

FADE IN:

EXT. JERUSALEM - TWILIGHT

587 B.C.

The sound of RUNNING.

A hooded YOUNG MAN barrels through the crowded streets. He rounds a corner, stumbling over an INNKEEPER lighting a TORCH outside his INN.

INNKEEPER

(shouting)

God is not in a hurry. He will wait
for you.

Oblivious to the innkeeper, the young man regains his pace and swiftly moves up a hill.

A gust of WIND blows off his hood to reveal BARUCH, a well-built, refined Jewish man clearly out of his element.

The hill steepens as Baruch sets his eyes on his destination:

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE shines brilliantly through the star-blanketed sky.

EXT. SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - TWILIGHT

Baruch runs up to a group of smug LEVITES at the Temple Gate.

BARUCH

Where is Jeremiah?

LEVITE # 1

It is not written in one of your
scrolls?

LEVITE # 2

Surely Jeremiah prophesied to you
earlier where he would be.

The Levites laugh. There will be no help here.

Baruch quickly moves on through the gate.

BARUCH

(under breath)

Their humor lacks as much as their
honor.

EXT. OUTER TEMPLE COURT - TWILIGHT

Baruch looks and scans the various groups.

TRAVELERS proposition some temple HARLOTS.

A WEALTHY MAN negotiates a bribe with a PRIEST.

DEBAUCHERY everywhere.

ETHNI, one of the Levites, is suddenly by Baruch's side.

ETHNI

You should not expect anything more
from them, my friend. Besides, I am
sure you know where he is.

Baruch lifts his head to the sky, above the VILENESS in the Temple Court. He turns toward the WEST and sees:

A SHADOWED FIGURE on the NW corner of the wall. Baruch hurries toward the figure.

EXT. NW CORNER OF TEMPLE WALL - TWILIGHT

JEREMIAH looks out over the countryside.

CAMPFIRES flicker in BABYLONIAN ENCAMPMENTS as far as the eye can see.

Jeremiah turns towards Jerusalem.

ALTARS to BAAL (the god of fertility and nature), ANAT (goddess of sensual love and fertility) and ASHERAH (mother-goddess and queen of heaven) are displayed prominently across the rooftops.

Jeremiah's powerful eyes are heartbroken.

Baruch bursts from a nearby stairwell.

BARUCH

The princes of Judah come for you.

JEREMIAH

By King Zedekiah's command?

BARUCH

By his looking the other way.

JEREMIAH
This news...it is from Ebed-Melech?

BARUCH
(nods)
This time they seek your life.

Baruch and Jeremiah look off beyond the gates of the Temple.
A CLUSTER OF TORCHES move quickly up the Temple Mount.

JEREMIAH
We must go quickly, then.

Jeremiah and Baruch run along the top of the Western Wall.

Reaching the SW corner they see...

The torches gain on the Temple Gate.

EXT. OUTER TEMPLE COURT - NIGHT

Jeremiah and Baruch dash down a winding stairwell, coming out into the Temple Court, racing through the TEMPLE CROWD. Ethni runs up beside them.

ETHNI
They are already at the gate. There is no way out.

BARUCH
I will distract them. Jeremiah, if you get to the aqueduct you will be safe.

They slow down by the gate.

ETHNI
Let me take care of the distracting.

JEREMIAH
God will reward you.

Ethni heads through the gate.

EXT. TEMPLE GATE - NIGHT

Three princes of Judah, SHEPHATIAH, JUCAL and PASHHUR, along with their OFFICERS, talk to Ethni and the same Levites who mocked Baruch earlier. They point off to the NW corner where Jeremiah was, just as...

Jeremiah and Baruch lunge through the gate and down the Temple Mount.

The princes' officers take off after them. The princes begin to follow suit but...

Ethni motions for them to stop.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

HIGH SPEED FOOT CHASE. And Baruch and Jeremiah need to do some stellar running as PARUAH and BOHAN, two chief officers, both large men, quickly gain on them.

JEREMIAH

What is their charge?

BARUCH

The princes have the idea that you are weakening the hands of the men of war who remain in the city. That you don't seek the welfare of our people but their harm.

JEREMIAH

Do they think I take pleasure in delivering so many harsh words? Yet, in God's mercy, He still offers these rank and vile people warning, that their lives may be spared.

Jeremiah and Baruch round a corner and duck into an ally.

JEREMIAH

We must separate.

BARUCH

Let us switch cloaks.

They trade garments and then take off in different directions.

JEREMIAH

I shall see you at the aqueduct entrance.

Bohan and Paruah stay on with Baruch.

Baruch, running around a bend, LOOKS BACK. He turns and stumbles face first into a CART OF WET, SLIMY MANURE.

Bohan and Paruah are around the bend, closing the gap.

Baruch is quickly back on his feet and running, covered head to toe with DUNG. All of a sudden he stops, quickly turns around and runs back towards the cart.

Bohan and Paruah run around the bend and are immediately
FLAT ON THEIR BACKS.

They look up to see an EMPTY CART, MANURE covering them and the street as Baruch hurries off into the night.

EXT. AQUEDUCT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jeremiah and Baruch arrive at a HIDDEN ENTRANCE to an
AQUEDUCT TUNNEL almost simultaneously.

Jeremiah, now holding a TORCH looks Baruch over.

JEREMIAH
What is that smell?

BARUCH
You do not want to know.

Making sure no one is looking, they enter the tunnel.

INT. AQUEDUCT TUNNEL - NIGHT

Jeremiah and Baruch make their way down a damp corridor to an underground channel of water.

BARUCH
Looks cold.

JEREMIAH
You could use the bath.

Jeremiah laughs as he pushes Baruch in the water. Baruch splashes wildly and then sinks under the water.

Jeremiah sets the torch on the edge and looks over into the water.

SPLASH!

In one swift movement, Baruch rises out of the water and pulls Jeremiah in.

JEREMIAH
(laughing)
I see - an eye for an eye!

Baruch stands up - it's only waist deep. He grabs the torch and heads off into the darkness. Jeremiah follows.

JEREMIAH
Are you going to tell me how so quickly you came to be covered in such stench?

BARUCH
Actually, you will find it amusing...

EXT. AQUEDUCT EXIT - NIGHT

LAUGHING from within.

Jeremiah and Baruch exit the tunnel.

JEREMIAH
I am impressed you had the state of mind to run back and dump the cart.

FOUR LARGE ARMS reach down and grab Baruch and Jeremiah.

BOHAN
Our backs and tailbones do not feel so impressed.

PARUAH
We will see how long you laugh now.

Shephatiah and Jucal, two of the princes of Judah and the other officers who were at the Temple Gate, are gathered loosely around the tunnel exit.

Shephatiah moves into Jeremiah's face. He is tall and impressive; his smile is charming, yet deadly. Jucal, a short, measly man stays behind Shephatiah.

SHEPHATIAH
You should realize by now, Jeremiah, that for the man of God you say you are, you seem to continually take confidence in the wrong people.

Ethni steps from the shadows.

ETHNI

They left me no choice. Shephatiah has assured me that this is for the greater good of the people. What else was I to do?

Baruch lunges towards Ethni, swinging.

BARUCH

You dirty dreg!

Bohan easily decks Baruch and lays him out cold.

SHEPHATIAH

Leave the scribe. We have the one we came for.

INT. DUNGEON OF MALCHIAH - NIGHT

Jeremiah, stripped almost naked, is lowered into a dark cistern by ropes.

INT. DUNGEON CISTERN - NIGHT

Jeremiah sinks into a SLUDGY MIRE.

SUCTION SOUNDS as he tries to move around until he sinks up to his armpits.

EXT. COLLEGE - NEW ENGLAND - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

STUDENTS walk in various directions at differing paces on this classic Ivy-League campus.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

A large LAMINATED MAP of ANCIENT JERUSALEM.

PROFESSOR ELI NEWMAN, a distinguished looking middle-aged man in a tweed suite, illustrates his point with a DRY ERASE MARKER across the map.

PROFESSOR ELI

So, as hard as it is to fathom, *all* of this was once Mt. Moriah before Solomon built the Temple and his royal Palace.

Professor Eli faces the class, who is surprisingly enthralled by his lecture.

PROFESSOR ELI

The workers dug completely through here, to not only provide building materials for the Temple, but more importantly to raise the height of the city wall to nearly impenetrable heights.

The professor points to a specific spot on the map.

PROFESSOR ELI

Now the really fascinating thing is this. Can anyone identify this mount?

JOHN YOUNGMAN, a habitually front-row student, quickly raises his hand while simultaneously spouting off the answer.

JOHN

Golgotha.

PROFESSOR ELI

Correct. Known as "The Place of the Skull" because of the skull-like appearance of the rock configuration on the mount. And who...

John's hand shoots up.

PROFESSOR ELI

...besides Mr. Youngman, can tell me the historical significance of this place?

JANE WEST, an ambitious young lady, raises her hand.

PROFESSOR ELI

(beat)

Someone who actually waits to be called on. What a novel idea. Jane?

JANE

It's the place where they crucified Christ.

PROFESSOR ELI

So then Jesus Christ was crucified on what is technically still Mt. Moriah.

(MORE)

PROFESSOR ELI (cont'd)
Who can tell me another relevant
event that happened on this
mountain?

The professor looks around the class. There is only one hand
up...it is John's. Although it's torture, he waits to be
called upon.

PROFESSOR ELI
OK. John?

JOHN
It's where Abraham offered up Isaac
to God.

PROFESSOR ELI
That means that God offered up his
son, Jesus, on the very same
mountain. As far as we know, it
could have very well been that
Jesus was crucified in the exact
spot that Abraham rose his knife to
sacrifice Isaac, before God stopped
him.

KRIS EATON, an earthy, hip young lady pipes up from the back.

KRIS
Wild.

PROFESSOR ELI
"Wild" is not exactly how I would
put it, but I will say it is a
fascinating idea.

The BELL rings.

PROFESSOR ELI
Something to ponder over your break
and then we'll pick up here in
exactly 10 days.

The STUDENTS rush out of class. All except, John, Jane and
Kris, who make their way towards the Professor.

JANE
How come we never heard about this
in Sunday school?

JOHN
You never heard of Abraham going to
sacrifice his son?

Jane is annoyed at the question.

JANE

I just didn't remember the specific name of the mountain.

PROFESSOR ELI

Sunday school is where you were taught the Bible; here we're digging into the stories behind the stories. That's the wonder of archeology.

KRIS

I just thought it was an excuse for grown-ups to play in the dirt.

PROFESSOR ELI

Maybe not an excuse, but a way to keep your dignity whilst doing it. Have a great time in...where was it you were going?

JANE

The three of us here are going with my brother Paul to our grandparents' place out on Long Island. We haven't been there in years.

KRIS

And John and I get to meet a great archeologist.

Jane gives Kris a sharp glance.

KRIS

Her grandfather. In his day.

JANE

Well, it's really more of a passionate hobby of his...he doesn't consider himself a *real* archeologist.

JOHN

(under breath)

That's not what you said earlier.

PROFESSOR ELI

You can't mean Samuel West...he's your grandfather?

JANE

You've heard of him?

PROFESSOR ELI
He's quite a legend in certain
circles. A bit of a maverick with
some pretty far-out ideas.

PAUL WEST a handsome, rugged young man appears in the
doorway.

PAUL
Come on guys, we need to get on the
road.

KRIS
Alright! Let the road trip begin!

JOHN
See you, Prof.

JANE
Have a good break!

Jane, John and Kris head out the door after Paul.

PROFESSOR ELI
You have a good time at your
grandparents', now.

Professor Eli ponders as he looks after them.

EXT. LONG ISLAND MANSION - LATE AFTERNOON

A well-worn PT CRUISER CONVERTIBLE pulls in the driveway of
an astute Long Island Gold Coast estate. Jane is at the
wheel. Paul, Kris and John are sacked out.

Excitement fills Jane's eyes as she parks the Cruiser and
jumps out. The other three stir from their slumber.

Jane breathes deeply and takes in the fresh salt air.

SAMUEL AND GRACE WEST, Grandma and Grandpa, hurry out the
front door in excitement. Samuel West is ignited with joy - a
tender glow pours out of his tough exterior. Grace West
exudes a warm, stalwart elegance.

GRACE
Jane!

SAMUEL
Ah, Janey! You bring treasure to
this old man's soul!

The others groggily make their way out of the car.

SAMUEL
I see you had a lot of road support
on the last stretch.

PAUL
Grandpa!

Samuel and Paul embrace.

SAMUEL
Pauly! No longer the skinny
teenager, I see!

KRIS
The college cafeteria food has done
wonders for us all.

PAUL
Hey, it's muscle...pure muscle.

Kris mockingly pats Paul's stomach.

KRIS
Solid.

GRACE
Paul! How, I've missed you both!

Grace gives Paul a big kiss on the cheek.

PAUL
Hi Grandma!

KRIS
(smiling)
Hi, I'm Kris.

Samuel tenderly shakes Kris' hand.

SAMUEL
It is a pleasure to have such a
lovely young lady as a guest in our
home.

Notices John.

SAMUEL
And of course, this strapping young
man, too.

JOHN
I've been called a lot of things,
but I'm not sure if I've ever been
called "strapping". I'm John.

John and Samuel exchange a firm handshake.

GRACE
So good to meet you, John.

SAMUEL
Now that we have our introductions
out of the way, we have a wonderful
dinner waiting inside the house.

Pleasantries are exchanged between all as they enter into the mansion.

JOHN
(under breath)
I don't think I'd necessarily call
this a "house".

EXT. MANSION VERANDA - TWILIGHT

The rising moon sparkles off the ocean, as a cool breeze rolls over the sand dunes and up to the veranda.

Samuel, Paul, and John are all gathered casually around on some WICKER FURNITURE as Grace, Kris and Jane bring out COFFEE and DESSERTS. John looks across the scenery as Kris pours him some coffee.

JOHN
Now, this is life the way it's
supposed to be.

KRIS
Don't get used to it, bub!

JOHN
Whaddaya mean?

JANE
You relax now, and we'll relax
later when "the boys" clean up.

The girls sit down with the guys.

JANE

Grandpa, we were having an interesting talk in our biblical archeology class earlier today.

SAMUEL

Oh?

JANE

Our professor was...

JOHN

...talking about some of the history of Mt. Moriah. Oh, sorry, Jane.

JANE

No, go on. It wouldn't feel right if you didn't butt in!

JOHN

He talked about Mt. Moriah basically being divided when Solomon built the temple.

SAMUEL

Mt. Moriah is one of my favorite subjects.

PAUL

Well, good. Because that's about all Jane talked about for the first leg of our journey...and as you saw, she put us all to sleep.

JANE

You're so funny, bro!

PAUL

Who's trying to be funny?

SAMUEL

Did he mention anything more about Mt. Moriah...Professor Eli Newman, right?

JOHN

You know him?

SAMUEL

I know a little of him; archeology is a fairly small circle.

JANE
Well, he seemed to know of you!

SAMUEL
(laughs)
I'm sure he does! So what else did he talk about?

JANE
About Golgotha...

JOHN
...originally being a part of Mt. Moriah. Sorry.

KRIS
We're going to start thinking you two are married here pretty soon.

JANE
He's only finishing my sentences...it goes both ways if you're married.

PAUL
Jane was saying that Jesus was crucified on the same spot Abraham offered up Isaac.

SAMUEL
That is true...the Bible is full of these mysteries that are only now being revealed to modern man...

A GUST OF WIND seems to accent his words.

Samuel looks out across the ocean, deep in thought.

INT. MANSION LIBRARY - NIGHT

The mansion library is neatly overloaded with BOOKS, MAPS and a variety of ANTIQUITIES gathered on Samuel's archeological quests.

Jane sits in a oversized, plush leather chair staring at one of the walls of books. Kris walks in with TWO GLASSES of MILK and some homemade COOKIES.

KRIS
(beat)
I think I saw it move, too.
(MORE)

KRIS (cont'd)
But, it's not unusual for me to
imagine inanimate objects moving...
especially at this hour.

Kris hands Jane a glass of milk.

JANE
I don't know...I just have a vague
memory of something unique about
that wall.

Kris looks over the wall in detail. Mixed in with the books
are an ANCIENT TRIBAL MASK, a large SWORD, various pieces of
POTTERY, etc.

KRIS
If you see something that's *not*
unique, then you're probably on to
something.

Jane instinctively walks up to the wall and pulls on a worn,
leather-bound copy of "Antiquities of the Jews" by Flavius
Josephus. Immediately, a panel springs open, revealing a
hidden room.

JANE
Bingo.

KRIS
Impressive.

INT. LIBRARY SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jane and Kris walk through slowly through the door, taking in
the room.

Wall-to-wall are ILLUSTRATIONS & ROUGH SKETCHES of
archeological digs, PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS of biblical
artifacts, including SOLOMON'S TEMPLE and the ARK OF THE
COVENANT. SNAPSHOTS of Samuel and/or Grace with different
people at a variety of places of historical significance
around Israel. It is a working room that reveals one's
passion.

KRIS
You never told me of a secret room
at your grandparents'!

JANE
It was only when I was sitting
there that I had a vague
recollection of something special
about that old book.

Kris notices a well-worn journal on a desk and starts thumbing through it.

KRIS

Now this is cool.

JANE

I know what that is...it's Grandpa's journal of archeological thoughts and theories. I'm not sure if we should be...

SAMUEL

...looking through it?!

The girls are clearly startled as they turn to see Samuel standing in the panel doorway.

JANE

Sorry, Grandpa!

SAMUEL

I was wondering when you were going to remember my little room. I try to keep all my wild theories out of sight so people don't think me crazier than I am.

KRIS

I was the one being nosy in your journal. I can be a bad influence on Jane at times.

SAMUEL

I'm thrilled that you have any interest in an old man's musings. Please, take some time while you're here and look through my notes. Maybe we can have some lively discussion and you'll bring some fresh outlooks!

JANE

I'd love to, Grandpa!

Jane goes and gives Samuel a kiss on the cheek.

SAMUEL

I think I'll finish my quest for a midnight snack, while you gals peruse. Just close up shop when you're done.

Samuel heads back out through the library. Jane and Kris call after him.

JANE

We will.

KRIS

Thank you!

Kris thumbs through the journal some more.

KRIS

There's quite a bit in here about something called "Jeremiah's Grotto"?

Paul and John are at the panel door.

JOHN

Sweet room.

PAUL

I see you two are up carousing as well. I forgot about Grandpa's room!

JANE

Jeremiah's what?

INT. DUNGEON OF MALCHIAH - DAY

587 B.C.

Light filters through the dinginess of the dungeon as Pashhur, Jucal and Shephatiah step through the shadows.

A SNAKE slithers across their path.

PASHHUR

It was not agreed that we should bring him here to my father's house. Why did you not just kill him as originally planned?

JUCAL

Prince Gedaliah convinced us that it would be better to let him die a "natural death."

SHEPHATIAH

Prince Gedaliah had nothing to do with our decision.

(MORE)

SHEPHATIAH (cont'd)

He deserves to die a slow death for
all the grief he has brought on our
people.

PASHHUR

Whether he deserves a slow death or
not, I do not want my house to be
equated with the killing of a man
of God.

They reach the cistern Jeremiah was thrown in. Jucal looks
over the edge.

JACUR

(sheepishly)

Maybe he is already dead...

Shephatiah shoves Jucal.

SHEPHATIAH

Why do you not go down and check it
out for us.

Shephatiah holds on to Jucal's garment to keep him from
falling in. Jucal is visibly shaken.

PASHHUR

(sarcastic)

We will never get enough of your
sadistic humor.

Pashhur holds a torch out over the cistern.

PASHHUR

Are you alive, Jeremiah?

No answer.

SHEPHATIAH

Let me see that.

Shephatiah grabs the torch and looks down into the cistern.

INT. DUNGEON CISTERN - CONTINUOUS

Jeremiah locks eyes with Shephatiah with a shivering holy
intensity.

INT. DUNGEON OF MALCHIAH - CONTINUOUS

Shephatiah's eyes show that he is clearly disturbed. He recovers quickly and heads back out of the dungeon the way they came in.

SHEPHATIAH

He is alive - I look forward to
seeing him rot!

Passhur and Jucal look at each other, then over into the dark cistern and then back at each other.

EXT. GATE OF BENJAMIN - DAY

ASTUTE LEADERS of Jerusalem - mostly pompous and surely foolhardy - gather at Benjamin's Gate, discussing the current affairs of the city. KING ZEDEKIAH, a remarkably insecure ruler of minimal stature, is the current center of the attention and makes the most of this.

SERVANTS of various races and nationalities sit close by engrossed in quiet conversations of their own.

KING ZEDEKIAH

(blabbering)

...they took him to the Dungeon of Malchiah...which is a surprise to me, because the princes were tasting blood. I told them, "He is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you."

EBED-MELECH, an Ethiopian eunuch of King Zedekiah's house - tall, sure and muscular - listens intently. GEMARIAH, an elder prince of Judah is nervous.

GEMARIAH

We keep questioning whether or not Jeremiah is from God, but his words are the ones that have been proven true.

KING ZEDEKIAH

(double-talking)

Maybe so, but the young princes are concerned about the survival of Jerusalem.

(MORE)

KING ZEDEKIAH (cont'd)

They charge that Jeremiah weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, by telling them they will only be safe if they surrender to the Babylonians.

GEMARIAH

Have you not looked out beyond these walls? As far as the eye can see are Nebuchadnezzar's troops. I fear all hope is gone when we allow a prophet of God to have this death sentence put upon him.

KING ZEDEKIAH

Jeremiah is alive, and I am sure doing some soul searching. If he speaks the words of God, God will be his protector.

Ebed-Melech discreetly makes his way off through the crowds, picking up his pace as he goes.

EXT. HOUSE OF BARUCH - DAY

Ebed-Melech walks up and knocks on the door. REBECCA, Baruch's sister, answers the door.

REBECCA

Were you followed?

EBED-MELECH

No one saw me go, but we must act quickly.

REBECCA

Come in, please. Baruch will be thrilled to see you.

Ebed-Melech enters.

INT. HOUSE OF BARUCH - DAY

Baruch lies on a simple bed by a crackling fire. A huge BRUISE spreads across his eye and forehead.

REBECCA

He is still very shaken.

BARUCH

I am not...that bad.

Baruch tries to get up, but must lie right back down in his dizziness.

EBED-MELECH
Do not rise on my occasion.

BARUCH
I think it was more the fall than
the blow to the face. Have you
heard word of Jeremiah?

EBED-MELECH
He lives.

Baruch and Rebecca are visibly relieved.

BARUCH
Where did they take him?

EBED-MELECH
To the Dungeon of Malchiah.

BARUCH
That rat and disease infested hole?

EBED-MELECH
Now that I see you are recovering,
I will do what I can and by God's
grace, I will save Jeremiah.

BARUCH
I must go with you.

REBECCA
You will be of no help to anyone in
your state. To heal quickly will be
the greatest blessing to Jeremiah.

BARUCH
Bless you, Ebed. God's favor be
with you.

INT. DUNGEON OF MALCHIAH - DAY

Ebed-Melech makes his way over to the cistern holding
Jeremiah. He looks down, but can see nothing.

EBED-MELECH
Jeremiah?

JEREMIAH
(raspy-faint)
Ebed, is that you?

EBED-MELECH
It is I. Hold on! Let me grab a
torch.

Ebed-Melech retrieves a torch from the dungeon wall. He hurries back to the cistern and holds his head and the torch down into the hole.

EBED-MELECH
Gracious God Almighty!

INT. DUNGEON CISTERN - DAY

Jeremiah is hardly discernible amidst the mire covering his body. Dried, cracked MUD covers him from head to arms and shoulders. The rest of his body is sunken beneath the sludge.

JEREMIAH
It is good to see you, my friend.

EXT. WEST LONG ISLAND MANSION - MORNING

PRESENT DAY.

It is a stormy morning along the coast. The rain falls steadily, making the cozy mansion more inviting than ever.

INT. MANSION BREAKFAST ROOM - MORNING

Jane sits curled up in a window seat as she looks bleary-eyed across a fresh cup of coffee, out the window, across the dunes and out to sea. Samuel's journal sits on the table beside her.

Kris shuffles from the kitchen. Her coffee steams as she takes a sip.

KRIS
Morning.

JANE
Morning.

Grace carries a platter with assorted pastries and muffins.

GRACE

It's a wonder you girls are already
up. I hear you made a late one of
it.

She sets the platter on the table. Paul and John enter, weary
as well.

PAUL

Coffee?

Kris points to the kitchen and they both head directly there.

GRACE

Don't college students sleep in
anymore...especially on a rainy
day?

JANE

And miss...this? Not on your life.

The side door opens and Samuel walks in looking like the
Gorton's fisherman.

SAMUEL

You'll never find a better time to
be on the beach than in a storm!

He sets a few unique shells and pieces of sea glass on the
table.

GRACE

No washed up pirate's treasure?

SAMUEL

Not this morning...but maybe after
the storm.

GRACE

He's been looking for washed up
doubloons for fifty years...never
found a one.

SAMUEL

Good morning, kids!

Paul and John walk back in with their coffees. They spot the
pastries.

JOHN

I think I'm in heaven.

PAUL
Don't kid yourself. You are!

Samuel takes off his yellow rain gear.

SAMUEL
So did anything from my scribblings
perk your interest?

JANE
We're mainly fascinated with your
notes on Jeremiah's Grotto.

Grace hands Samuel a steaming cup of coffee.

SAMUEL
Nothing better thing to get our
minds going this morning than
collaborating together over the
hiding place of the treasures of
Solomon's Temple!

EXT. GATE OF BENJAMIN - DAY

587 B.C.

King Zedekiah tries to sit with a kingly stature, as he looks
out amongst the waning crowd.

KING ZEDEKIAH
Are there no more complaints that
the king must litigate today?

Ebed-Melech runs through those who are left and approaches
the king.

KING ZEDEKIAH
Ebed-Melech! For what cause do you
request my great wisdom?

King Zedekiah looks pridefully around at the remaining
leaders.

EBED-MELECH
(catching breath)
My lord the king, you know that
these men have done evil in all
that they have done to the prophet
Jeremiah, whom they have cast into
the Dungeon of Malchiah. He will
most surely die where he is.

King Zedekiah is taken off-guard by this request. He looks around. Everyone awaits his answer.

KING ZEDEKIAH

(beat)

Take 30 men with you and lift
Jeremiah the prophet out of the
cistern before he dies.

EBED-MELECH

I will do as you command, sir.

Ebed-Melech exits immediately. Only then does King Zedekiah turn, looking after him.

INT. MANSION BREAKFAST ROOM - MORNING

PRESENT DAY.

The rain continues to fall outside as the group lingers at the breakfast table. Jane, Kris, John and Paul are captivated by Samuel.

SAMUEL

...so when Jeremiah saw the
imminent fall of Jerusalem because
of King Zedekiah's complete lack of
backbone, he hurried to rescue the
Ark and what he could of the Temple
treasures. It is rumored that he
hid this in Mt. Nebo, where Moses
looked out across the Jordan into
the promised land, which is
actually where he ended up being
buried.

JOHN

Which is now officially in the
country of Jordan.

SAMUEL

Correct.

KRIS

You can always count on our "fact
man" here.

SAMUEL

This secret hiding place of his
became known as "Jeremiah's
Grotto".

PAUL

If they think it's on Mt. Nebo,
surely someone could have found it
after 2500 years.

SAMUEL

Jeremiah was very smart. He
intended it to be concealed until
God chose to reveal its hiding
place.

JANE

You have quite a few notes about
the "Copper Scroll" - the most
mysterious of all the Dead Sea
Scrolls.

SAMUEL

It has been an enigma ever since
its discovery...but there is legend
of a more important scroll created
by Jeremiah's very own scribe,
Baruch...

GRACE

...the Silver Scroll.

SAMUEL

Which makes this a perfect point to
bring up my proposition. For any,
or all of you who are interested, I
would like to invite you on an
expedition to Qumran I'm organizing
in May, right after you get out of
school.

JANE

(gasp)

Do you really mean it?!

JOHN

An expedition?!

GRACE

He makes it sound elaborate, but it
would be a total of you four and
himself. After Samuel noticed your
sincere interest in archeology, he
could think of no better graduation
gift, Paul. And Jane, it's a little
early for your gift, but we wanted
to extend the invitation to both of
you and your friends.

SAMUEL

Like Grace said, it's a gift...all expenses paid...are you on?

PAUL

Grandpa, we can't ask you to do all this for us.

KRIS

(jabbing Paul)

Shhh.

SAMUEL

I'm the one doing the asking, not you! I've been dreaming of taking this trip for years, and with four able-bodied explorers it may just make up for what I lack in these old bones...

INT. DUNGEON OF MALCHIAH - DAY

587 B.C.

Ebed-Melech arrives at the cistern with the over-abundance of 30 MEN. They work together to tie old clothes and rags to the end of their ropes, making two large loops.

EBED-MELECH

(calling out officially)

Jeremiah the prophet, we have the king's order to bring you out of this cistern and dungeon.

INT. MURKY CISTERN - DAY

Ebed-Melech looks over the cistern as a few of the men lower the ropes. Jeremiah looks back wearily.

EBED-MELECH

Please put these old clothes and rags under your armpits between you and the ropes.

It takes all the strength Jeremiah can muster to do so. Ebed-Melech lowers a torch into the cistern to gauge Jeremiah's readiness.

EBED-MELECH

Are you ready?

Jeremiah nods.

JEREMIAH
(faintly)
Ready.

Ebed-Melech nods to the men and they begin to pull on the ropes. There are SUCTION and POPPING sounds as Jeremiah's body is released from the sludgy mire.

Jeremiah lets out a LOUD CRY.

INT. COLLEGE - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

Professor Eli is in the middle of a Power-Point presentation. Jane, John and Kris sit amongst the class.

PROFESSOR ELI
Most of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by Bedouins, who searched the caves high and low when they realized the value of scrolls on the antiquities market. There's no telling how many more of the Dead Sea Scrolls there may be out there that ended up with some trinket-collecting traveler who was not aware of their value or significance. Or how many ended up on the black market.

A picture of a group of Bedouins holding scrolls.

PROFESSOR ELI
The Copper Scroll is one of the few found by actual archeologists. They found two rolls of copper off in a corner by themselves.

A picture of the Copper Scroll comes up on the screen.

PROFESSOR ELI
"In the fortress which is in the Vale of Achor, forty cubits under the steps entering to the east: a money chest and its contents, of a weight of seventeen talents." So begins the list of treasures and their hiding spots.
(MORE)

PROFESSOR ELI (cont'd)
The only problem is that it is not
clear today where any of these
hiding spots are.

John raises his hand as he speaks.

JOHN
Isn't the final line a reference to
another scroll with further
details?

PROFESSOR ELI
So you've been doing your reading?
Yes that is correct.

Professor Eli switches on the lights.

KRIS
What do you know of the Silver
Scroll?

Jane and John look at Kris as if she has just spilled a
secret.

Professor Eli gives a look of surprise, but quickly recovers.

PROFESSOR ELI
Entirely speculation...I see you
must have had some lively
conversations over your Spring
break.

The BELL RINGS.

PROFESSOR ELI
Once again we see how quickly time
flies when we're having fun. See
you tomorrow.

INT. CAMPUS COFFEE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A huge sign reads, "Friends don't let friends drink bad
coffee." There is cross-sampling of students and faculty in
this eclectic coffee and tea haven.

Jane, Kris and John sit in well-worn plush chairs.

KRIS
So all of a sudden the Silver
Scroll is a secret?

JANE
No, but...

JOHN
...we had all agreed we were going
to keep our quest under wraps.

KRIS
From Professor Eli?

JANE
(beat)
She's right, if anything the Prof
could give us some insights.

PROFESSOR ELI (O.C.)
You know I always love to give my
insights.

Professor Eli has been standing behind them. They don't know
how long.

KRIS
Professor, your ears must have been
itching!

They all exchange greetings.

JANE
Please sit with us if you have a
few moments.

PROFESSOR ELI
It would be my pleasure. So what's
so secret about the Silver Scroll?
You are aware that it's a well
published theory, are you not?

JOHN
Of course.

JANE
We were going to tell you, but we
didn't think it appropriate in
front of the class...

KRIS
Because it is so cool!

JOHN
We're going on an expedition to
Israel with Jane's grandfather.

PROFESSOR ELI

How exciting! He hasn't been about his antics for quite a while...as far as I've heard, anyway. You'll be looking for your "secret" Silver Scroll, I presume. When will you go?

JANE

The second week in May, right after finals.

PROFESSOR ELI

How interesting. I'm just in preparations for a trip to Jerusalem at that very same time.

KRIS

Then maybe we'll bump into each other!

PROFESSOR ELI

Yes. Maybe we will.

EXT. COURT OF THE PRISON - DAY

587 B.C.

There are many scattered about the court, a place of house arrest for those who are being held without valid charges.

Jeremiah sits in a corner quietly. He looks as if he is mostly recovered from his time in the cistern.

Ebed-Melech enters the court and approaches Jeremiah.

EBED-MELECH

You are looking well.

Jeremiah looks up with joy-filled eyes.

JEREMIAH

Ebed!

EBED-MELECH

King Zedekiah requests that you be brought to him at the third entrance of the house of the Lord.

Jeremiah stands.

JEREMIAH

He will want to know the voice of the Lord, but he will not want to have heard it when I am done delivering God's words.

EXT. TEMPLE OF SOLOMON - THIRD ENTRANCE - DAY

King Zedekiah stands off alone, obviously desiring a private, yet public, audience with Jeremiah.

Jeremiah is brought to King Zedekiah by TWO GUARDS.

KING ZEDEKIAH

I will ask you something. Hide nothing from me.

JEREMIAH

If I declare it to you, will you not surely put me to death? And if I give you advice, you will not listen to me.

KING ZEDEKIAH

(whispering)

As the Lord lives, Who made our very beings, I will not put you to death, nor will I deliver you into the hand of those who seek your life.

JEREMIAH

(beat)

Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If you surrender to the king of Babylon, then you and your house will live, and this city will not be burned with fire. But if you will not surrender to the king of Babylon, then this city will be given into Nebuchadnezzar's hand and his armies will burn it with fire, and you will not escape out of their hand.

KING ZEDEKIAH

I am afraid of the Jews who are already with the Babylonians. Nebuchadnezzar will deliver me into their hands, and they will abuse and mock me.

JEREMIAH

Please, obey the voice of the Most High, so it will be well with you, and that you and your house may live.

KING ZEDEKIAH

Let no one know of these words, and I will make sure that you do not die. But if the princes hear that I have talked with you, and they come to you and say, "Declare to us now what you have said to the king, and also what the king said to you; do not hide it from us, and we will not put you to death," then you will say to them, "I presented my request before the king, that he would not make me return to Jonathan's house to die there."

King Zedekiah motions to the guards. Jeremiah bows and nods.

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON - EVENING

Torches light the court. Jeremiah sits as if expecting company. It has come.

Shephatiah, Passhur and Jucal approach Jeremiah. The two officers, Bohan and Paruah, follow.

SHEPHATIAH

We have heard of your words with the king. You have lately found a fortunate place in his eyes.

PASHHUR

If you value your life in any way, you will tell us what this secret meeting was all about.

SHEPHATIAH

And this time, we will be sure your sentence is finalized.

JUCAL

Your death sentence.

Jeremiah is unshaken by their threats.

JEREMIAH

I presented my request before the king, that he would not make me return to Jonathan's house to die there.

The princes look at each other as if to decide whether Jeremiah's answer is sufficient.

SHEPHATIAH

If we hear that you have spoken otherwise it will surely be your death.

The princes and their officers exit. Once it is clear they are gone, Ebed-Melech steps from the shadows.

JEREMIAH

They have eaten the king's lie as the truth.

EBED-MELECH

The Babylonians are done with King Zedekiah. They will take hold of the city soon.

JEREMIAH

And King Zedekiah will not heed the words of the Lord. Jerusalem will be destroyed. I fear for the Lord's house - we must devise a plan to rescue the treasures of the Temple.

EBED-MELECH

The Lord has already prepared a way for this very moment.

Ebed-Melech reaches under his cloak and retrieves a stone cylinder which has been secured around his neck.

EXT.TEMPLE MOUNT - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

The DOME OF THE ROCK shimmers behind Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John as they walk along.

JANE

Can you believe we are actually standing on Mt. Moriah?

JOHN

Imagine all the great history that
has taken place right here.

SAMUEL

And the great events that are still
to come.

They arrive at the DOME OF THE SPIRITS, a structure that
looks like a gazebo.

SAMUEL

Many believe this to be the exact
spot of the Holy of Holies, where
the Ark of the Covenant was placed.

JOHN

I thought the Dome of the Rock was
right on top of the original
Temple.

SAMUEL

A common assumption. It is thought
that this is the actual threshing
floor of solid bedrock that David
secured for the placement of the
Ark of the Covenant.

KRIS

So this could have been the actual
spot the presence of God resided.

SAMUEL

Where the Dome of the Rock sits is
what would have been the Court of
the Gentiles. Actually, the Temple
could be rebuilt today, right here,
to the Bible's exact specifications
without touching the Dome of the
Rock.

ADIR, a gaunt middle-eastern man in plain clothes watches
them group from a distance.

EXT. WESTERN WALL - DAY

Samuel, Jane, Paul, John and Kris make their way down from
the Wailing Wall to where their Land Rover is parked. As they
approach, the back hatch is seen ajar.

JOHN

I thought we locked up?

PAUL

We did!

Paul runs up to Land Rover and pulls up the hatch and looks inside. Bags and suitcases have been emptied out in piles.

Paul crawls in to look around.

SAMUEL

Ordinary thieves would have just grabbed our bags and run. They were looking for something specific.

KRIS

Now I'm actually going to have to iron all my clothes!

JOHN

Don't get too deep on us there, Kris.

Paul crawls back out of the Land Rover.

PAUL

It actually doesn't look like anything has been taken, as far as I can tell.

SAMUEL

I have a notion what they may have been looking for.

Jane pulls Samuel's journal from her back pack.

JANE

You mean this? I thought I might want to refer to it on the Mount...

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON - EVENING

587 B.C.

Ebed-Melech, Baruch and Jeremiah sit off in a private corner. Ebed has a worn scroll, out of which appears to be an architectural DRAWING of the Temple of Solomon.

EBED-MELECH

As you know, my people not only helped with the construction of Solomon's Temple and Palace, but also with the treasures that filled it.

JEREMIAH

Ethiopia has long been Judah's ally. God will never forget that.

EBED-MELECH

Beyond that, Solomon appointed a secret order to protect and rescue the treasuries of the Temple, should such a time come.

Ebed refers to the diagrams on the scroll.

EBED-MELECH

The great and wise Solomon devised a great tunnel system that lead from the treasuries of the Temple and Palace out beyond the wall of the city, beyond the outskirts of Jerusalem and into the desert where it can be secreted away.

BARUCH

When they see we are moving the treasury, they will think we are stealing it to give to the Babylonians.

EBED-MELECH

There is great hidden treasure they do not know of. It has been supposed that the great wealth of Solomon was taken long ago, but the truth of the matter is, he was as wise in his concealing of it as he was in amassing the great wealth.

JEREMIAH

That is comforting to know, but how will we move such a massive amount? Whom can we trust?

EBED-MELECH

I lead more than 30 men in my order who will work day and night to secure this for the Lord Most High.

JEREMIAH

But how will I know this hiding place, seeing I am under house arrest in this court?

EBED-MELECH

I will show you the mysteries of
Solomon's design.

Ebed leads Jeremiah and Baruch to a hidden corner behind some thick vegetation. He moves a brick and the pathway in the floor opens up.

BARUCH

Welcome to the Tunnels of Solomon.
No one will even know you are gone.

EXT. KING DAVID HOTEL - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

Paul drives the Land Rover up in front of the hotel. Jane, Kris and John get out, immediately followed by Samuel. They are greeted warmly by the hotel staff.

INT. LA REGENCE RESTAURANT - EVENING

Inside the King David Hotel, Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John sit enjoying an elegant dinner.

PAUL

I still don't understand what they
would want your journal for.

SAMUEL

True, I don't claim to have any
secrets there. Maybe they were just
everyday common thieves who were
spooked off somehow.

JOHN

I would love to explore the
legendary tunnels underneath the
Temple Mount. From much of my
reading, the Temple treasures are
stored up there.

JANE

This sounds good, initially, but
would why would they hide the
treasures in the most obvious spot?

SAMUEL

That has always been my theory.
Although I don't doubt that there
are definitely items of value still
directly under the Mount,
Nebuchadnezzar was no dummy...and
Jeremiah would have known that.

Abir, the same man who was watching them on the Temple Mount,
now dressed in a fine suit, is sitting a couple of tables
away.

KRIS

At the risk of sounding like an
airhead, when we're talking
treasure, are we just talking about
the Ark of the Covenant and Temple
things, or real treasure-treasure.
You know, gold and silver, diamonds
and rubies...the good stuff.

JOHN

Both...right?

SAMUEL

Yes. Both. The Temple of Solomon is
presumed to be connected with the
treasuries of Judah by an elaborate
tunnel system constructed by
Solomon that connected his Palace
with the treasuries and the Temple.

PROFESSOR ELI (O.C.)

Still talking about secret
treasures with so many real wonders
to see here?

Professor Eli, once again, has appeared out of nowhere.

JANE

Professor Eli!

PROFESSOR ELI

So we run into each other after
all! And you must be the great
Samuel West.

SAMUEL

And you must be the one who has
gotten my grandkids all excited
about archeology!

PROFESSOR ELI

It is a pleasure to meet you. I have heard so much about you through the years.

SAMUEL

I'm sure you have and I'm sure it has not all been good.

PROFESSOR ELI

True, many have viewed your ways as unorthodox, if not simply those of an amateur renegade, but I am one to at least appreciate one who shares a passion for the antiquities.

PAUL

So, he'll take that as a compliment?

SAMUEL

What brings you here to Jerusalem at this time?

PROFESSOR ELI

It has become an annual pilgrimage of mine. After talking about the Holy Land all year, I have to come touch and feel it...breathe it in. How's the quest for the Silver Scroll?

JANE

We just checked into the hotel...

JOHN

...and we're off to the Qumran early in the morning.

PROFESSOR ELI

Godspeed your quest. I look forward to hearing your success. I must run, or I will be late for an appointment.

Professor Eli walks off, exchanging glances with Abir.

SAMUEL

So how much of our "Quest for the Silver Scroll" does the Professor know about?

INT. TUNNELS OF SOLOMON - NIGHT

587 B.C.

Ebed-Melech, Baruch and Jeremiah tour some of Solomon's hidden TREASURES. The wealth is beyond description. SILVER, GOLD, DIAMONDS, RUBIES and every precious gem imaginable.

There are GREAT HOARDS everywhere they turn, until they come to a tunnel that seems to lead to an endless abyss.

EBED-MELECH

This will be the treasure's escape route out of the city.

BARUCH

Completely underground...unseen... amazing!

JEREMIAH

Is there any word on the imminent attack on Jerusalem? My heart tells me we must act quickly if we are to act at all.

EXT. BABYLON - MORNING

The famed city glistens in the morning light. New construction blankets a city that is about to become the strongest empire in the world.

Above it all, King Nebuchadnezzar's Palace rises to meet the sky. There is a beauty and grandeur that is only second to Solomon's Palace in its glory days.

INT. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PALACE - MORNING

NEBUCHADNEZZAR, king of Babylon and ruler of all Chaldea, paces back and forth in deep discussion with the Hebrew prophet, DANIEL.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Why does this measly king defy me and not surrender the city, does he not know that I have the power to destroy him and all the people?

DANIEL

You must not let one man's actions determine the fate of a whole city.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

What of the treasures of Solomon?

DANIEL

These were taken when Jerusalem
fell after the death of Solomon.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

I do not believe it. This so called
wise man of the ages would not have
made it so easy for his great
wealth to be stolen away.

DANIEL

You may indeed be right, oh king,
but I do not know of any hiding
place.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

What of the Ark of the Covenant, as
you Hebrews call it. You claim that
the presence of the One and Only
God dwells in this Ark. When Israel
carried this before their enemies,
they were invincible.

DANIEL

They no longer believe in the power
of God.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

I will take Jerusalem and I will go
into the Holy of Holies where the
Ark sits and I will bring it out
before my armies that they may know
that I am now the one and only
supreme being.

DANIEL

I have a request, oh great king, as
you take Jerusalem. May you spare
Jeremiah, the prophet's life. For
he is a mighty man of God and has
been the voice pleading with my
people to surrender to you.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

(beat)

It will be as you request.

EXT. ROAD TO QUMRAN - MORNING

PRESENT DAY.

The Dead Sea sparkles in the morning light as the Land Rover makes its way along the highway.

INT. LAND ROVER - MORNING

Paul drives and Samuel rides shotgun. Jane and Kris sit in the second row. John sits in the back. They are taking in the passing landscape.

SAMUEL

The actual Qumran is an old ruin,
where it is believed that the Dead
Sea Scrolls were written.

PAUL

Then they hid them in the nearby
caves.

SAMUEL

This whole area then ended up being
referred to as Qumran.

EXT. QUMRAN NATIONAL PARK - MORNING

Paul drives into the reserve and quickly parks. Everyone jumps out in the excitement of the day. They quickly grab their packs and make their way up a path, Samuel leading the way.

Just as they are out of sight, an old Jeep CJ pulls in carrying Abir, Professor Eli and ZEEV, a stout, tough-looking man with a body-builder physique.

EXT. QUMRAN STREAM BED - MORNING

Samuel seems to have more energy than any of them. He pauses for a quick drink of water as the others catch up.

SAMUEL

This is where we must reaffirm the
dangers of our quest, lest our
excitement get the best of us.

JOHN

I live for danger!

JANE

He's being serious, John!

SAMUEL

Take this seemingly mild stream...very deceptive. If a storm comes up, a flash flood will fill this ravine before you'd even have time to think about what to do. There is nothing to fear, but we must keep our wits about us.

They all move on, still excited but wondering about what could lie ahead.

EXT. QUMRAN CAVES - DAY

Samuel, Jane, Kris, John and Paul round a bend.

Samuel pulls out his journal. He refers to some specific notes and then looks up to a cave near the top of a ridge.

SAMUEL

That's the one. Cave number four. John, you're the fact man...fill us in on the facts.

John pulls out a brochure.

JOHN

(reading)

This most famous cave of the Dead Sea Scrolls is also the most significant in terms of finds. More than 15,000 fragments from more than 200 books were found in this cave, nearly all by Bedouin thieves. 122 biblical scrolls (or fragments) were found in this cave. From all 11 Qumran caves, every Old Testament book is represented except Esther.

KRIS

Impressive.

PAUL

So if so much was already found here, why do we think the Silver Scroll is here?

SAMUEL

Because most of the scrolls found here were out in the open. No one really thought to look beyond the obvious for something most believe doesn't exist in the first place.

JANE

Plus, Grandpa found some rare notes from a reporter who interviewed many of the Bedouins who found the original scrolls.

SAMUEL

That, too.

JANE

And Grandpa is the sole possessor of these notes.

KRIS

She's spent maybe a little too much time with that there journal.

The five of them hike up towards the cave.

Abir, Zeev and Professor Eli watch from a distance.

EXT. CAVE FOUR - DAY

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John walk slowly along the narrow ridge leading to the cave. Then, one by one, they help each other slip down into the cave.

INT. CAVE FOUR - DAY

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John make their way into the cave, flashlights drawn.

SAMUEL

I've waited years to come back to explore this cave. Ever since I found those reporter's notes, I've envisioned exactly where I'd look.

JOHN

We have a permit to be here, right?

SAMUEL

I have a life-long pact with the Israeli government...whatever I find is theirs...that the world may know the truth and accuracy of the Bible. But I have first look privileges for what I find.

Kris shines her light back into the recesses of the cave.

KRIS

I suppose we have to go way back in there, huh?

Samuel spots a ledge in the rock wall, up towards the ceiling of the cave. His eyes light up in recognition as he heads over towards it.

SAMUEL

Paul. Please oblige me and let me borrow your back.

Paul moves over to the wall and gets on his hands and knees. Samuel steps on his back and feels along the edge. All of a sudden he stops and pulls a seemingly attached stone loose.

SAMUEL

John.

Samuel hands the stone to John. The air is thick with anticipation. Samuel reaches up again and this time half of his arm disappears into the wall. Moments later, he pulls it out holding a long SILVER CYLINDER.

Samuel is beaming with excitement.

SAMUEL

And so it has been found!

They all shine their lights on it. It is a cylinder tube made of solid silver, with elaborate gold inlays.

KRIS

It doesn't look like a scroll!

SAMUEL

Of course, now it makes sense. It must have been assumed it was a scroll made out of silver, when actually it is a tube containing, I'm sure, some important documents in it.

JANE

We can only hope it contains the path to the temple treasures!

PAUL

Well, are we going to open it?

Professor Eli steps in from the entrance.

PROFESSOR ELI

Yes...are we going to open it?

They are all astonished. Abir and Zeev step in behind the professor.

JANE

Professor Eli...?

SAMUEL

Odd, that we would run into each other here today.

PROFESSOR ELI

I've devoted my whole life to the antiquities of Judah. I've been through the school of hard knocks to get my doctorate and I'm not going to let some rich, self-proclaimed archeologist get credit for finding the great Temple treasures!

Paul and John exchange knowing looks through the shadows. The element of surprise is currently their only defense.

Everything happens fast. John jumps behind Zeev's legs just as Paul barrels on top of Zeev. Zeev goes crashing to the floor.

At the same time Kris high-kicks Abir in the head, knocking him out cold... while Samuel decks Professor Eli.

PAUL

Move...now!

Jane grabs the silver cylinder and dashes to the cave entrance.

Paul helps Jane, Kris, Samuel and then John up and out of the cave.

EXT. CAVE FOUR - DAY

Jane, Kris and Samuel quickly make their way along the ridge. John helps Paul out of the cave just as a HAND grabs hold of Paul's leg and starts to pull him back in.

Paul kicks Zeev in the face and causes just enough harm for Zeev to loosen his grip.

Paul and John quickly make their way up the ridge to catch up with the others.

Zeev starts to climb out.

ZEEV
I'll get you, you little punks.

Zeev ducks back into the cave.

Moments later Professor Eli and Abir make their way along the ridge. Zeev climbs out of the cave and is close behind.

PROFESSOR ELI
(calling out)
You might as well give up. You took
us by surprise. I assure you that
will not happen again. We can be
civilized about this whole matter.

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John are not buying it as they make it out to the wider top of the mountain.

EXT. CAVE FOUR MOUNTAIN - DAY

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John run along the top of the mountain.

A storm cloud RUMBLES.

Professor Eli, Abir and Zeev are now moving quickly after them.

EXT. QUMRAN STREAM BED

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John are now retracing their steps back to their Land Rover. Amazingly, Samuel takes the lead and seems the least winded.

RAIN DROPS begin to fall.

SAMUEL

We have to get out of here...now!

Professor Eli, Abir and Zeev are closing the gap.

RAIN is now falling hard.

Samuel leads the way up the side of a cliff to high ground.

The STREAM swells.

Professor Eli, Abir and Zeev find themselves on the opposite side of the stream.

ABIR

We must get to high ground. There
is no more time!

ZEEV

I will get to them.

PROFESSOR ELI

Zeev, we will get them, but first
we must save ourselves.

Zeev is not listening as he moves swiftly across the water and up towards his prey.

Samuel, Jane, Paul and John near the top of the ridge, but Kris slips and slides halfway back down.

The ROAR OF WATER can be heard upstream.

JANE

Kris!

Kris quickly crawls back to the top as Paul reaches down and locks arms with her. Her body is halfway over the top when all of a sudden she is jerked back down.

Zeev is holding tightly to Kris' leg. Paul hangs on to Kris with everything within him.

WHOOSH!

The fury of the FLASH FLOOD fills the canyon and pulls on Zeev's legs.

John, Jane and Samuel rush to hold Paul. They hold on with all their might.

But Kris is slipping.

Kris screams in terror just as...

The water overpowers Zeev and Kris is released.

The tug of war is won and Kris comes popping up over the side just as the flood waters fill the canyon to the brim.

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul and John move back, away from the side as they catch their breath.

They look across to see Professor Eli and Abir safe on the opposite side of the canyon.

Zeev is nowhere to be seen.

INT. SOLOMON'S TUNNELS - NIGHT

587 B.C.

Jeremiah, Ebed-Melech and Baruch wind through an elaborate tunnel structure deep into the earth. The construction shows superb craftsmanship thousands of years ahead of its time.

They enter a large underground room that seems to act as an interchange. There are many tunnels going off into many different directions; however there is one tunnel large enough for four camels to walk side-by-side.

EBED-MELECH

Solomon brought in the greatest craftsmen and engineers from all over the world. He devised a way for the bulk of his riches to be stored away deep within the earth.

BARUCH

I have always heard rumors of great underground tunnels.

JEREMIAH

He did indeed have a plan to save the wealth of his kingdom.

Ebed-Melech walks to the entrance of the large tunnel.

EBED-MELECH

This is the most amazing thing here. On the map, it is named "Solomon's Highway".

Ebed-Melech lays out the scroll with the scheme of the tunnels.

EBED-MELECH

This tunnel goes for a day's march
out to the hidden caves that are
risen above the plains.

BARUCH

A day's march under the earth?!

JEREMIAH

God is merciful to have provided a
way for us to rescue His treasures.
But how do we keep them from
finding access to these tunnels
when they completely overtake the
city?

EBED-MELECH

By following the instructions here.

Ebed-Melech unrolls another scroll.

EBED-MELECH

When our people were helping
construct Solomon's Temple and
Palace, there were great secrets
brought in from Egypt. There are
great reserves of sand in key spots
above the tunnels. When we activate
these mechanisms here, all of these
tunnels will be filled with sand.

JEREMIAH

It will be as though they never
existed.

Ebed-Melech rolls up the scrolls.

EBED-MELECH

But we must be going. Our plan must
be sure if we are to act fast.

The three of them head down into the tunnel.

INT. SOLOMON'S HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Jeremiah, Baruch and Ebed-Melech make their way down the
great underground tunnel known as Solomon's Highway. As they
walk along, they occasionally light ancient torches on the
wall.

The ceiling is pocked with small holes that form a consistent
pattern along the tunnel.

Baruch looks at a diagram on one of the scrolls and then points to the ceiling.

BARUCH
Air shafts.

They continue on down into the darkness.

INT. SOLOMON'S HIGHWAY - LATER

Jeremiah, Baruch and Ebed-Melech are coming to the end of the tunnel. There is a GREAT DOOR, blocking their path.

Baruch tries to open it by switching some mechanisms.

JEREMIAH
Locked.

BARUCH
And it seems we are lacking the
information on how to open it.

Ebed-Melech stands back, with a slight grin on his face.
Baruch and Jeremiah don't notice.

JEREMIAH
Let me try it.

Jeremiah switches around an intricate system of levers, none of which do any good.

EBED-MELECH
There are more than a thousand
different ways to set the levers,
only one of which will open this
great door.

Baruch and Jeremiah look at Ebed-Melech.

EBED-MELECH
This has been one of the greatest
secrets...for what lies beyond this
door I expect is unimaginable.

Baruch and Jeremiah know they are being baited.

JEREMIAH
Surely there must be a wise
Ethiopian who knows the great
secrets of the door.

BARUCH

One who has been trusted so far
with great information pertaining
to the real treasuries of Solomon.

Ebed-Melech laughs and walks up to the door.

EBED-MELECH

I have envisioned this in my mind,
time and again, but only dreamed
that I would be the one to open it.

BARUCH

You mean it's only in your mind?

JEREMIAH

It is not written down with the
other information?

EBED-MELECH

Such great secrets were sworn to be
passed down through our oral
tradition to only those born into
the royal bloodline of Solomon.

JEREMIAH

By God's grace it has survived.

EBED-MELECH

It is by God's grace that any of us
are still here.

BARUCH

Royal bloodline?

EBED-MELECH

Solomon had many wives, but only
one that was trusted with the
secrets of the Temple and his
hidden treasury...it is from this
line I come.

Ebed-Melech operates the mechanisms with ease.

Baruch watches intently with each turn, flip and adjustment
of the ancient levers.

The door sounds a LOUD CLICK.

Ebed-Melech pulls to open the door.

EBED-MELECH
Sons of Israel, you shall now
behold the glory of Solomon.

INT. KING DAVID HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel is seated looking at the silver cylinder. He is freshly showered and dressed. Paul enters from the adjoining room, dressed, but still drying his hair.

PAUL
You're sure we'll be safe here,
Grandpa?

SAMUEL
The professor is smart enough to
know that any move in the city
could prove disastrous.

PAUL
I don't get it.

John walks in, dressed, but also fresh out of the shower.

SAMUEL
He obviously has done his research
on my work and therefore must know
that I have close ties with the
Israeli authorities.

JOHN
And the Prof doesn't want you to
squeal.

SAMUEL
He wants to find what is described
within this cylinder...if the
authorities get involved, he knows
he cannot lay claim to anything.

Jane and Kris knock on the door as they enter, looking refreshed and cleaned up.

JANE
Hi guys.

KRIS
Hey!

PAUL

And, since he "knows" your work, he knows you won't go to the authorities until you've at least had a chance to check it out yourself.

KRIS

The government really lets you investigate first and asks questions later?

SAMUEL

Officially, they are just letting an old man tinker in the dirt. But we have built up a great trust.

Jane, Kris, John and Paul look at the silver cylinder then back at Samuel.

JANE

Well?

KRIS

Is the suspense killing anyone else, or is it just me?

SAMUEL

With our developments today, I have recruited a safe-guard and an old friend.

Samuel puts the silver cylinder in his backpack and starts heading towards the door.

SAMUEL

Is anyone as hungry as I am?

The others look at him in astonishment.

JOHN

Is he serious?

JANE

Evidently.

SAMUEL

If there's anything you'll learn by the time you're my age, it is that some things are worth the wait.

Samuel heads out the door as the others follow.

KRIS

Wait, let me jot that down in my journal for later inspiration.

INT. TMOL SHILSHOM RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Samuel, Jane, Paul, Kris, John and RANI SHAEVEL, a stately man in his fifties, sit around a table in this funky café-restaurant and used bookstore.

The elegance of the food is surprising, given the eclectic setting in this 19th century building.

RANI

It was on one of your grandfather's digs as a college student that I learned a great love for the antiquities of my country.

SAMUEL

It was on that dig that I was given a lifelong friendship.

RANI

It is I who treasure this gift.

JANE

So you work for the Israeli government?

RANI

You share your grandfather's gift of directness. Yes, I do. You might say that I am a protector of our antiquities.

KRIS

Well then, are we glad to see you...

Kris is jabbed by Jane and kicked by Paul simultaneously.

SAMUEL

Because she shares the mutual love for antiquities.

If Rani notices their cover-up, he doesn't show it.

RANI

So, what is it that brings this old man out of retirement?

(MORE)

RANI (cont'd)
If you would have called, I would have set up a great tour for your guests.

SAMUEL
I wanted to surprise you...and didn't want to disappoint you if our trip didn't work out.

KRIS
What do you know of a Professor Eli Newman?

RANI
I know him well. I would not necessarily call him a close friend, but an acquaintance of many years. He is well respected in the formal archeological community here in Israel. He is actually here now on his yearly trek to the Holy Land. Do you know him?

KRIS
He is our professor of biblical archeology.

JANE
He mentioned he would be here and we were wondering if we would run into him.

RANI
I see, how nice.

JANE
If you'll excuse me, I'm going to see if I can locate the ladies' room.

Jane eyes Kris.

KRIS
Oh. Yes. I think I'll go along. You know us ladies.

The ladies walk off to another room.

JANE
Can't you keep your mouth shut?

KRIS

What?! I thought we could trust this guy. Isn't that why we're here?

JANE

Grandpa thinks so, but he wants to feel it out first. He hasn't seen him in years...

KRIS

...and wants to make sure he isn't picking up any weird vibes.

JANE

Exactly.

INT. TMOL SHILSHOM RESTAURANT - LATER

Samuel, Jane, Kris, Paul, John and Rani have finished their dinner and are enjoying a various assortment of coffee drinks and desserts. The air is much more relaxed than earlier.

PAUL

So the Copper Scroll isn't here in Israel with all the other Dead Sea Scrolls?

RANI

That is a common assumption, but the area of the West Bank where it was found, in 1952, was under Jordanian control and it remains in their custody.

JOHN

I did not know that. Why didn't I know that?

SAMUEL

The scroll talks of 160 tons of gold and silver...something everyone would want to lay claim to.

RANI

We do not worry with Jordan though, they are our friends and ally. It's the information on the scroll that's important - not where the actual scroll is held.

JANE

What if the great treasure listed
is on their soil, what then?

RANI

It's difficult to say...but it is a
problem we would be willing to work
through.

JOHN

A billion dollars worth of gold and
silver...I'd say so...

SAMUEL

Really it is beyond that...beyond
imagination because of the
antiquity value.

PAUL

You mean what price it'd go for on
eBay?

JANE

More like Sotheby's.

RANI

It is all really speculation and in
many ways only a vapor of hope as
to how it could validate our
cultural history. But, it yet
remains elusive.

SAMUEL

True. But I think we may have found
something today that will ignite
that vapor of hope.

INT. SOLOMON'S HIGHWAY - NIGHT

587 B.C.

There is a great operation underway in the great tunnel. The
same 30 MEN who helped rescue Jeremiah from the pit are in
various stages of moving great amounts of silver and gold
through the tunnel.

Jeremiah, Ebed-Melech and Baruch ride CAMELS past DONKEYS
pulling CARTS OF SILVER AND GOLD, PRECIOUS JEWELS, and a
various array of ROYAL GIFTS that were given to King Solomon
from dignitaries around the known world.

INT. TUNNEL INTERCHANGE - NIGHT

The CAMELS carrying Jeremiah, Ebed-Melech and Baruch exit the tunnel known as Solomon's Highway and into the large tunnel interchange room.

There are STACKS OF SILVER & GOLD that are being loaded up into carts.

JEREMIAH

Is this all that is left, as planned?

EBED-MELECH

Besides the treasures of the Temple, this is everything that has been taken from the secret holds.

BARUCH

When Nebuchadnezzar takes the city, he will still have more than enough in our known treasure vaults to think he has gotten all of it.

JEREMIAH

Now we must plan the most crucial of the rescues, the Articles of the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant.

EBED-MELECH

There is something I must show you. One more special vault we have discovered beneath the Temple.

INT. HOUSE OF SHEPHATIAH - DAY

Shephatiah's house is filled with a sense of ornate gaudiness of one who has no taste but to show all who enter he is a part of the royal bloodline.

Passhur, Jucal and Shephatiah are in heated discussion.

SHEPHATIAH

You are saying, Jeremiah stays in the Court of the Prison and does nothing?

JUCAL

Our sources say that he simply sleeps most of the day.

(MORE)

JUCAL (cont'd)
When he is not sleeping, he seems
to be in prayer.

PASHHUR
That proves he is not a man of God!
Jerusalem is fighting for its very
survival and he slumbers.

SHEPHATIAH
There is something here that does
not seem right. What does he do at
night?

JUCAL
At night?

SHEPHATIAH
Is there no watch on him at night?

JUCAL
We have assumed he is sleeping like
the rest.

SHEPHATIAH
I will make a visit to the Temple.
I have an idea how we can find out
what it going on.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY - NIGHT

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel, Jane, Kris, John and Paul gather with Rani around a
research table. The silver cylinder is in an airtight work
area that has arm sleeves attached to gloves so that the
entire environment is protected and sterile.

Rani is handling the cylinder.

RANI
Let me see...you want me to do the
delicate work, so if anything gets
ruined, I am to blame.

SAMUEL
Because we know you are the most
qualified.

RANI
And then you get the glory of the
discovery.

SAMUEL

The dirty work. You are always invited.

RANI

For this one, I think I will want to be there...to share the excitement, if not the glory.

KRIS

So are you two just going to banter, or are you going to open it?

Rani smiles as he works the cylinder. He takes a deep breath and then twists the top.

The SOUND OF AIR RELEASING.

A papyrus scroll is immediately visible. Rani takes some surgical pliers and gently lifts the scroll out. It appears to be as new as the day it was inserted.

RANI

I don't think I've ever seen anything so well preserved.

SAMUEL

It appears to be Hebrew writing.

RANI

It is, clear and concise...I never would have dreamed.

PAUL

Can we take it out of the work area?

JOHN

Not worth the risk, the air could cause it to disintegrate...right?

RANI

Very true. Something this old, we must take all the precautions we can. This find alone is priceless.

Jane grabs her notebook.

JANE

What does it say?

RANI

Let's see here...Across the plains
of Jericho, hidden in the place
where Moses viewed the promised
land...

SAMUEL

Mt. Nebo!

KRIS

Does it give specifics?

PAUL

Is that all it says?

JANE

Let him finish...

RANI

There is much more. Specific
instructions...

JOHN

But Mt. Nebo is in Jordan.

SAMUEL

At the time this was written, if it
is truly from Jeremiah's time, as
we think, Mt. Nebo was considered
Israel.

Rani quickly scans over the document.

RANI

Here look at this...at the bottom.
That marking there. It is the way
Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe, signed
his scrolls.

Excitement electrifies the room.

JANE

But, it is in Jordan...

RANI

I can get us clearance to explore.
If we find something, then we will
deal with that then. It is a
problem I would welcome.

SAMUEL

Let's not get ahead of ourselves.
Rani, please read on.

RANI

With the siege of Babylon, it was determined that the treasures of the Temple must be saved. With the help of a few faithful Levites...

INT. HIDDEN TUNNEL VAULT - NIGHT

587 B.C.

Ebed-Melech leads Jeremiah and Baruch into a small room with what appears to be MOUNDS OF ANIMAL SKINS.

EBED-MELECH

We are finding that the extent of Solomon's wisdom is all encompassing.

Ebed-Melech reaches down to pick up an animal skin, but in actuality uncovers the ARK OF THE COVENANT.

Jeremiah and Baruch immediately fall on their faces. Ebed-Melech laughs.

JEREMIAH

This is holy ground and not a place for laughter!

BARUCH

You have done well, but the glory of God is nothing to take lightly.

Ebed-Melech walks over and touches the Ark, as he uncovers more ARTICLES OF THE TEMPLE.

Jeremiah and Baruch look at Ebed, waiting for him to drop dead.

BARUCH

You are a Levite?

EBED-MELECH

Truth be known, yes I am, as are all of the 30 men that have been entrusted with this great task. But that is not why I can touch the Ark.

Ebed-Melech walks over and lifts Jeremiah and Baruch off the ground.

EBED-MELECH

The Ark and all of these Articles
of the Temple are exact replicas. I
am the sole person who knows this
and now you two.

JEREMIAH

(thinking)

Solomon knew that in order to
protect the true Temple
treasures...

BARUCH

...some decoys would be needed.

JEREMIAH

(beat)

The Lord will show us the greatest
way to execute this diversion.
Baruch, let me see the map...

Baruch hands him the map of the tunnels. Ebed points to the
map.

EBED-MELECH

We are here, right beneath the
Temple.

JEREMIAH

Right underneath the Holy of
Holies.

Ebed continues to refer to the map.

EBED-MELECH

When the time is right, we can
activate this mechanism, and then
we can access the true Ark of the
Covenant and bring it down through
here.

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON - DAY

Jeremiah is sleeping over in a corner of the court. Ethni the
Levite approaches him.

ETHNI

Jeremiah.

Jeremiah lies still. Ethni moves to touch him.

ETHNI

Jeremiah!

In a flash Jeremiah has taken hold of Enthi's arm and has whipped him onto the ground. Jeremiah's intensity softens as he looks at Ethni.

JEREMIAH

Ethni. I have been expecting your visit. I'm sorry...you startled me.

ETHNI

(weepy)

I must repent before God and beg your forgiveness for turning you over to the princes. At the time, I thought it was the only choice I had. Now I see how God's hand has been upon you and has saved you.

JEREMIAH

Your forgiveness was granted from me the moment of the offense. It is true, God's hand is the one that I trust in.

ETHNI

And not Egypt's or Babylon's.

JEREMIAH

I deliver the word of the Lord, I cannot do any different. But surely, there is something more than a guilty conscience that brings you here.

ETHNI

Jeremiah, I fear that Jerusalem will fall...I fear for the treasures of the house of God.

JEREMIAH

I believe God has given me a plan. Come back tonight.

EXT. ROAD TO MT. NEBO - DAWN

PRESENT DAY.

Rani drives a classic TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 40 Series. Jane sits shotgun and Kris rides in the rear.

Samuel, John and Paul follow in their Land Rover.

EXT. BASE OF MT. NEBO - MORNING

The Land Cruiser and Land Rover are parked. Rani, Samuel, John, Paul, Jane and Kris prepare for their hike.

EXT. MT. NEBO - DAY

Rani, Samuel, John, Paul, Jane and Kris pause for drinks of WATER.

KRIS

There are roads that go all the way
up this mountain, right?

JOHN

According to the maps.

KRIS

And we are hiking all the way up it
because...?

JANE

You need the exercise...all the
falafels you've been devouring.

KRIS

So funny.

RANI

We are here to hike. That is our
cover.

SAMUEL

Plus, we want to follow the same
path Jeremiah and the Levites
did...

KRIS

...so we don't miss anything. Yeah,
yeah. I get it.

They all start hiking again. John and Paul take up the rear.

JOHN

(quietly)

Still no sign of the professor.

PAUL
He's out there, you can bet that.
Maybe he got a little timid now
that we have Rani on board.

JOHN
Maybe.

PAUL
No matter. We'll be ready for him
this time.

EXT. MT. NEBO CAVE - DAY

Rani, Samuel, Jane, Kris, John and Paul come to a stop.

KRIS
Another water break?

Samuel takes out some notes he's written on a map.

SAMUEL
This should be it.

They all look around at the side of the mountain. Rani walks over to Samuel.

RANI
This is where I put it, too.

JOHN
But there's nothing here.

There is wild shrubbery and trees about the mountainside. One tree is casting a shadow across a section of the slope, but there is only mountainside behind it.

Jane is transfixed on the area behind the tree.

JANE
Wait a minute...

Jane walks behind the tree, across the shadow and then all of a sudden, she disappears.

SAMUEL
Will you look at that!

Jane mysteriously reappears.

PAUL
It's an optical illusion.

Jane bursts with excitement.

JANE

I think we're going to want to
break out the flashlights.

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON - NIGHT

587 B.C.

Ethni comes into the Court, perhaps too serpentine. Jeremiah rises from his usual corner.

JEREMIAH

Did you tell anyone else that you
were coming?

ETHNI

No one knows but the guards, and
they believe I am here to offer you
advice from God.

JEREMIAH

We must move quickly and quietly.

Jeremiah brings Ethni to the corner with the secret access to the tunnel. Ethni's eyes grow large as he follows Jeremiah into the tunnel.

From out of the shadows, across the court, steps Jucal. He looks in the direction where Jeremiah and Ethni disappeared.

INT. TUNNEL INTERCHANGE - NIGHT

Jeremiah and Ethni enter the tunnel interchange from one of the smaller tunnels. The interchange is completely empty and devoid of any action. Because of Jeremiah's single torch, the other tunnels connected to the interchange are virtually unseen.

JEREMIAH

It seems that Solomon devised a
plan, should Jerusalem ever come
under siege.

ETHNI

If you were not held in the Court
of Prison, you may have never found
this passage.

JEREMIAH

(beat)

Perhaps. Although, God will make a way where there is none.

Jeremiah leads Ethni across and into another tunnel.

INT. HIDDEN TUNNEL VAULT - NIGHT

Jeremiah leads Ethni into the hidden vault. The animal skins and Temple treasure decoys are nowhere to be seen.

JEREMIAH

We will have to move quickly.
Jerusalem will fall any day now.

Ethni looks around, not sure of why they are there.

JEREMIAH

We are beneath the Holy of Holies.
We can lower down the Ark and
rescue it out of the city.

ETHNI

But how will we get it past the
enemy encampments?

JEREMIAH

There is a tunnel that will bring
us beyond them. Then I know of a
secret cave on Mt. Nebo.

ETHNI

I will gather a group of faithful
and worthy Levites to help.

JEREMIAH

Can you be ready by dawn tomorrow?

ETHNI

We will be ready.

JEREMIAH

We had better return, before anyone
notices I am gone.

EXT. HOUSE OF BARUCH - MORNING

Rebecca enters quickly into the house.

INT. HOUSE OF BARUCH - MORNING

Baruch is at his scribe's desk, finishing up a last line on a roll of papyrus. There is a SILVER CYLINDER next to him.

REBECCA

I just saw Ethni entering into the House of Shephatiah.

BARUCH

The Lord's plan is coming together.

Baruch gathers the papyrus with the tunnel sketches along with the new piece he has just finished and rolls them together.

REBECCA

What is that silver roll there?

BARUCH

Ebed-Melech has provided a way to preserve these scrolls from the destruction of time.

Baruch puts the scrolls inside the silver cylinder and screws in a top.

BARUCH

As this top is secured, it forces all of the air out.

INT. HOUSE OF SHEPHATIAH - DAY

Shephatiah, Pashhur, Jucal and Ethni sit around a large table, finishing up a lavish meal.

SHEPHATIAH

Mercy will be Jeremiah's final downfall.

ETHNI

He has devised a great plan to save the treasures of the Temple.

PASHHUR

And you will let us know where they are.

ETHNI

Of course. That is part of the arrangement.

(MORE)

ETHNI (cont'd)

You have the silver and gold, I have the precious Temple goods and you declare me high priest... whichever one of you takes the throne.

JUCAL

But you said Jeremiah would help rescue the Articles from the Temple. What is this gold and silver that will be ours?

SHEPHATIAH

We will utilize these new found tunnels of Jeremiah to rescue the treasury holds of Judah.

PASHHUR

The first trip will be for the Articles of the Temple. When we are assured of the safe route, we will then bring the gold.

ETHNI

I assure you...it will be safe.

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON - DAY

Baruch enters the Temple to find Jeremiah in prayer. Baruch is holding the silver cylinder.

BARUCH

Jeremiah, it is time.

JEREMIAH

You have everything contained in the cylinder?

BARUCH

Just as we planned. Freshly drawn copies of everything.

JEREMIAH

Only you must know of the hiding place of the cylinder...it must be of your choosing. Then it will be of God's choosing when the hiding place of the Ark and the great treasures of Solomon the wise are revealed.

Ebed-Melech enters and quickly moves over to Jeremiah and Baruch.

EBED-MELECH

It is any time now that the Babylonians will enter the city. Their camps are in preparation to move. All that is left to be deposited are the Articles of the Temple.

JEREMIAH

Once we deposit the decoys, Baruch and I will return to rescue the Ark and the rest of the Temple treasures.

EBED-MELECH

Are you sure I cannot help complete this task?

JEREMIAH

We must stick to the plan to complete the illusion and secure the Ark of God until He alone chooses to reveal it once again.

EBED-MELECH

My brothers. If we don't meet again here, I will embrace you when we meet again in Abraham's bosom.

Jeremiah and Baruch exchange warm embraces with Ebed.

JEREMIAH

You have done more for His kingdom than you will ever know.

EBED-MELECH

It has been my pleasure and my duty.

BARUCH

You have been a good friend. Godspeed your journey back to your homeland.

With one last goodbye, Ebed-Melech leaves quickly. Just as he is leaving, Ethni and 10 LEVITES enter the prison court.

JEREMIAH

Have you told them the full plan?

ETHNI

I have. They have all sworn an oath of secrecy to God.

JEREMIAH

Then may God watch over their words
and bring justice to all who betray
their promises to God.

Jeremiah looks over the Levites with a holy intensity.

Ethni looks at Baruch.

ETHNI

And he is also to be taken in our
confidence?

JEREMIAH

You know there is no one who can be
trusted more than Baruch.

BARUCH

And you are now to be trusted?

ETHNI

You forget your own writings...I
have turned to God and found mercy
in His sight.

It is all Baruch can do to say nothing.

Jeremiah leads the group to the secret access of the tunnels.

INT. HIDDEN TUNNEL VAULT - DAY

Jeremiah, Baruch, Ethni and the 10 Levites enter the vault.
The ARTICLES OF THE TEMPLE decoys, including the ARK OF THE
COVENANT are sitting in the middle of the room. There is a
stack of ANIMAL SKINS to the side.

All present stare at everything in awe.

JEREMIAH

Gather those animal skins to
protect God's treasures.

ETHNI

Yes of course. Come, everyone.
There is nothing to fear here.

They gather the animal skins and begin covering the pieces.

INT. SOLOMON'S TUNNELS - DAY

Jeremiah and Baruch, lead Ethni and the 10 Levites, who are carrying all of the items from the hidden vault.

There is daylight pouring in from up ahead.

JEREMIAH

Baruch will go out and make sure
there is no one to be seen.

Baruch exits into the light.

ETHNI

Where are we?

JEREMIAH

We are well East of the City.

Baruch returns with Rebecca. They are both carrying armfuls of garments.

BARUCH

We will put on these common clothes
so we do not draw attention.

Ethni eyes Rebecca.

ETHNI

This is not a quest worthy of a
woman.

Rebecca begins to speak but is stopped by Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

She has scouted the path for
Babylonians.

BARUCH

And has brought bread and water,
that we may not grow faint on our
journey.

Rebecca has cooled down.

REBECCA

The best time to go is immediately.
The Babylonians are ready for war
and have their thoughts on the
city.

The group follows her out into the light.

EXT. EAST TUNNEL EXIT - DAY

The exit to the tunnel is hidden in a rocky embankment covered with trees and shrubs. The 10 Levites load up their goods on carts and wagons that are hooked to DONKEYS.

Rebecca loads POUCHES of food and water on the donkeys. Jeremiah, Baruch and Ethni squat close the ground. Baruch draws in the dirt.

BARUCH

The encampments continue all the way through here, past the siege mounds.

JEREMIAH

We will go up over the hills here and then come down into the plain here. By then we will be far enough out into the wilderness that no one will care about what we do.

ETHNI

Let us get going then.

The men begin their trek down the embankment toward a winding path up the adjacent hillside.

Rebecca watches as they go, before ducking back into the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL INTERCHANGE - DAY

Rebecca enters the tunnel interchange area and begins to head to another tunnel across the great space.

Suddenly, she notices a light flickering in Solomon's Highway.

Rebecca douses her torch and fades into a dark corner. She watches as the light grows brighter and brighter...closer and closer.

Jucal exits from Solomon's Highway and hurries to the tunnel leading to the Court of the Prison.

Rebecca follows secretly from the shadows, staying far enough back to remain unseen, while close enough to see Jucal's light.

INT. MT. NEBO CAVE - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel and Rani lead the way into the cave. They are followed by Jane, Paul, John and Kris.

The cave tunnel weaves for a short distance, before opening up into a large chamber.

RANI
So this is it...

SAMUEL
...we are looking at Jeremiah's
Grotto.

They all move into the large chamber, shining their flashlights all around with expectancy.

But the chamber is empty.

PAUL
Someone beat us to it!

SAMUEL
Who knows how many centuries ago!

Their balloon has been popped. Jane continues to shine the light around.

RANI
It does appear to be undisturbed.

JANE
There! Look over there.

She shines her light on a natural rock ledge. There is a slight glimmer.

Samuel walks over and tries to reach it, but it is just out of his grasp.

PAUL
Let us help.

Paul gets down on his hands and knees and John steps on top.

PAUL
Ooftah!

JOHN

I assure you there is nothing but
solid muscle.

John reaches up and retrieves the golden object. He brings it
to the center of the chamber as they all gather round.

SAMUEL

Well, will you look at that!

RANI

I've never seen anything like
it...it appears to be a scroll.

SAMUEL

Made out of pure gold...from the
looks of it.

KRIS

So, just another clue?

JANE

At least it means that the road
doesn't end here.

RANI

We don't know anything until we see
what, if anything, is written on
it.

KRIS

Well?

(beat)

I know, back to the research lab.

EXT. MT. NEBO CAVE

There is fresh excitement in their steps as Rani, Samuel,
Jane, Paul, John and Kris come out from the cave, around the
tree and into the sunlight.

They quickly head back down the mountainside.

From a distant ridge, two figures are seen
watching...Professor Eli and Abir.

EXT. MT. NEBO - TWILIGHT

587 B.C.

Jeremiah, Baruch, Ethni and the Levites traverse down from Mt. Nebo. Their loads are now empty.

Ethni, taking up the rear, pauses and marks a large rock.

In the distance on a ridge, Ebed-Melech sits unseen, atop a camel overlooking the caravan. Jeremiah looks in Ebed's direction. Ebed nods an unseen goodbye.

As Jeremiah, Baruch, Ethni and the Levites head out of site, Ebed-Melech's 30 MEN join him on the ridge. Ebed pauses briefly before leading them in the direction Jeremiah and the others just came.

EXT. HOUSE OF SHEPHATIAH - NIGHT

Jucal enters Shephatiah's house. Rebecca sees him enter.

INT. HOUSE OF SHEPHATIAH - NIGHT

Jucal finds Shephatiah and Pashhur waiting for him.

PASHHUR

What did you find?

JUCAL

(smiling)

I think Ethni has not been given the whole story from Jeremiah.

SHEPHATIAH

Yes?

JUCAL

There is a great tunnel, wide and tall enough for many camels to ride side by side. I journeyed down it for some time, but it seemed endless.

SHEPHATIAH

We must arrange an exploration of this great tunnel.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY - EVENING

PRESENT DAY.

Once again, Rani, Samuel, Jane, Kris, John and Paul are gathered around the airtight container. The silver cylinder still remains inside, but is off to the side.

Rani is in the middle of unrolling the golden scroll... carefully...gently.

RANI

Once again, this in itself could end up being a priceless antiquity. You have already made this an amazing trip.

KRIS

If this scroll was already in the air, why do we have to have it airtight now?

JOHN

Once the air hits the part of the scroll that has been rolled up, it could cause issues...right?!

Kris gives John an annoyed look for his continual "know-it-all" tendencies.

SAMUEL

Just to be safe.

The scroll is unraveling remarkably smoothly. Hebrew text appears slowly but surely.

RANI

This appears to be of the purest quality gold I've ever encountered.

PAUL

One thing...what if the Jordanians find out we have this?

RANI

They will get to keep it and I'm sure display it next to the Copper Scrolls. We'll just have to excuse this renegade archeologist here.

The scroll is completely unrolled.

JANE
What does it say?

RANI
It appears to be a poem, or a
riddle...

KRIS
See, just another clue.

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON - MORNING

587 B.C.

Jeremiah sits in deeply troubled thought. Baruch quietly
rushes to him.

BARUCH
I was hoping you would be getting
the rest you so desperately need.

JEREMIAH
It is hard to rest when God's
beloved city is on the verge of
desolation. Are the Babylonians on
the move?

BARUCH
I have word that they will move
tonight. But there is something
else...Rebecca saw Jucal in the
great tunnel. I'm afraid all we
have done has been compromised.

JEREMIAH
Then we must trigger the safeguards
Solomon built into place.

BARUCH
But we have not yet moved the true
Ark and Articles of the Temple.

JEREMIAH
God will show us another hiding
place.

Jeremiah and Baruch exit into the tunnels via the secret
entrance.

INT. CAFE - MORNING

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel and Jane are alone, sitting in a quaint outdoor cafe and enjoying their morning coffee.

SAMUEL

So everyone else is sleeping in?

JANE

It's the way of the college student. All of the early mornings are catching up.

SAMUEL

And you?

JANE

I'm too excited to sleep, Grandpa.

SAMUEL

That's my girl. It's probably best for everyone to have a day of rest and enjoy just being here.

JANE

So what do you really think? Are the treasures of the Temple lost forever?

SAMUEL

We have made two monumental finds that further strengthen the validity of God's Word. It has already been the trip of a lifetime.

JANE

What of Professor Eli?

SAMUEL

It's hard to prove he was any real threat and I'm hesitant to notify the authorities. If I say Professor Eli - one who is well respected - threatened our lives, it will only discredit my work. The professor knows this. The archeological community already is skeptical of my so-called unorthodox methods.

JANE
Unorthodox basically means you
don't have a doctorate?

SAMUEL
Maybe. I so love these quests that
I don't really care about credit
and whether I'm officially
respected or not.

A shadow covers Jane.

PROFESSOR ELI (V.O.)
Respect has many meanings and is
earned in many ways.

Professor Eli helps himself to an empty chair. Abir stands
sternly behind him. The professor signals the waiter.

JANE
So you need a guard, Professor?

PROFESSOR ELI
Abir is a friend and associate who
happens to be concerned for my well-
being.

SAMUEL
And to offer more threats to a
student and an old man?

A WAITER appears by Abir and the Professor.

PROFESSOR ELI
Espresso, please.

The waiter exits.

PROFESSOR ELI
Threats? I was only curious about a
newly uncovered antiquity. I only
remember immense overreaction.

JANE
Why not just ask if you could be
part of our team?

SAMUEL
It has to do with one of his
definitions of respect.

PROFESSOR ELI

One that I've worked a lifetime to
earn. One that I won't sully by
sharing historic archeological
finds with wealthy mavericks.

SAMUEL

And it is to your loss and your
choice to remain a shadow.

The waiter sets a espresso in front of the professor.

PROFESSOR ELI

You think bringing in Rani
legitimizes your quest. A very
smart move I admit, but it hasn't
helped you find the treasures.

JANE

We found Jeremiah's Grotto...

SAMUEL

He knows. Did you enjoy once again
being just one step behind?

JANE

Wha...

PROFESSOR ELI

(baiting)

I assume you found no further clues
in the cave...as it seemed we only
found your footprints.

JANE

We...

Samuel gives Jane a sharp look.

SAMUEL

Found what you found.

PROFESSOR ELI

I see...

The professor finishes his espresso, rises and tosses some
money on the table. He found out what he came for.

PROFESSOR ELI

...well, enjoy your day. I assume
the treasure hunt is at a dead end?

SAMUEL
So it would seem.

JANE
Professor.

Professor Eli and Abir exit. There is a noticeable enthusiasm in their steps.

Kris groggily arrives at the table from the other direction.

KRIS
Was that the professor?

INT. HIDDEN TUNNEL VAULT - DAY

587 B.C.

Jeremiah and Baruch enter the hidden vault underneath the temple and the Holy of Holies.

They activate a mechanism on the far wall and immediately the sound of a CHAIN REACTION is heard until the wall opens up to reveal stairs.

INT. STAIRS TO HOLY OF HOLIES - DAY

Jeremiah and Baruch walk up rock hewn stairs. They look up to see that the ceiling has opened up.

INT. HOLY OF HOLIES - DAY

Jeremiah and Baruch enter into the Holy of Holies.

The Ark of the Covenant sits majestically in the quiet. Jeremiah and Baruch immediately fall on their faces before the Ark.

JEREMIAH
Our Lord God Almighty, grant us the
mercy and grace we need to protect
this earthly dwelling place of the
Most High.

BARUCH
Let it be so.

They move over to the Ark and carefully carry it towards the stairs.

BARUCH

What of the rest of the Articles of
the Temple?

JEREMIAH

If the Lord wills, we will have
time to return.

INT. STAIRS TO HOLY OF HOLIES - DAY

Jeremiah and Baruch carry the Ark of the Covenant down the
stairs and through the wall to the hidden vault.

INT. HIDDEN TUNNEL VAULT - DAY

Jeremiah and Baruch set the Ark down. Jeremiah reactivates
the mechanism on the wall and a REVERSE CHAIN REACTION is
heard, stopping as the secret door to the stairs closes.

Baruch pulls out the map of the tunnel system.

JEREMIAH

We must find a place outside of the
city walls, for we do not know the
extent to which the city will be
destroyed.

BARUCH

This one here. It goes out just
beyond the city wall under this
mount.

JEREMIAH

My spirit bears witness that this
is where we will place the Ark,
until the time that God chooses to
restore it to the Temple.

Jeremiah and Baruch pick up the Ark and head out into the
tunnels.

EXT. MT. OF OLIVES - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel, Jane and Kris sit atop of the Mount of Olives
overlooking the Dome of the Rock and Jerusalem.

JANE

To think how this city has been the focus of the entire world.

SAMUEL

That in itself is a testimony to the truth of the Scriptures.

KRIS

To think this is where Jesus went up to heaven.

JANE

And is coming back again.

KRIS

I'm all for catching up on rest, but I can't believe the boys are missing this!

SAMUEL

We'll have to make sure they get here before we leave, then.

The three of them look around dreamily.

Jane pulls out her journal and reads some notes. Suddenly, her eyes light up.

JANE

Listen to this again.

SAMUEL

What's that, dear?

JANE

I wrote down the words from the golden scroll.

KRIS

Of course you did.

JANE

(reading)

"Back to the beginning, shalowsh, look at the start, things that first appear are not always all that they seem. Skirted away in hidden trust for God to reveal in His time. You who read this have been appointed to gather to His people, Solomon's former glory that His glory may be revealed."

KRIS

Sounds as cryptic to me as it did yesterday.

JANE

This part especially. "...Look at the start, things that first appear are not always what they seem."

SAMUEL

Have you had a revelation?

JANE

Not sure...but we need to get to the research lab. I just remember something about the silver cylinder that strikes me as curious.

INT. TUNNEL INTERCHANGE - DAY

587 B.C.

Jeremiah and Baruch enter into the large tunnel interchange area just as a light comes from the tunnel across the way.

It is Rebecca.

REBECCA

Jeremiah?! Baruch?!

BARUCH

Rebecca!

REBECCA

The princes are on their way here now.

JEREMIAH

The time has come to activate the system to fill these great tunnels of Solomon.

REBECCA

What's worse is the Babylonians are moving on the city.

BARUCH

We have done everything we can to save the great treasures of Solomon and the Ark of the Lord's temple.

JEREMIAH

We will entrust the rest of the
Articles of the Temple to the
Lord's hand.

Baruch refers to the map.

BARUCH

This way.

Jeremiah, Rebecca and Baruch exit into a tunnel with a very steep incline.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Jeremiah, Rebecca and Baruch reach a plateau in the tunnel. On the wall is another MECHANISM. Baruch refers to the map before switching levers to unlock the mechanism.

There is a LOUD RUMBLE heard beneath them and the ground begins to shake. They look at each other and run up the tunnel as fast as they can.

INT. TUNNEL TEMPLE EXIT - DAY

Jeremiah, Baruch and Rebecca break into filtered daylight and onto a stone stairway. They pause quietly.

There is the SOUND OF GREAT TURMOIL happening out beyond their enclosure.

They follow the stairs up as far as they will go and reach a stone wall. Jeremiah pushes on the right side and the wall nudges forward slightly.

Baruch joins Jeremiah and they both push on the right side of the wall.

The wall lumbers forward as the bright daylight pours in.

EXT. NW CORNER OF TEMPLE WALL - DAY

Jeremiah, Baruch and Rebecca move out and find themselves on the top of the Temple wall, in the very same spot Jeremiah was standing when Baruch came to warn him of the princes' desire to capture him.

They look out over the wall.

EXT. JERUSALEM - DAY

MAYHEM everywhere.

The BABYLONIANS are taking the city in full force.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN run the street in panic.

Homes are futilely locked.

JEWISH MEN OF WAR aimlessly try to fight off the raging storm of war flowing across Jerusalem.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel, Jane, and Kris hover over Rani as he picks up the silver cylinder.

RANI

So you think there's more to this?

He shines a light into the cylinder. Silver reflects back.

JANE

I just think in our excitement, we didn't look it over as thoroughly as we should have.

RANI

I don't see anything else.

Samuel studies the outside of the cylinder.

SAMUEL

I have an idea. May I?

Rani sets down the cylinder and removes his arms from the sleeves. Samuel puts his arms in and picks up the cylinder.

SAMUEL

Look here, at this top ridge. This gold line around here. Now look at the bottom.

KRIS

I see the same line. Very fashionable design.

JANE
I see it. The line at the top is
slightly wider.

RANI
Yes it is.

SAMUEL
I have an idea...

Samuel twists the cylinder while holding firmly on the top
line.

HISS. Air releases.

Samuel unscrews a second top.

KRIS
Now isn't that the grooviest!
They all look into the cylinder.

RANI
There's more papyrus in there!
Samuel takes the surgical pliers and delicately removes what
ends up being two more scrolls.
Scroll one is filled with writing.
Scroll two is full of drawings. It's Ebed-Melech's map of
Solomon's Tunnels.

SAMUEL
Well, I'll be...

RANI
(reading)
Solomon's Tunnels.

CLOSE UP on the drawing of Solomon's Highway.

EXT. NW CORNER OF TEMPLE WALL - DAY

587 B.C.

Jeremiah, Baruch and Rebecca are fixed with sorrow.

JEREMIAH
Even though God said this day would
come...

BARUCH
It does not make it any easier.

REBECCA
What are we to do?

JEREMIAH
Our only hope of survival is to
surrender to Nebuchadnezzar
willingly.

BARUCH
Is it better to die in Babylon,
than in our beloved city?

JEREMIAH
Our beloved city? This is nothing
like the glorious city God's people
once knew. Maybe that would be a
city to die for. We must not try to
understand all of God's ways, but
we must obey. Then maybe one day we
will understand His plan.

INT. COURT OF THE PRISON

Shephatiah, Pashhur and Jucal come out of the hidden entrance
to Solomon's tunnels.

Their faces are flushed with fear.

SHEPHATIAH
Surely this is Jeremiah's doing!
You must have been seen in the
tunnel, Jucal.

JUCAL
I tell you, no one knew I was here.

PASHHUR
This was our last hope to escape
the city.

Jucal breaks down.

JUCAL
Where are the Egyptians now? You
said they would deliver us? You
said there would be peace?

Shephatiah knocks him to the ground.

SHEPHATIAH

You are a prince of Judah! Have you
no dignity?

Jucal whimpers on the ground.

PASHHUR

If we are princes, then we must act
quickly to save the royal
bloodline...Surely that is the will
of the gods.

JUCAL

The gods?

SHEPHATIAH

We will leave by way of the king's
garden...by the gate between the
two walls.

EXT. KING'S GARDEN DAY - DAY

King Zedekiah is held up in the garden, shaking in the
corner. KING ZEDEKIAH'S SONS stand close by, looking
hopelessly at their father. Women and children are huddled
together.

Shephatiah, Jucal, & Pashhur enter on HORSES with many others
in tow.

Shephatiah rides up to King Zedekiah.

SHEPHATIAH

The King of Judah.

KING ZEDEKIAH

I never asked to be king.

Shephatiah looks to all in the king's garden.

SHEPHATIAH

The time is now to act. This may be
our last chance to escape from the
Babylonians. We will escape by way
of the plains.

Shephatiah rides off through the gate. Pashhur and Jucal look
at the others, release the horses in tow and then ride off
after Shephatiah.

For a moment there is no action.

KING ZEDEKIAH
You heard him. Let us save
ourselves before the enemy
overtakes our house. Sons of
Zedekiah, we must ride to safety.

King Zedekiah mounts one of the horses. Zedekiah's sons mount
the other horses. The women and children present watch in
fear.

KING ZEDEKIAH
We will live to return for the
women and children.

King Zedekiah and his sons speed away through the gate.

INT. JERUSALEM RESTAURANT - EVENING

PRESENT DAY.

Samuel, Rani, Jane, Kris, John and Paul are gathered in a
private corner of a quaint restaurant. There is an evident
buzz in the air as they eat their dinners.

PAUL
See if we try to catch up on any
rest here again.

KRIS
You snooze, you lose.

JOHN
OK...you're saying this is the
treasure map of all treasure maps?

SAMUEL
Solomon's glory!

RANI
It speaks of the true wealth of
Solomon.

PAUL
But that was taken from Jerusalem
somewhere in the nine hundreds B.C.

JOHN
That right. That's why *Indiana
Jones and the Lost Ark* hypothesized
that the Ark was taken then.

KRIS

And the obscure fact man rears his head once again.

JANE

We talked about this. From the time after Solomon died until the ultimate destruction of Jerusalem, the city treasures were raided multiple times.

SAMUEL

Think about it. Where did the wealth come from after the first raid? Why was there more to be taken?

RANI

The Bible talks about Solomon being the wisest that ever lived...it would only be common sense that he hid away the greatest portion of his wealth.

JANE

Think about how much Solomon truly had in his kingdom.

SAMUEL

By today's standards it would be billions upon billions of dollars.

PAUL

And in his wisdom, he knew to hide it this way.

RANI

But not all of it. He left plenty accessible so that any raiding kingdom would think they had found his riches.

SAMUEL

That's how truly rich he was...there's no other way to describe it than glorious.

JOHN

And the Ark?

SAMUEL

It would only make sense that
Jeremiah moved it to this great
hiding place.

PAUL

So we didn't actually find
Jeremiah's Grotto?

JANE

We haven't even touched all the
info on the scrolls...

KRIS

It appears the Mt. Nebo cave was
Jeremiah's decoy.

Rani pulls out a hand-drawn sketch of the scroll map.

RANI

Look here. Underneath the Holy of
Holies...

JANE

Solomon had a rescue plan!

EXT. OUTSIDE JERUSALEM - DAY

The BABYLONIANS gather their new JEWISH PRISONERS together.
Jeremiah, Baruch and Rebecca are among them. Jeremiah is
bound in chains.

NEBUZARADAN, the captain of the Babylonian guard rides up on
a MAJESTIC WHITE STALLION.

NEBUZARADAN

(shouting)

I seek Jeremiah the prophet of the
God of Judah.

Jeremiah hesitates for a moment, looks at Baruch and Rebecca
as if to say goodbye and then steps forward.

JEREMIAH

I am he.

NEBUZARADAN

You will come with me.

Nebuzaradan dismounts his horse, hands the reigns to a
BABYLONIAN GUARD and walks out of earshot of the others.
Jeremiah shuffles in his chains over to him.

NEBUZARADAN

I have an order from King
Nebuchadnezzar himself, to take you
and look after you. You will be
done no harm. Your fate will be as
you will.

JEREMIAH

How have I found such favor in
mighty King Nebuchadnezzar's site?

NEBUZARADAN

It is not for me to say, but surely
God is looking after you.

JEREMIAH

May I go freely here, among my
people?

NEBUZARADAN

The Lord your God has proclaimed
ruin upon this land. Because your
people have sinned against the Lord
and not obeyed His Voice, this
thing has come upon you.

JEREMIAH

It is true, the Lord has brought
warning after warning.

Nebuzaradan begins taking the chains off Jeremiah.

NEBUZARADAN

Now you see, I have freed you this
very day from the chains that have
bound you. If you come with me and
stay with me, I can guarantee I
will look after you and you will be
safe. If you stay here with your
people, see all the land before
you...you are free to come and go
as you please...you will be in the
Most High's hands.

JEREMIAH

If I have such favor, may I also
ask the freedom of Baruch and his
sister, Rebecca, for they are as
one with me.

NEBUZARADAN

Let it be as you have said, they
will also be free.

Nebuzaradan nods to THREE BABYLONIAN GUARDS.

NEBUZARADAN
Give this prophet of God rations
and the two he wishes to be free.

JEREMIAH
Thank you.

NEBUZARADAN
I am but a messenger.

JEREMIAH
Thank you for being a messenger of
God's mercy.

A BABYLONIAN MESSENGER rides up to Nebuzaradan.

MESSENGER
We are in pursuit of King Zedekiah
and the princes of Judah. They are
trying to escape by way of the
plain.

NEBUZARADAN
You who obey the Lord, have been
granted mercy. Those who have
defied God and the king of Babylon
will see a grave fate.

Nebuzaradan rides off.

Jeremiah walks over to find Rebecca and Baruch. The three
guards follow.

JEREMIAH
(to the Guards)
These are the ones.
(to Baruch and Rebecca)
God has given us our freedom.

REBECCA
Great is His goodness!

JEREMIAH
There is but one thing left that
needs to be taken care of.

BARUCH
May I be led of the Lord to the
hiding place.

JEREMIAH

No one will know but you and He...
then it will be safe and only
revealed at His chosen time!

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY - NIGHT

PRESENT DAY.

Rani comes in through the door and pauses. He looks back at the door and looks at his keys. The door was unlocked. He shrugs his shoulders and moves over to the table holding the silver cylinder and golden scroll.

DOOR SLAMMING.

Rani startles, looking back to where he heard the sound. He looks towards the airtight chamber. Things are not as they were.

EXT. ROAD TO QUMRAN - NIGHT

Rani flies down the highway in the Land Rover. Samuel sits shotgun. Jane, John, Kris and Paul are piled in the back.

RANI

I still don't understand why you
didn't tell me about Professor Eli.

SAMUEL

I planned on it, but was looking
for the right timing.

RANI

If I hadn't stopped back by the
lab, the timing would be gone,
along with the find.

SAMUEL

Do you think he had a chance to
look at everything?

RANI

Who knows. But Professor Eli Newman
wouldn't need long.

EXT. QUMRAN NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT

Rani, Samuel, Jane, Kris, John and Paul make their way by
FLASHLIGHT up towards the Qumran caves.

RANI

We will hope that the rangers do not check the park. I will have a hard time explaining this one.

KRIS

So we're sure it's back in Cave Four?

SAMUEL

The maps are more than clear.

JANE

Plus, it fits with Jeremiah's clue. Back to the beginning. There's one thing I've been wondering about though. "Shallowsh."

RANI

Usually translated, three times or thrice.

KRIS

Back to the beginning thrice?

SAMUEL

Maybe we'll know what he meant when we have full hindsight.

JOHN

It's 20/20, you know.

PAUL

Thanks, "fact man".

EXT. PLAINS OF JERICHO - DAY

587 B.C.

King Zedekiah and the Princes of Judah move with all their might across the plains, but their weak horses are no match for the BABYLONIANS in pursuit, who are gaining on them quickly.

They are overtaken and surrounded.

EXT. PRISONER CAMPS - DAY

Nebuzaradan stands before Shephatiah, Jucal, Passhur, King Zedekiah and his sons. There is one BABYLONIAN GUARD for each of them, standing with swords drawn.

Fear grips them all.

NEBUZARADAN

For defiance and treason against
Nebuchadnezzar and the Lord you
have met your sentence this day.
The Lord God Almighty sent the
prophet Jeremiah out of mercy and
you counted his words not.

Nebuzaradan takes hold of King Zedekiah and moves him out in
front facing the others.

NEBUZARADAN

In confidence, you heard the words
of Jeremiah, to surrender and all
your household would be saved. You
feared the people and would not
stand for righteousness, therefore,
what the Lord God of Judah
prophesied to you will be done at
this moment.

Nebuzaradan raises his sword. As he lowers it, the guards
kill all of Zedekiah's sons.

Deep CRIES OF ANGUISH.

King Zedekiah tries to hide his eyes, but Nebuzaradan grabs
the hair on his head and makes him look.

NEBUZARADAN

Princes of Judah. You said peace
when there was no peace. You made
alliances with the sworn enemies of
Babylon. You also were warned and
sought to destroy the very life of
the man of God brought to offer
salvation for your lives.

JUCAL

(weeping)

I never wanted to be a part of
them. I always knew Jeremiah was
right. I always knew it. Please
spare my life. I will serve the
great king of Babylon. Have mercy.
Have mercy. Mercy.

Nebuzaradan raises his sword again and lowers it. The princes
of Judah are executed.

NEBUZARADAN

(to King Zedekiah)

You have seen with great horror the fate you have brought upon yourself and this will be the last thing you will see. Forever your mind will be etched with sorrow for your defiance. You will have no new images to refresh your soul.

KING ZEDEKIAH

What? What are you going to do?

NEBUZARADAN

Guards.

Three guards move on Zedekiah. Two hold him, while one moves towards his eyes with a dagger.

KING ZEDEKIAH

No! Please, just kill me.

King Zedekiah screams in excruciating pain.

INT. CAVE FOUR - NIGHT

PRESENT DAY.

One at a time, John, Paul, Kris, Jane, Samuel and Rani enter into the cave. They immediately move to the wall where the silver cylinder was found.

KRIS

So we're basically saying that Solomon had an underground tunnel system all the way from the Temple Mount to here?

JOHN

It does sound impossible, but there are rumors of tunnels in Peru and South America that go for hundreds of miles deep within the earth.

KRIS

The key word is "rumors".

SAMUEL

With the workforce, technology and wisdom Solomon contained, it is possible and from these documents very probable.

Samuel and Rani look over the wall.

JOHN

But with that kind of workforce,
why wouldn't somebody have slipped
and told somebody? Shouldn't there
at least be a legend of Solomon's
Tunnels? Like the legend of
Solomon's mines?

RANI

It is very likely that the very
people who helped gather a great
bulk of Solomon's gold from the
mines are the same ones who helped
develop the tunnel system.

JANE

Ethiopia?

RANI

Yes. These people knew a loyalty
and had an integrity that is
unheard of today.

SAMUEL

Paul. May I have your back once
again?

Paul gets on his hands and knees. Samuel uses his back to
step up and reach behind where he found the silver cylinder.

SAMUEL

We know that one of Jeremiah's
closest allies was the Ethiopian
eunuch, Ebed-Melech. We just don't
know much about him.

Samuel moves his arm deep within the wall.

JANE

Who would have known the hole went
that far in?

SAMUEL

That's just it. Whoever hid it was
counting on human nature to think
that the prize was found and that
was all there was to it.

Samuel stops and exerts some effort to pull back.

RANI
Did you feel it?

SAMUEL
I think so. Paul, reach in and grab
hold of something that feels like a
motorcycle handle grip.

Paul gets up. John moves to become the step.

JOHN
Ooftah!

PAUL
Muscle...pure, rock-solid muscle.

Paul reaches his arm back into the hole.

PAUL
I feel it.

RANI
Now pull out and down with all your
strength.

Paul pulls and nothing happens.

SAMUEL
Try again. Try twisting it first.

Paul performs these directions and suddenly...

CRAAAACK!

A small portion of the wall opens up.

KRIS
Now, who would have ever guessed
that was there!

Jane runs up and shines her light in the opening.

JANE
Steps!

Kris peeks in.

KRIS
Spiral ones.

INT. CAVE FOUR SPIRAL STEPS - NIGHT

Jane, Paul, John, Kris, Samuel and Rani make their way down the narrow rock-hewn steps.

INT. SOLOMON'S HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Jane, Paul, John, Kris, Samuel and Rani exit the spiral steps, which lands them directly at the end of Solomon's Highway in front of the Great Door.

KRIS

Is this where we say, "Open
Sesame"?

They all stare at the intricate mechanisms and levers on the door. Samuel walks up for a closer look.

SAMUEL

The combinations on these levers
are endless.

PAUL

Why do we have to be going up
against the wisest guy of all time?

RANI

Maybe there are some clues on the
scrolls.

VOICE

Maybe you shouldn't have rushed off
so quickly in your giddy
excitement.

Professor Eli and Abir step out of the spiral stairway.

KRIS

Do you always have to make such
creepy entrances?

EXT. CAVES OF QUMRAN - DAY

587 B.C.

Baruch rides a DONKEY towards the mountains.

The silver cylinder is barely noticeable in the pack strapped to the donkey.

EXT. CAVE FOUR MOUNTAIN - TWILIGHT

Baruch comes down the mountainside. Above him is Cave Four of the modern day Qumran.

EXT. THE GREAT DOOR - NIGHT

PRESENT DAY.

Jane, Paul, John, Kris, Samuel and Rani stand in confrontation with Professor Eli and Abir.

JANE

So, you think you can overtake us all?

RANI

I never expected you to be a site jumper, Eli.

PROFESSOR ELI

This isn't just any site. This is the greatest of all history. The finders of this will become legendary...

JOHN

Howard Carter to the Nth degree!

PROFESSOR ELI

Still interrupting, I see.

KRIS

Howard Carter?

JOHN

He found King Tut.

The professor reaches inside his vest. Paul and John start to move towards him. Abir steps towards them.

PROFESSOR ELI

That won't be necessary.

The professor pulls out an enlarged photograph.

SAMUEL

You have a proposal?

PROFESSOR ELI
You can go back and study the
scrolls, while I unlock the door
and get all the credit myself.

RANI
Or?

PROFESSOR ELI
Or, we share the credit of the find
together and we open it now.

JANE
And lose your respect?

PROFESSOR ELI
As I said, respect has many
different meanings, and after
seeing the immensity of what was
about to be discovered, I've
decided to redefine my meaning of
respect.

SAMUEL
As I said, we would have welcomed
you from the start.

KRIS
So does this mean we all hug and
make up?

Professor Eli walks up to the door and looks at the
photograph. It is a close up of the scroll with the Hebrew
writing on it.

The professor reaches for the levers on the door.

He pauses.

PROFESSOR ELI
May I?

The others stare at him incredulously.

The professor switches the levers according to the writings.
He looks back at the others. You can hear a pin drop.

Professor Eli steps back and motions Samuel to the door.

Samuel steps up to the door, takes a deep breath and turns
the great handle.

CLICK!

The door seems to EXHALE as Samuel pulls it back. Flashlights in hand, the entire group makes its way inside. Professor Eli nudges his way to the lead.

INT. SOLOMON'S GLORY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The group slowly makes their way into an immense chamber.

GOLD, SILVER and PRECIOUS JEWELS are piled as if mounds of dirt.

BREATHTAKING BEAUTY.

No one can say a word.

GLORIOUS ARTIFACTS from untold kingdoms of old...HUNDREDS of them.

Their lights continue to illuminate a seemingly endless ARRAY OF MARVELOUS ANTIQUITIES.

A puzzled look begins to grow across Jane's face.

JANE
(to herself)
Where's the Ark?

EXT. STREET CAFE - DAY

The morning is bright and cheery, as Samuel, Jane and Kris sit basking in the morning sun.

KRIS
How long before they announce our
find to the world?

SAMUEL
They want to first secure
everything in order to protect from
raiders.

JANE
I like that we have a short season
of savoring our secret.

John and Paul walk up and plop in chairs.

PAUL
Last time we slept in, we
practically missed the find of the
ages.

JOHN

That's not going to happen again.

SAMUEL

I think it will be a casual site-seeing day today. Don't know how much more we could find in one trip.

JANE

Grandpa, what do you think about the Ark? It doesn't make sense... that would have been Solomon's first priority.

SAMUEL

It puzzles me too. Maybe when we're all rested up, we can see if he left any more clues. A good excuse to make a trip next year.

PAUL

Where are we going today?

KRIS

Jane wants to go to the Temple Mount, then I say we hit the Mount of Olives since you guys missed it last time.

Jane is somewhere else, deep in thought.

JANE

Shalowsh. Three times. Maybe there were three levels of meaning in that clue.

SAMUEL

Yes?

JANE

Back to the beginning. Three times. The trinity. Come on, let's go to the Temple Mount.

Jane gets up excitedly and heads down the street.

KRIS

Here we go again.

JOHN

I'm not finished with my coffee...

PAUL
I guess we better get to-go cups.

Jane stops.

JANE
You guys coming?

EXT. TEMPLE MOUNT - DAY

Jane is practically running ahead of the others. She makes her way across the Mount past the Dome of the Spirits and over to the wall facing toward Golgotha.

She pulls out her journal and looks at the sketch she made of Solomon's Tunnels.

Samuel, Kris, John and Paul catch up with her.

PAUL
OK, sis! Let's hear it.

JANE
We know that from here, all the way to over there...

JOHN
Golgotha...

KRIS
...where Christ was crucified.

JANE
Was all Mt. Moriah. Grandpa, remember you were talking about God's Circle of Glory and how He so often works in threes.

SAMUEL
The Trinity being the greatest example.

JANE
Well, maybe that is what Jeremiah was really saying about "shalowsh" - thrice.

KRIS
OK. I'm not seeing where this is going.

JANE
Mt. Moriah...Abraham offered up
Isaac...

PAUL
The Temple was the place for
sacrifice.

SAMUEL
Where the blood of the lamb was
spilled on top of the mercy seat...
the Ark of the Covenant.

Samuel begins to smile as he sees where Jane is going with
this.

JOHN
And then Christ was the final
sacrifice.

JANE
Wouldn't it just be God if Christ
was offered up on the cross, THE
Lamb of God, right above the mercy
seat...

SAMUEL
Which safely left the city, but
never left Mt. Moriah...

JANE
Making the Circle of Glory
complete...

EXT. LONG SHOT OF MT. MORIAH - CONTINUOUS

The group continues to look towards Golgotha.

For the first time, the outline of Mt. Moriah and what was
cut away below the Temple Mount is evident.

Moving closer and closer, the "Place of the Skull" slowly
comes into plain view.

THE END

FADE OUT.