROD

Of course, of course. I was on my way to my own chamber to handle an offering.

He looks hungrily at the daughter, who weeps.

TERAH

An offering?

NIMROD

Her father refused to offer the best to the god of the harvest, so I had to decide for him.

TERAH

You took her for yourself or the gods?

NIMROD

I will do as I please, and then sacrifice her in the fire.

TERAH

Your majesty is always so generous with his blessings.

NIMROD

That's why I am king. Kiss your wife for me.

TERAH

Of course, my lord. She will be honored. Will I be needed for a few days?

NIMROD

No, no. Kederlaomer will be pleased to fill your position for a few days. He has been aching to prove his worth to his king.

TERAH

He will do credit to his lord and master. Good evening, my lord.

Terah bows to Nimrod and exits. Nimrod jerks the daughter up from the floor.

NIMROD

Come with me, by beauty. We have things to do.

He leads her out of the throne room.

EXT. SHINAR - DAY

Terah walks through the city to his own house, close by the palace.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Terah's wife, AMTHELO, is very pregnant. She sits on a chair beside a table, breathing rather heavily. Terah's two sons, HARAN and NAHOR (both 32), sit with their mother.

HARAN

Father, I think mother is ready.

Terah walks over to his wife.

TERAH

How do you feel?

AMTHELO

It is time.

TERAH

Haran, go to the palace and get a midwife.

Haran nods and runs out.

TERAH

Nahor, we need some water.

NAHOR

Yes, father.

Nahor runs out. Terah helps his wife to the bedroom.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Several SERVANTS, WISE MEN, and CONJURERS sit around Terah's table eating and drinking. Jubilance resonates the setting and the men may be a little drunk.

TERAH

My dear servants, wise men and conjurers of Nimrod. Tonight is a special evening. I have another son!

Everyone cheers and drinks. Terah settles them.

TERAH

He will be a servant to our lord,
Nimrod, and be under me as my
other sons, Haran and Nahor have
been.

Everyone cheers again.

WISE MAN 1

What have you named him?

TERAH

A wise name, my wise friend. My lord,
Nimrod, has raised me above the rest
of his princes in these days, even
though my house is not of his.

CONJURER 1

You are not of the lineage of Ham?

TERAH

Oh no, no, no. I am not so lofty
as to be from Ham as Nimrod is
of Cush, Ham's firstborn. No, my
friends, Ham's brother Seth is my
forefather. I am 8 generations
from Shem, while Nimrod is only
the 2nd from Ham. That makes me
dirt in comparison and he exalted
me in spite of this. Because my lord
Nimrod has smiled on me and exalted
me, my son's name is Abram.

WISE MAN 2

That is a fine name.

TERAH

An exalted name for the son of his
exalted father!

Terah drinks deeply.

EXT. TERAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The wise men and conjurers leave Terah's house into the night.
Suddenly, they stop and look to the heavens.

CONJURER 2

Look!

As they watch the stars, a large star emerges from the east. It races across the heavens and seems to devour four large stars in the four corners of the heavens above them.

The conjurers stand gape-mouthed at the sight. The wise men look at each other, as if understanding it.

CONJURER 1

What was that?

WISE MAN 2

This refers to the child that was born to Terah this evening. He will grow to be fruitful, and multiply, and possess all the earth - he and his children forever. He and his seed will slay great kings and inherit their lands.

The other wise men nod in understanding. The conjurers stand in shock.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PALACE - DAY

All the wise men and conjurers from Terah's party come together in a private chamber.

CONJURER 1

We have brought everyone here concerning the vision we all witnessed last night, and the interpretation you so wisely gave concerning it.

WISE MAN 2

What do you want to do?

CONJURER 2

The sight last night is still hidden from the king, is it not!

WISE MAN 1

It has not been made known to him.

CONJURER 3

If this thing should become known to the king later, he might ask us why we have concealed the matter from him, and then we will all die by his hand.

WISE MAN 3

Then let's go and tell the king what we saw and the interpretation of it, and we will remain clear of this matter.

CONJURER 1

Agreed.

In unison, they leave the room.

They walk through the halls of the palace to the throne room where Nimrod sits, talking sweet to one of his girls. He looks up at the entrance of the Wise Men and Conjurers and frowns. They all kneel before the throne, heads bowed low.

WISE MEN & CONJURERS

May the king live! May the king live!

NIMROD

Why do you come before me, uninvited?

CONJURER 1

We heard that a son was born to Terah, the son of Nahor, the prince of your armies, and last night, we went to his house to celebrate with him.

NIMROD

So?

CONJURER 2

When we, your servants, left his house to go to our own homes, we looked into the heavens and saw a great star coming out of the east. It moved with great speed and swallowed up four other great stars from the four corners of the heavens.

Nimrod leans forward, intrigued.

NIMROD

And what does this mean?

WISE MAN 1

We were astonished at the sight, and also terrified when we judged the meaning of this sight by our wisdom. It applies to the child which was born to Terah yesterday. He will grow up and multiply greatly, and become powerful, and kill all the kings of the earth, and inherit all their lands. It will belong to him and his seed forever.

CONJURER 1

And now, our lord and king Nimrod, we have advised you truly of what we have seen and judged about this child.

WISE MAN 3

If it would please the king, we would advise you to give his father the value of the child. Then we will kill him before he can grow up and increase against us, so that neither we nor our children would die from his evil.

NIMROD

(perplexed)

Terah would rise up against me?

WISE MAN 2

Not he, but his child.

NIMROD

Then bring me Terah, so we may carry out your plan. I cannot have my kingdom threatened by a servant.

WISE MEN & CONJURERS

May the king live!

The wise men and conjurers leave the king's presence.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Terah kneels before the king.

NIMROD

Rise, Terah. Do you know why you are here?

Terah rises.

TERAH

No, my lord.

NIMROD

The wise men and conjurers of the palace ate and drank with you last night in celebration of your new son - Abram, is it?

TERAH

The king is full of knowledge.

NIMROD

They also witnessed a vision that shows this child to one day rise against us and destroy this kingdom and take my rule away from me and my children. Do you want this to happen?

TERAH

No, my lord.

NIMROD

Then give me the child, so that I may kill him before this evil is allowed to come forth.

Terah is shocked.

TERAH

You want to kill him?

NIMROD

I will give you his value: your house will be full of silver and gold.

Terah gathers himself.

TERAH

My lord, I have heard and understood your words, and of course, I will do all that the king requires. But first, let me tell you what happened yesterday evening, to see what advice the king has for me.

Nimrod sits on his throne.

NIMROD

Speak.

TERAH

Last night, Ayon, son of Mored, came to me and asked for the great and beautiful horse you gave me. He offered silver and gold or straw and provisions for its value. I told him I would need to speak to you first, and whatever you tell me to do, I will do.

Nimrod stands in anger.

NIMROD

Are you a fool or ignorant or so short on silver, gold, straw or provisions that you would sell the beautiful horse I gave you? There is none other like it on the earth!

TERAH

Is this not like you asked of me, though, to sell my youngest son for silver and gold so that you may kill him? What am I supposed to do with silver and gold after the death of my son? Who will inherit me? No one, and at my own death, the silver and gold will return to the king who gave it to me.

Nimrod reels back and strikes Terah, knocking him to the ground.

NIMROD

How dare you speak to me in such a manner! Tell me why I should not remove you from the position I graciously gave you!

Terah climbs to his feet, and stands before the Nimrod, who is fuming.

TERAH

All that I have is in the king's power and whatever the king desires to do to his servant, even my son, he may do, without value in exchange. Not only he, but his two brothers that are older than he.

NIMROD

You can keep your eldest sons, but I wish to purchase your youngest for a price.

TERAH

If it would please the king, allow me three days time to speak to my family about this. Please, my king, I beg of you.

NIMROD

Very well, but the decision can be none other than that which I have commanded. I will have your son in three days' time.

TERAH

Thank you, my lord.

NIMROD

Now, get out of here.

Terah bows.

TERAH

May the king live!

Terah exits the throne room.

EXT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Terah walks quickly home and enters his house.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Terah closes the door fast behind him and stands against it. Amthelo, Haran, and Nahor look up at his entry. Amthelo is holding Abram.

AMTHELO

Terah, what is it? What's wrong?

TERAH

It's the king. Nimrod has been told that our youngest son is to grow up to overthrow him, and he wants him dead. He has offered silver and gold for him, but I cannot take it, Amthelo.

AMTHELO

What are we going to do?

TERAH

I don't know. He has all the power in the kingdom at his fingertips. He could destroy us, and no one would remember our name.

HARAN

We can't allow this!

TERAH

I cannot sacrifice Abram, but I am powerless against the king!

AMTHELO

How long has he given us?

TERAH

We have three days.

NAHOR

Three days for what?

TERAH

If we can't figure out a way to save Abram, then we will need to place him in the king's hands. We will have no choice.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "Three Days Later"

Terah is pacing in the house. Haran and Nahor watch him.

TERAH

What am I to do? Abram will die!

HARAN

We could take him far away. No one will ever find him.

TERAH

Useless, Haran. The king knows everything that goes on. Even he went alone, then he would kill the rest of us. If we all went, it will be like we died anyway. We cannot leave Shinar.

NAHOR

So unless you deliver Abram to the king, we are lost.

TERAH

It seems that way, Nahor.

There is a knock at the door. Terah opens it and a servant stands before him. The servant hands him a scroll.

SERVANT

An urgent message from king Nimrod.

Terah takes it from him.

TERAH

Thank you.

The servant leaves. Terah shuts the door. Fearfully, he opens the scroll.

TERAH

(reading)

"Your three days are done. Send me your son now for the price we agreed upon. If you should refuse, I will send your own soldiers against you and kill all in your household. Not even a dog will remain."

He drops to the floor, crumpling the scroll in his hands.

TERAH

It is over. My time is up. My son will die.

Amthelo appears, holding a baby. Her face is emotionless.

AMTHELO

Who was at the door?

TERAH

It was a servant of Nimrod. He commands that Abram be brought to him, or he will destroy us all.

AMTHELO

I have a solution to our problem.

TERAH

What is it?

AMTHELO

I have here the son of one of our servants who gave birth only yesterday. Take her son in place of ours.

Terah stands and looks at her.

TERAH

She agreed to this?

AMTHELO

When I helped her give birth, I told her he died in childbirth, and took him away. She believes her son died, and when you give him to Nimrod in place of Abram, he will.

Amthelo hands the child to Terah.

TERAH

If this is the price of being in the service of the king, then the price is too high.

AMTHELO

We have no choice.

Terah looks at the child for a moment, and without another word, he takes the child and exits.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Terah hands the child to Nimrod. Nimrod smiles and takes him.

NIMROD

Wise decision, Terah. You may pick up your payment from my vaults at your convenience.

Terah nods and bows.

TERAH

May the king live!

NIMROD

You may return home to mourn. Let it not be said Nimrod is not without mercy.

Terah turns and leaves the room quickly. Nimrod smiles at the child evilly. He turns and exits the throne opposite the main entrance.

INT. PALACE - DAY

Terah closes the throne room doors behind him and leans against the wall. He seems to be resisting the urge to vomit. Slowly he recovers himself and walks out.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Terah walks into his house. He sits down. His face is ashen, as if in shock. One might believe he did put his own son to death this day. Amthelo enters.

AMTHELO

(quietly)

Did it work?

Terah nods.

AMTHELO

Are you ok?

Terah nods.

TERAH

I will be. It was not our son, but that child did nothing to deserve death.

AMTHELO

I know. But you have to think of yourself first, and the servant is here to serve you, be it by her own life or that of her children.

TERAH

I know.

Terah gets up and walks into the room where baby Abram sleeps. He lifts his child into his arm and looks at him. Terah smiles as a tear runs down his face.

TERAH

Amthelo. You and Abram cannot stay here in Shinar.

AMTHELO

What?

TERAH

The king and his wise men, and his conjurers all believe Abram is dead. If they still find you and he alive, our fate will be worse than before, and that child's death would be in vain.

AMTHELO

Where do we go?

TERAH

Anywhere. I will take you to the edge of the country. I can bring you provisions every month.

AMTHELO

I can't live alone.

TERAH

We will bring a servant with us. We have to leave now before anyone discovers what we've done. Bring a woman you trust.

Amthelo nods and exits the room.

TERAH

I swear, Abram, nothing will happen to you.

EXT. OPEN PLAINS - DAY

Terah, Amthelo, and a NURSE trek across grassy plains toward some mountains. Amthelo carries Abram, wrapped in swaddling cloth.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - DAY

The cave sports a great view of the plains they just crossed and at the bottom of the mountain is a small forest with a creek. They place their things on the floor of the cave.

TERAH

You will be safe here, I promise.

AMTHELO

How long are we to stay here?

TERAH

Until we are sure the king has forgotten about Abram.

AMTHELO

But how long do you think that will be?

TERAH

I don't know. I will bring you fresh provisions monthly, and when the time is right, I will tell you. Part of me doesn't want Abram to return for his own safety.

AMTHELO

I can't stay out here forever.

TERAH

We don't have any choice. I have very limited family.

AMTHELO

Who do you have?

TERAH

I don't know who to trust.

AMTHELO

There has to be at least one good, trustworthy man in your family tree that our son can stay with when he is old enough.

Terah racks his brain, until it looks like a light comes on in his head.

TERAH

There is one.

AMTHELO

Who?

TERAH

The father of all of us. If anyone knows about goodness, it would be him.

AMTHELO

Who?

TERAH

Noah.

Amthelo looks at him, surprised.

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARDS - DAY

SUPER: "10 Years Later"

SUPER: "1957 Anno Mundi"

Terah and his 10 year old son, Abram, walk alone toward the home of Noah and Shem.

Noah, now 901, walks out of his house and sees them coming. He smiles and walks out to greet them. Shem, 399, and his wife, Sedegetelebab, look after him and smile.

NOAH

My dear Terah. I praise God for your coming to see me.

TERAH

Father Noah, I come with my son, Abram, whose life was threatened by Nimrod from birth.

Noah looks at Abram, who smiles at him.

NOAH

Hello, Abram. I'm Noah.

ABRAM

Hi.

NOAH

Tell me, Terah, why come to me?

TERAH

I'm not going to lie to you. My world is wicked, and I know it. I don't know what my youngest son is destined for, but I know that I will be unable to help him with it, since I am no better than anyone else, and just as wicked, I'm sure.

NOAH

God will still accept you. You don't have to leave.

TERAH

Yes, I do. I know I'm lost, but he has hope. I have none.

NOAH

It is, of course, your decision. I and Shem will instruct him in the ways of the Lord, so that he can be upright in this generation and the knowledge of the Lord will not pass away.

(to Abram, pointing to Shem)

Abram. Go with Shem. He'll show you where to go.

ABRAM

Ok.

He hugs Terah goodbye.

TERAH

I'll see you later, son.

ABRAM

Goodbye, father.

Abram runs off to meet with Seth. Seth hugs him. Terah watches as Seth, Sedeqetelebab, and Abram walk inside the house.

NOAH

Why are you here?

TERAH

I am not comfortable taking him back to Shinar, and I knew you could be trusted to raise him right.

NOAH

You know he won't follow your gods. He won't walk in the ways you have walked. He will learn to fear and love the Lord, my God, who created the heavens and the earth, and who destroyed the earth for doing what your people are now practicing.

TERAH

I know.

NOAH

Why don't you stay with him? You can be forgiven.

TERAH

I can't. I let a child die because I wanted him to live. I don't want to be forgiven for that. I deserve to die. I don't deserve forgiveness.

NOAH

If you ever change your mind, you know where to find us, and soon, you can simply talk to your son. You can be forgiven if you ask.

TERAH

Thank you, Noah, for taking care of him.

Noah hugs Terah.

NOAH

Thank you for bringing him.

Terah walks away. Noah watches him for a moment.

NOAH

(to himself)

Finally, the world has hope again
for a future.

Noah turns and walks back to his house as Terah makes his long trek back to Shinar in Ur.

END OF ACT THREE

Source Material:

From the Bible:

Genesis 7:24-9:29, 11:10-11:26

From Extra-Canonical Works:

The Book of Jasher 6:34-42, 7:22, 7:41, 7:49-8:36, 9:4-5