

THE HOLY BIBLE

TELEPLAY EDITION

Episode 1004

"Broken Towers"

by

George Willson

Based on the novel by God

TEASER

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARD - DAY

SUPER: "1986 Anno Mundi"

Abram, 39, walks through Noah's vineyards with Noah, 930.

ABRAM

Father Noah, I have listened to all you have told me about our God, and I know he exists in the heavens, but where is he?

NOAH

Abram, the Lord has given you an understanding heart and great wisdom. You know the works of this generation are in vain, and all their gods are prayed to to no avail. They have forgotten God and serve gods of wood and stone and rebel all their days.

ABRAM

I understand, but I don't.

NOAH

It is the nature of God to conceal himself until you are ready to find him. Search for Him. You will find Him.

ABRAM

Yes, sir.

Noah walks away leaving Abram alone in his vineyard. Abram walks out of the vineyard to the very borders of Noah's land. He stands looking upward at the sun, as if pondering it.

ABRAM

Perhaps this sun which shines upon the whole earth is God, and him will I serve.

Abram kneels to the ground and raises his hands praying to the sun. Time passes quickly as Abram praises the sun in pantomime. Darkness falls on the land as the sun goes away.

Abram looks at the sky. He shakes his head.

ABRAM

No, this can't be God.

Abram rises to his feet and looks into the heavens.

ABRAM

Who is he that made the heavens and the earth? Who created man upon the earth? Where is he?

Abram looks at the moon and the stars.

ABRAM

Perhaps the moon is the God who reigns over us and created man as well as the earth. And these stars are other gods who serve him.

As before, Abram kneels to the ground and raises his hands praying to the moon. Time passes quickly as Abram praises the moon in pantomime. Sunlight splashes across the land again as the sun returns.

Abram looks up again, curiously. He shakes his head.

ABRAM

No, these are not gods that created the earth and all mankind, but these are the servants of God Almighty.

Abram bows his head again.

ABRAM

God who created the heavens and the earth and all mankind and the moon and the stars and the sun above. I do not know where you are, but I know you exist. Grant to me the understanding and wisdom I need to be a light for you in this generation of darkness and always stand by you in my darkest hours that wait ahead.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. PALACE OF NIMROD - SHINAR - DAY

A large group of people enter the Palace of Nimrod.

INT. PALACE OF NIMROD - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Nimrod, now 79, sits on his throne with an entourage of bodyguards and women around him. Terah, aged to 109, Nimrod's prince of armies and Abram's father, stands beside him.

The group who walked in is led by four very old people, the sons of Ham: PUT, MIZRAIM, CUSH (Nimrod's father), and CANAAN. They are accompanied by a large number of their relations. Nimrod does not appear to be surprised at such a suddenly large number of people before him. Terah seems rather taken aback by them.

TERAH

My lord, is this expected?

NIMROD

(to Terah)

It is. There is a great plan in the making. I have heard of it already although they may suspect I have not.

TERAH

How do you know?

NIMROD

Several reasons, my prince of armies. I reign securely, and all the earth is under my control.

(indicating Cush)

That man is my father, and those descended from him are my own family. They keep me informed.

TERAH

Your rule is that of wisdom.

NIMROD

Of course it is.

Nimrod stands before them.

NIMROD

Welcome, my father, my uncles, and my family. Your coming is not entirely unexpected, and I look forward to your words.

CUSH

My son and my king, the earth is under your control, and it seems there is no one you do not rule. The enemies of the land of Ur few and you crush them easily.

NIMROD

You speak the truth, my father. Continue.

CANAAN

However, before you are able to crush your enemies, they attack your brethren, and destroy our cities, scattering us and forcing us to settle in areas far from where we began.

NIMROD

Where are these enemies so I can crush them! Terah prepare your men.

Terah starts to leave, but Cush halts him.

CUSH

Wait. We have a plan that may please you. We should build ourselves a great city, and in this city, a strong tower - its top reaching into the heavens. We will make ourselves famous among all the people of the world. We will reign upon the whole world so the evil of our enemies will cease. You will reign mightily on them, and we will not be scattered on account of their wars.

Nimrod waves Terah back.

NIMROD

Tell me about this tower.

CUSH

As our lord is divine by his very nature - greater than even I, the humble man who fathered him - this tower will reach into the heavens, so rather than defeat our enemies, you may take over the seat of the gods themselves, and you will rule the earth from heaven.

Nimrod smiles, standing.

NIMROD

Yes. It is not fitting that I should stay on the earth, while the gods reign over me. I should reign over them, for I am greater than they are.

The people nod and agree.

NIMROD

Very well. Let's find ourselves a good location for this city. We will build it and the tower into heaven as its centerpiece.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY - MONTAGE - DAY

Terah and his men gallop into the various areas of the country. Cush, Canaan, Put, and Mizraim also gallop with their people around the country. They all stop at various locations apparently discussing how to go about building the city. Terah stops at the top of an overlook and looks into a valley. Terah smiles.

END MONTAGE

EXT. VALLEY OVERLOOK - DAY

Terah stands at the overlook of the valley he stopped at only a moment ago. With him are Nimrod, Put, Mizraim, Cush, and Canaan, along with several members of their families.

NIMROD

This is your recommendation for our city which will be the center of the world.

TERAH

Yes, my lord. We have discussed it at length and find there is none like it. We are only a two days' walk east of the land of Shinar.

NIMROD

It is perfect. Make it happen.

Nimrod walks away. Terah follows. Cush turns to the people.

CUSH

Alright. Everyone get the rest of your families, and get them here. Bake bricks! Burn fires! Build the city and the tower we envisioned!

The people cheer.

EXT. TOWER CITY - DAY

SUPER: "1995 Anno Mundi"

The city has been built. A large tower is under construction in the center of the city. It has an enormous base (about a third of the way up the tower was supposed to be a 3 days' walk in circumference) that takes up most of the valley, like a huge mountain growing to the heavens. The pinnacle of the tower is extremely high already.

Workers on the top continue their efforts to extend the height of it. An endless stream of other workers walk up and down the height of the tower carrying bricks and mortar to those on the top.

INT. TOWER - DAY

Nimrod walks through the halls of the tower overlooking the landscape far, far below through windows. Terah walks with him. The view is breathtaking and stretches for many, many miles. One can see to Shinar and beyond.



NIMROD

This is a thing of beauty, isn't it, Terah?

TERAH

It is, my lord. Your genius is unparalleled.

NIMROD

From here, I can observe my full domain - all that is under my rule and control. Our enemies dare not attack us with this as our vantage.

TERAH

Your tower is frightening to all who would oppose you.

NIMROD

We must return to Shinar. I will not live here until it is completed.

TERAH

Of course not. One such as yourself would not live in an incomplete tower like this, regardless of its obvious majesty.

NIMROD

Exactly right. Do we know happened to the arrows we fired into heaven earlier?

TERAH

I know they came down. They landed several levels down. Others went to the ground.

NIMROD

Let's go.

Nimrod and Terah exit a side door.

EXT. TOWER - DAY

Outside the tower, Nimrod and Terah descend down an endless series of steps down the side of the tower.

NIMROD

How are the workers doing?

TERAH

They continue to the heavens, my lord. Our casualties have been minimal.

NIMROD

I don't care about the men. How many bricks have they broken.

TERAH

Extreme care is, of course, exercised with the bricks. But they have still broken quite a few.

NIMROD

Unacceptable!

As if on command, a brick falls from the tower.

VOICE FROM ABOVE

Look out!

The brick smashes two levels below Nimrod. He and Terah run down the steps to the broken brick. Several men gather around it, like they would a fallen comrade. A HANDY MAN gathers the pieces together.

NIMROD

(with concern)

Is it all right? Can it be repaired?

HANDY MAN

I will do what I can. I think I can put it back together, my lord.

NIMROD

Do so with all haste.

The Handy Man nods and picks up the pieces in a bag. He carries it down the tower.

TERAH

Should we try to determine who  
dropped it?

They both look up to the top of the tower far above them. They look at each other for a moment. Nimrod shrugs.

NIMROD

No, I think they'll receive their  
punishment from the gods in time.

Terah nods and they walk down the tower.

Suddenly, a scream issues from high overhead. A MAN falls down the tower, hitting the growing sides and bouncing off it as he falls. His screaming stops after a couple of bounces, but he continues falling. No one stops working or pays this any attention.

He lands finally on a ledge. Another man walks out and kicks the body off, letting it continue to fall to the ground.

NIMROD

We do have someone at the bottom  
to clean that up, don't we?

TERAH

Of course. We don't want a mess  
at the foot of our great tower.

Nimrod and Terah continue their descent.

NIMROD

Where did the arrows we fired into  
the heavens land?

TERAH

Not far from here I believe.

Terah signals a nearby work who is walking down the tower.

TERAH

You there! Where did the arrows  
fired into heaven land?

WORKER

Over there, my lord.

Terah and Nimrod walk over to where several arrows are lying on the side of the tower. Several workers are looking at them. Terah walks over and picks one up. The arrows are covered in blood.

TERAH

King Nimrod, look! The arrows are  
covered in blood.

NIMROD

Hah! Then we have slain all those  
who are in heaven. Continue working!  
This tower must reach to heaven so  
I can war against those who remain  
and ascend into heaven to rule!

The men scatter and continue their work.

EXT. VALLEY OVERLOOK - DAY

Nimrod and Terah sit atop their horses and overlook the city.

NIMROD

Look at it, Terah. Soon, it will be  
complete, and I will rule the heavens  
and all the earth.

TERAH

Yes, my lord.

EXT. HEAVEN

In the stunning brightness of heaven, seventy angels stand before the throne of God. God remains an intangible light.

GOD

Mankind has labored many years to create a thing to ascend into heaven. The motives of his heart are impure and rebellious. If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.

As god speaks, the angels descend to the earth, flying through the air without wings.

EXT. TOWER - DAY

The angels swirl around the tower, unseen by the line of workers. One of the workers is paying attention and bumps into another one.

ENGLISH WORKER 1

Excuse me.

SPANISH WORKER 1

Què dijo usted?  
(What did you say?)

ENGLISH WORKER 1

What did you say?

SPANISH WORKER 1

¿Trata usted luchar conmigo?  
(Are you trying to fight with me?)

ENGLISH WORKER 1

Hey, what's your problem?

GERMAN WORKER 1

Auf was geht?  
(What is going on?)

ENGLISH WORKER 1

What?

SPANISH WORKER 1

Què?  
(What?)

GERMAN WORKER 1

Ich weiß nicht was Sie sagen aber  
hinter darf arbeiten!  
(I do not know what you are saying  
but get back to work!)

ENGLISH WORKER 1

You better stop playing with me  
or you are dead.

GERMAN WORKER 1

Was? Bedrohen Sie mich?  
(What? Are you threatening me?)

SPANISH WORKER 1

¡Callate!  
(Be quiet!)

The Spanish worker swings at the English worker who ducks. The Spanish Worker strikes an FRENCH WORKER ahead of them.

FRENCH WORKER 1

Hey! Pourquoi avez-vous fait cela ?  
(Hey! Why did you do that?)

ENGLISH WORKER 1

Stop talking like that.

The English Worker grabs the French Worker and knocks him into the Spanish Worker, throwing them both screaming off the tower.

GERMAN WORKER 1

Sie können das nicht machen!  
(You can not do that!)

ENGLISH WORKER 1

You want to be next?

Understanding the universal language of the fist, the German Worker backs off.

Elsewhere on the tower, other arguments are ensuing because no one can understand anyone else.

EXT. VALLEY OVERLOOK - DAY

Nimrod and Terah observe the ensuing chaos and look confused.

TERAH

What's happening, my lord.

NIMROD

I don't know, Terah.

Suddenly, an earthquake shakes them from their mounts. The horses run away.

NIMROD

What the-

EXT. TOWER - DAY

The ground beneath the tower splits open. Men fall from the heights of the tower hitting the various levels and fall into the fissure.

The tower itself sinks into the ground. As it sinks, fire comes out of heaven and burns up the top third of the tower. Men run aimlessly around screaming.

EXT. VALLEY OVERLOOK - DAY

Nimrod and Terah watch in horror as their dream sinks into the ground and goes up in flames all at the same time.

EXT. TOWER CITY - DAY

The tower continues to sink until one-third of the tower is beneath the surface. The earth closes sealing off the lower part of the tower. The part that remains is still huge in circumference, but it is only a smoking third of what began.

In the aftermath, bodies are everywhere. People are beginning to pick up the pieces of the destruction. Even now, though, people are unable to communicate with each since they speak different languages.

Slowly, people begin to understand those who speak their languages and they all split up and go their separate ways.

EXT. VALLEY OVERLOOK - DAY

Nimrod and Terah sit in shock, staring at what remains of their achievement. Nimrod frowns and stands.

NIMROD

The gods did not approve of this venture. Let's return to Shinar.

TERAH

Yes, lord.

Nimrod walks away. Terah pauses a moment to look back at the destruction. For a moment, he gazes into heaven, but turns away and follow Nimrod.

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

EXT. NOAH'S VINEYARD - DAY

SUPER: "1997 Anno Mundi"

Noah, Shem, and Abram walk across the vineyard to its borders. Abram is dressed for traveling.

NOAH

It has been two years since God confounded our one language into many because of the sin of Nimrod. He reigns now in Babel, which he himself named the city where his tower fell, and your father remains the prince of his armies.

SHEM

It is there that you must go first. It will be a difficult journey. Ur of the Chaldeans is not a safe country for one who fears God.

ABRAM

It will, but if I remain here, I will not be doing the work God intends me to do. It was God's will that I should be separated from my family, but if I do not return, then they will be lost with the rest of mankind.

SHEM

God has a plan for you. Whatever it is, you must always follow him to accomplish it.

ABRAM

I will.

NOAH

Take care, Abram. God will be with you.

Noah hugs Abram. Shem hugs him next.

SHEM  
Walk in His ways, brother.

ABRAM  
I will. Good-bye.

NOAH & SHEM  
Good-bye.

Abram walks away from Noah's vineyard. Noah and Shem look after him.

NOAH  
The salvation of the world rest on  
his shoulders.

SHEM  
He knows.

They turn back to their home.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL OVERLOOK - DAY

In the valley east of Shinar, the city of Babel has been built around the enormous ruins of the middle third of the Tower of Babel. Abram stands on the overlook where Nimrod and his father, Terah, stood 2 years earlier.

He takes a deep breath. Walks down the slope into the city.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL - DAY

Abram walks through the city. As he nears the palace, he stops a PASSERBY coming out of it.

ABRAM  
Excuse me, I'm looking for the home  
of Terah, the prince of Nimrod's  
armies.

PASSERBY  
Over there.

Abram spots the house off to the side of the palace.

ABRAM

Thanks.

PASSERBY

Whatever.

Abram walks over to the house and knocks. SARAI answers.

SARAI

Yes?

ABRAM

Hello. I'm Abram, son of Terah.

SARAI

I'm Sarai, also of Terah. Who is your mother?

ABRAM

My mother is Amhelo. Is she still alive?

SARAI

Yes, she is. She is here with my mother, Kedurah.

ABRAM

May I come in?

SARAI

Oh, yes. I'm sorry.

ABRAM

It's ok. We're strangers to each other.

SARAI

But you are my brother, so I should welcome you.

Abram enters the dwelling.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is set up similarly to the one in Shinar. Sarai brings him in, and he stops in the main living area.

SARAI

If you'll give me a moment, I will get your mother, Amhelo.

ABRAM

Thank you.

Sarai leaves him. Abram looks around the room. He spots an open door down the hallway. Beyond the door, a few statues can be seen. Amhelo enters, followed by Sarai and Kedurah.

AMHELO

Abram? Oh, Abram, you've returned!

Amhelo embraces him.

AMHELO

Let me look at you. Well, goodness, the last forty years have been good to you. You've been with Noah?

ABRAM

Yes. We felt it was time I returned.

AMHELO

Yes, I'm sure it will be fine. I think that whole sordid incident has been forgotten.

ABRAM

I imagine so.

AMHELO

You've met Sarai, your half-sister?

ABRAM

I have.

AMHELO

And this is her mother, Kedurah.

ABRAM

Glad to meet you.

KEDURAH

Likewise.

The group stands uncomfortably for a moment.

KEDURAH

Well, Sarai and I have some work to do. We'll give you some time to catch up.

AMHELO

Thank you, Kedurah.

Kedurah and Sarai leave. Sarai steals a final glance to Abram. He smiles at her as she leaves.

AMHELO

I'm so glad you're back. I've missed you.

ABRAM

And I have missed you as well. How is my father?

AMHELO

Still leading the armies of Nimrod. You must have so many questions. We didn't have a lot of time to teach you of our world before Terah took you to Noah. So much has happened...

ABRAM

I do have a question.

AMHELO

Anything.

ABRAM

What is in here?

He leads her down the hall.

AMHELO

Oh, this is the chamber of the gods.

Abram opens the door to find 12 gods of wood and stone set in 12 little temples. There are many others without number filling the room. Abram's brow furrows as his anger regarding this builds.

ABRAM

The gods, eh?

AMHELO

Oh, yes. You should ask your father when he returns. He can tell you all about them. He'll be so happy to see you.

ABRAM

And I him.

AMHELO

Let me get you something to eat. You must have had a long journey.

ABRAM

Yes, thank you, mother.

Amhelo runs off. Abram looks around the room, and hits the door in anger.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - LATER

Abram sits at the table in the dining area. Terah enters. He glances over to see Abram sitting at the table, watching him.

TERAH

Abram?

Nahor follows Terah in and looks over to Abram.

TERAH

My dear Abram, it is so good to see you again.

Terah embraces him.

TERAH

Amhelo! Prepare a feast. We will celebrate his return.

AMHELO

Is that wise, my husband?

Terah thinks a moment.

TERAH

Perhaps you're right. We will have a private family feast for the return of my son. Nahor, go tell Haran to bring his family to celebrate the return of your youngest brother.

NAHOR

At once.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Around the table (clockwise) sits Terah, Amhelo, Abram, Nahor, Haran, LOT (Haran's son), EDNA (Haran's wife), MILCA (Haran's daughter), Sarai, and Kedurah (who sits next to Terah). Abram and Sarai sit across from each other. Terah sits at the head of the table. The other head is empty.

Terah stands.

TERAH

My beloved family. Fifty years ago, we were forced to divide our family by sending my youngest son Abram away to protect him from the fury of our king Nimrod. The gods blessed us seven years later when my eldest, Haran, had his son, Lot. And again, when he had Milcah. It was ten years later, before Amhelo returned from her mountain cave exile, I took Kedurah as a second wife, and just after I returned, we had Sarai.

(MORE)

TERAH (CONT'D)

And now, after forty more years,  
Abram has returned to us from the  
house of Noah. Abram, is there  
anything you would like to share  
with the family?

Terah sits. Abram stands.

ABRAM

Thank you, father. Although I was  
born to this family, I am like a  
stranger in a land I've never known.  
I come with many questions and  
hopefully many answers based on  
lessons of our distant past.

HARAN

What kind of lessons?

ABRAM

The world was destroyed by a flood  
many years ago. There were reasons  
for its destructions. We must be  
careful not to repeat those mistakes.

TERAH

The gods were wise in their judgments.  
Now we serve them faithfully, one for  
each of our months of the year. They  
will not destroy us again.

Abram quietly sits down.

SARAI

Will you tell us more of this?

ABRAM

Another time.

TERAH

Of course. Now, it's time to eat.

Sarai smiles at Abram. He smiles in return.



INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Abram sits at a chair near a window, looking out at the moon and stars. Terah enters and stands near him.

TERAH

What is it, Abram? What are you looking at?

ABRAM

The moon. The stars. How wondrous they are.

TERAH

So have you finished your stay with Noah?

ABRAM

I have.

TERAH

How was it?

ABRAM

It was ... enlightening.

TERAH

Then what brings you back here?

ABRAM

I have to ask you something.

TERAH

I would be honored to answer anything you have to ask.

ABRAM

Father, tell me where is God who created heaven and earth, and all the sons of men upon earth, and who created you and me.

Terah smiles and places his hand on his son's shoulder.

TERAH

My son, those who created us are  
all with us in the house.

ABRAM

Really? Would you show them to me?

TERAH

Nothing would give me more pleasure.

Terah leads Abram down the hall to his room of idols. He opens  
the door to the room already familiar to Abram. Abram feigns  
wonder at the gods.

TERAH

Look, these are the god who made all  
that you see on all the earth, and  
that created you and me and all  
mankind.

Terah then bows to his gods and worships them. Abram stands  
behind him, looking on with remorse. After a moment, Terah  
stands.

TERAH

In time, I will teach you how the  
gods wish you to worship them.

ABRAM

Thank you.

Terah leaves. Abram follows.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Abram walks up to Amhelo.

ABRAM

Mother, my father has shown me those who have made heaven and earth and all the sons of men. Now, quickly bring me a goat from the flock and make of it a savory meat, so I can bring it to my father's gods as an offering for them to eat. Maybe I can become acceptable to them.

AMHELO

Of course. Give me only a moment to prepare it.

ABRAM

Thank you.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - CHAMBER OF THE GODS - LATER

Abram, as reverently as possible, carries the prepared meat into the chamber and sets it before the gods. Abram sits before them, watching them. He glances from one to the other, as if waiting for one of them to do something.

ABRAM

Hm. Perhaps the savory meat I prepared for them has not pleased them. Maybe it is too little for them, and that's why they refuse to eat.

He looks among them again.

ABRAM

Very well. Tomorrow I will prepare fresh meat - better tasting and more of it, so that they may find it acceptable and eat.

Abram takes the meat away and leaves the room.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Amhelo, again, is working on the house. Abram approaches her.

ABRAM

Mother, in order to please my father's gods, I require more meat of the flocks. Perhaps we may have the meat of three of the goats.

AMHELO

I will prepare it for you.

ABRAM

Thank you, mother.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - CHAMBER OF THE GODS - DAY

As before, Abram walks into the chamber with the meat, now three times the former amount. He places it before the gods. He waits and watches them.

ABRAM

I bring you more of the savory meat, and still you refuse to stretch out your hand.

He watches them a moment longer.

ABRAM

Perhaps I am being impatient. I am sorry. I'll wait.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - CHAMBER OF THE GODS - NIGHT

Abram remains where he is, watching the gods and the meat. Nothing happens. Suddenly, Abram stands as if imbued with power.

ABRAM

Woe to my father and this wicked generation, whose hearts are inclined to vanity, who serve these idols of wood and stone which can neither eat, smell, hear nor speak-who have mouths without speech, eyes without sight, ears without hearing, hands without feeling and legs which cannot move! Like them are those who made them and that trust in them.

Abram walks out of the room. He returns with a hatchet.

He uses the hatchet to chop up the gods of wood and smash the gods of stone. He avoids touching the large god before the meat. He destroys every god in the room in his anger.

EXT. TERAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Terah pauses outside his door, hearing the noise issuing from within. He quickly enters.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - CHAMBER OF THE GODS - NIGHT

Abram finishes his task. He sets the hatchet in the hand of the great god he did not touch. With a smile, he turns to leave.

The door slams open. Terah stands in the doorway. He stands shocked. Abram looks at his father for a moment. He walks out of the room.

ABRAM

Excuse me.

Unable to move or speak, Terah allows Abram to leave. Terah touches the large god with the hatchet. He looks at the meat. He looks at the hatchet. He looks at all his smashed gods.

His surprise turns to anger. He storms out of the room.

INT. TERAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Abram sits, waiting for Terah. He is very relaxed and even a little amused by what he has done. Terah charges into the room, smoking mad.

TERAH

What did you do to my gods?

ABRAM

Me? Why do you think I destroyed them?

TERAH

You were there? Who else could have done it?

ABRAM

Oh, no person destroyed them, father. I brought meat before them to eat, and when I did, they all stretched out their hands to eat before the great one did. When the great one saw they were working against him, his anger boiled against them. So he took the hatchet that was in the house, and destroyed them all. Surely you saw the hatchet in his hand, didn't you?

Terah looks at Abram, incredulously.

TERAH

What?! You know that story isn't true. Why would you lie to me? Are there spirits in these gods or soul or power to do what you have just said? They're just wood and stone that I created myself. How can you say that the large one destroyed the others? It was you that destroyed my gods and placed the hatchet in the great one's hand.

Abram looks at his father curiously.

ABRAM

So you serve idols in which lies no power to do anything? Can you trust these idols to deliver you? Do they hear your prayers when you call on them? Can they deliver you from your enemies when they can neither see nor hear? Are you so silly, so foolish, or so short of understanding that you and the sons of men would forget the Lord God who made heaven and earth, and who created you, and serve wood and stone like this?

(MORE)

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Didn't our fathers in the days of old  
sin like this when the Lord God of the  
universe brought the waters of the  
flood upon them and destroyed the whole  
earth? How can you continue to serve  
gods of wood and stone that you  
yourself created who can not hear, or  
speak, or deliver you from oppression  
and thereby bring the anger of the  
only God of the universe upon you.

Abram walks back into the Chamber of the gods. He removes the  
hatchet from the hands of the great god.

ABRAM

My father, turn away from this, and  
do not bring evil down upon your  
soul and the souls of your family.

Abram swings the hatchets and splits the great god. Terah reacts  
in shock and pain. Abram runs out with the hatchet.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Terah is knelt before the throne as Nimrod enters from the rear.

NIMROD

Terah. What do you want?

Terah does not rise and keeps his head bowed.

TERAH

My lord Nimrod, I beg of you to  
hear me.

Nimrod sits. Terah rises.

NIMROD

I'm listening.

TERAH

My lord, fifty years ago, a child was born to me. He has destroyed my gods, and called me a fool to worship them. Please my lord and king, send for him so he will come before you, and judge him according to the law, so we may be delivered from this evil.

Nimrod sits back on his throne and snaps his fingers. Three servants run up to him.

NIMROD

Go find Abram, son of Terah. He has defiled our gods and disobeyed our laws.

The servants bow to Nimrod and run out.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL - NIGHT

Abram stands beside a temple of idols of wood. A group of people are around him. He still holds the hatchet in one hand.

ABRAM

If this is your god that controls all things, it should be able to stop my hand from destroying it, right?

The people stand silent. Their belief says yes, but their logic says no.

CROWD MAN

The god of protection is not there. How can that god be protected without its partner?

ABRAM

Does a god need another to serve as its guard? Very well, bring its protector and we shall see if it can protect its master as well as itself.



The king's servants break up the group and speak to Abram.

SERVANT

King Nimrod has ordered you to the palace.

ABRAM

Of course.

Abram swings the hatchet and lodges it in the head of the wooden god. The people gasp. Abram goes willingly with the servants.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Nimrod stands before Abram, looking down on him from the throne. Kederlaomer, another prince of Nimrod's armies, stands at Nimrod's side along with Terah.

NIMROD

What is this thing you have done to your father's gods?

ABRAM

The great god among the smaller ones became angry when the smaller reached for the meat before the greater could. He destroyed them. The hatchet was in its hands.

NIMROD

These things do not have the power to speak or eat or even do what you have said.

ABRAM

Then why do you worship them?

NIMROD

What?

KEDERLAOMER

How dare you speak to the king in such a fashion!

ABRAM

If there is no power in them, why do you cause the sons of men to sin by worshipping them? Do you think they can do anything, small or great, and this is why you serve them? Why won't you acknowledge the God of the whole universe, who created you and in whom is the power to kill and to keep alive? Oh foolish, simple, and arrogant king. You are cursed forever.

Nimrod stands in anger.

ABRAM

You should have taught your servants and people the righteous way, but instead you have filled the whole earth with your sins and the sins of your people. Don't you know that our ancestors sinned in this way and that the Lord God brought the flood on them to destroy the whole earth? Turn away from this evil and serve the God of the universe. Your soul is in his hands. Serve him and it will be well with you.

NIMROD

Throw him into prison!

Kederlaomer snaps his fingers. Servants come in from the wings to carry Abram off. He continues, undaunted.

ABRAM

If your wicked heart will not listen to my words so that you will leave your evil ways, and serve the eternal God, then you will die in shame. You, and your people...

(looks to Terah)

...and all who are connected with you...

(back to Nimrod)

...hearing your words or walking in your ways.

NIMROD

I said, get him out of here!

The servants drag him out.

ABRAM

God sees the wicked, and he will  
judge them.

They carry Abram out the door, and it closes behind him.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CITY OF BABEL - PALACE - DAY

The group of Wise Men and Conjurers enter the palace. Some are the same ones that attended Terah's party fifty years ago.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Nimrod stands before them in the midst of explaining the problem.

NIMROD

...and when he spoke, he did so boldly and without fear. His heart did not fail him, and he did not stir in my presence. He is currently interred in my prison. Tell me what punishment should be given to the man who reviled the king, and who did and said all that I have told you.

The Wise Men and Conjurers turn to each other.

WISE MAN 1

The man who reviles the king should be hanged upon a tree.

CONJURER 3

But having done all the things he has done...

CONJURER 2

...and said all that he has said...

WISE MAN 2

...and having despised our gods...

The Wise Men and Conjurers turn back to the king.

CONJURER 1

In this matter, the law is clear.

WISE MAN 1

The man must be burned to death.

WISE MAN 3

If it please the king, let him  
order his servants to kindle a  
fire both day and night for three  
days and nights in his furnace.

CONJURER 2

And then cast the man into it.

NIMROD

Let it be done.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL TOWN SQUARE - MONTAGE

--A great furnace is placed in the midst of the City of Babel  
near the ruins of the tower.

--Men stoke great fires within the furnace as day changes to  
night and back to day.

--People gather little by little around the square and atop the  
buildings to watch what is going on.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CITY OF BABEL TOWN SQUARE - DAY

An enormous crowd sits around the furnace all over the city  
within sight of it. Nimrod, Terah, Kederlaomer, the Wise Men,  
and Conjurers stand a safe distance from the furnace awaiting  
the arrival of Abram. In the crowd stands Amhelo, Haran, Nahor,  
Sarai, and Lot, watching.

NIMROD

(addressing the crowd)

Fellow Chaldeans of the City of  
Babel of the land of Ur. A man has  
come to us destroying our gods and  
trying to upset our way of life.  
For this crime, he has been sentenced  
to death by fire.

The crowds cheer. Guards appear leading out Abram, who is not  
resisting them. The Wise Men and Conjurers see Abram, they  
realize who it is.

WISE MAN 3

Wait, this is the man who was born  
to Terah fifty years ago?

NIMROD

It is.

Terah realizes they know who Abram is, but is powerless to quiet  
them.

CONJURER 2

And his name is Abram?

NIMROD

Yes.

WISE MAN 1

My king, this is the man we know  
to have been the child at whose  
birth the great star swallowed the  
four stars which we declared to  
the king at that time.

NIMROD

What?

He looks at Terah, who has become very uncomfortable.

WISE MAN 2

So his father must have went against  
your commands, and mocked you by  
bringing another child, which you  
killed.

NIMROD

You have heard what the Wise Men  
have spoken against you. Did you do  
this thing? Speak the truth, and  
it will not be held against you.

Terah takes a deep breath.

TERAH

What your Wise Men have spoken against me is true.

The Wise Men and Conjurers congratulate each other on a wise diagnosis.

NIMROD

Why? How could you go against my orders, give me a child who was not born to you, and take value for him?

TERAH

Because my tender feelings were excited for my son, at that time, and I took a son of my handmaid, and I brought him to my king.

NIMROD

Who told you to do this? If you do not hide this from me, you will not die.

Terah looks over at his family. Amhelo is very nervous.

TERAH

It was Haran, my eldest, who advised me to do this.

Haran's mouth drops open.

HARAN

What?

NIMROD

Haran, who advised you to do this to me will die through fire with Abram. For the sentence of death is on him for having rebelled against the king for advising you to go against his orders.

Nimrod signals to Haran. His servants take him away from his family.

HARAN

No. This isn't fair. I didn't do anything.

NIMROD

You have been convicted. Your pleas will not spare you.

Haran is placed next to Abram. He and Abram are stripped to their undergarments. Abram turns to him. The servants work to tie their hands and feet.

ABRAM

If you wish to live, you'd best reconcile your heart to God.

HARAN

I had said to myself after you were captured that if you prevail, I would follow you, but if the king prevails, I would follow the king.

ABRAM

How do you stand now? With God or with the king?

HARAN

(angrily)

Against my father for choosing his life over mine.

ABRAM

That is unfortunate.

Hands and feet tied, the servants signal to Nimrod that they are ready.

NIMROD

Now is the time for your judgment. Throw them in.

The servants lift Abram and Haran. A large compliment marches them to the fire.



Intense heat radiates causing even the faithful servants of Nimrod to recoil from it. They back off from it, worried for their own safety.

NIMROD

Throw them in, now!

Someone fights the heat and goes to the door of the furnace. The servants carry Abram and Haran to the furnace. The Door Servant opens the door. The servants throw Abram and Haran in. Fire belches out engulfing the servants in fire, killing them.

Nimrod stands in solemn victory. Terah is unmoved. Amhelo is crying on Nahor, along with Sarai and Lot.

The people slowly disperse.

INT. FURNACE - DAY

Lying on his back in the furnace, Abram looks over to Haran. Haran screams and burns to ashes quickly in the fire. Abram looks at his bonds. They burn away into ashes from his hands and feet.

He stands in the flames, untouched. He kneels.

ABRAM

Thank you, Lord God of the universe  
for your protection in rescuing me  
from certain death.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

The town square is deserted. The fire still burns with the furnace. Two guards stand a short distance from the furnace. One of the guards glances over to it. Inside, he sees Abram walking around.

Shock registers and he figures out what he is looking at.

INT. FURNACE - NIGHT

Barefoot, Abram walks in the fire. His garments do not burn and his feet do not scorch from the heat. He paces inside, waiting for the time when he will be released.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

The guard signals to his partner.

GUARD 1

Look in there.

GUARD 2

What is it?

GUARD 1

The man Nimrod threw in there is walking around. He isn't burned up.

GUARD 2

By the gods, you're right!

GUARD 1

You think we should report this to Kederlaomer?

GUARD 2

Not yet. Maybe he has thick skin.

GUARD 1

Yeah, he has thick skin.

The two guards continue to watch Abram walking back and for the inside the furnace.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Kederlaomer stands before Nimrod with Guard 1. Nimrod appears confused.

NIMROD

He is just walking around in there?

GUARD 1

Yes, my king. He has not burned up. his bonds have burned off his hands and feet, and his brother has burned up as well, but he lives.

NIMROD

This is not possible. Servants!

A large number of servants stand before him.

NIMROD

Kederlaomer.

KEDERLAOMER

Yes, my lord.

NIMROD

Take these servants, go to the town square to verify this man's words. Find my Wise Men and Conjurers and take them as well. I must know whether this is true or not.

KEDERLAOMER

Yes, my lord.

Kederlaomer and the servants bow and exit.

EXT. CITY OF BABEL TOWN SQUARE - DAY

A crowd of people are around the furnace. Nimrod is carried in. Terah and Kederlaomer walk with him. He looks at the furnace, led by Wise Man 1.

WISE MAN 1

You, my lord, that he is in there, but does not burn up. However, his brother is dead.

KEDERLAOMER

We are unable to explain this.

NIMROD

Guards! Remove him from the furnace!

The guards approach the furnace, but the flames wrap up around the sides. They shrink back from the heat.

NIMROD

What are you waiting for? Bring him out! Now!

The guards approach the furnace, and the flame lap around them, killing 8 of them. The rest back away from the furnace. Nimrod looks at them in shock. He calls to Abram in the furnace.

NIMROD

Oh, servant of the God who lives  
in heaven, come out from the fire  
and stand before me.

The door opens and Abram steps out. Everything is intact except the cords with which he was bound. He walks across the assembly to Nimrod. He does not bow before him.

NIMROD

How is it that you were not burned?

ABRAM

The God of heaven and earth in whom  
I trust and who has all in his power  
delivered me from the fire in which  
you cast me.

Nimrod bows to Abram. Suddenly, all of the people there bow down to Abram, as if to worship him.

ABRAM

No!

Nimrod looks up.

ABRAM

Do not bow down to me, but bow down  
to the God of the world who made  
you, and serve him, and go in his  
ways for it is he who delivered me  
out of this fire, and it is he who  
created the souls and spirits of  
all men, and formed man in his  
mother's womb, and brought him into  
the world. It is he who will  
deliver those who trust in him from  
all pain.

Nimrod stands before Abram.

NIMROD

Your God is the one true God of the world. This is the most wonderful thing this king has seen in all his long years. You shall have my two head servants as your own. Oni! Eliezer!

ONI and ELIEZER come forward to the king. Nimrod guides them to Abram.

NIMROD

They shall guide you to a house I give to you as your own. You shall live in peace with silver, gold, and pearls which I will provide you. All I ask is that you teach me of this God, so I may worship him as well.

ABRAM

I will. Thank you.

NIMROD

Now go in peace. Eliezer, take him to the house near his father's.

ELIEZER

Yes, my lord.

Abram follows Eliezer away from the furnace. The crowd follows behind them as Abram walks through the city to his new house beside the king's palace.

END OF ACT THREE

Source Material:

From the Bible:  
Genesis 11:1-9, 27, 28

From Extra-Canonical Works:  
The Book of Jashar 9:1-39, 11:1-61, 12:1-42