

דָּוִד

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

THE LIBRETTO

**Book, Music and
Lyrics by Daniel A. Wolf**

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

CHARACTERS

SAMUEL

SCRIBE

SAUL

DAVID

GOLIATH

HIGH PRIEST (sings bridge in “Freedom!”)

JONATHAN

Extras

SAUL’S COURT

SAUL’S SOLDIERS

TOWNSPEOPLE

DAVID’S SOLDIERS

PHILISTINE SOLDIERS

MUSIC

INSTRUMENTS

Piano

Flute (doubles on piccolo and alto flute)

Clarinet (doubles on bass clarinet)

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Trumpet

Flugelhorn

Trombone

Percussion: snare drum, bass drum, cymbals (crash and ride), triangle, tambourines, woodblock, tympani (2)

Shofar

 **Overture**

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/overture.mp3

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

DAVID: THE LIBRETTO

ACT I

Scribe enters.

SCRIBE: And it came to pass when Samuel the prophet was old

Samuel enters.

that the elders of Israel came to him and said, “Make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” And Samuel spoke these words in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said, “Hearken unto their voice and make them a king.” Now there was a man whose name was Saul

Saul enters.

and there was not a goodlier person than he among the children of Israel. And the Lord revealed unto Samuel to anoint Saul to be King. And Samuel said unto all Israel...

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Saul kneels before Samuel to receive his anointment.

SAMUEL: Behold I have hearkened unto your voice and have made a king over you.

Saul prepares for battle. He inspects and swings his sword.

SCRIBE: And there was a sore war against the Amelikites all the days of Saul's reign. And Samuel said unto Saul...

SAMUEL: Go and slay the Amelikites and destroy all that they have including every sheep and ox.

Saul leaves Samuel and swings his sword wildly to convey the battle with the Amelikites.

SCRIBE: But Saul spared the king and the best of the sheep, and the lambs and all that was good. And Saul returned to Samuel and said...

Saul returns to Samuel.

SAUL: I have performed the commandment of the Lord.

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SCRIBE: But Samuel answered...

SAMUEL: What meaning then this bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? The Lord anointed thee king and sent thee on a journey. But because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you from being king.

SCRIBE: And as Samuel turned to go away,

Samuel turns to leave. Saul grabs Samuel's cloak and tears it.

Saul laid hold upon his skirt and it tore. And Samuel said...

SAMUEL: The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you and has given it to a neighbor, someone better than you.

Samuel again turns to leave.

SAUL: Samuel! Samuel!

Samuel exits.

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SCRIBE: Now the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul,
and an evil spirit from the Lord terrified him.

*Scribe exits. Saul sits on his throne. Court stands in a row
behind him. Near the throne is a table on which there is a
burning candle and an empty goblet.*

SAUL: *[sings]*

Saul's Lament

Oh God, why hast thou forsaken me?
Why hast thou removed thyself?
Why hast thou vanished like a leaf that burns slowly on the
ground?
Why hast thou broken all bonds with me?

Answer me

Answer me

Saul rises.

You promised me a land
A land flowing with milk and honey
Oh Lord, the flame is low
And flickers faintly in the night

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Oh Lord

Saul holds up the empty goblet.

Oh Cup of Bitterness

Oh cup of bitterness
Oh cup of sorrow
Oh cup of loneliness
Empty as tomorrow

*Saul and his court repeat twice from “Oh cup of bitterness”.
Court exits.*

SAUL: *[sings]*

If I had my wish
I wish that it would be
I could return to thee
With all my soul
I would return to thee
And never be
Wayward in my work
To serve thee well

I remember a time
It wasn't long ago

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

I was next to thee
And life was pure
Oh to return to thee
Can never be
I've been expelled
And the gates are closed.

I remember a time
It wasn't long ago
I was next to thee
And *life* was pure
Oh to return to thee
Can never be
I've been expelled
And the gates are closed.

I remember a time
It wasn't long ago

Saul sits on his throne. Servant enters.

SERVANT: My lord, a young man is here to see you.

SAUL: Who is it?

SERVANT: His name is David, son of Jesse the Bethlehemite.

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SAUL: Oh, yes. Send him in.

David enters. He is a young man, early 20's, lean but strong. He carries a small harp.

DAVID: You sent for me, my lord?

SAUL: I did. My servants tell me you are a skillful player on the harp. Is that true?

DAVID: So I've been told, my lord.

SAUL: They also say your playing can calm a troubled soul. Is that also true?

DAVID: My lord?

SAUL: *(smiles)* Of course. You see, young man, there are times I am visited by some kind of spirit. It enters my mind and causes me such terrible pain and agony. My servants think your playing might help me. Can you, David? Can you help me?

DAVID: I can try.

SAUL: Please then. Try.

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DAVID: *[sings]*

David's Prayer ★

All praise oh my God be to thee
Who art the source of all glory
And majesty of greatness and honor

Repeat each verse twice.

Cast thy glance of favor upon us
Render our souls joyous and happy
Through thy glad tidings

Say God sufficeth all things
Above all things
And nothing in the heavens
Or in the earth
But God sufficeth.

Oh my Lord, my protection my armor
My preservation, my shield
Thou art the protector
The guardian, the preserver,
The sufficer

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He is God. He is God.

★ *From Baha'i Scripture*

Saul rises.

SAUL: *[sings]*

When I Was Young

I have heard that voice I'm certain
Many times years ago
Oh how strange it's so pleasing
Please me, play.

If I could be years younger
I would know that voice I heard
Oh how strange you remind me
Of the time I was young

Oh how strange you remind me
Of the time I was young
Of the time when I was young

Scribe enters.

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SCRIBE: Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle. And there went out from their camp a champion named Goliath. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel...

GOLIATH: Choose you a man and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I kill him, you shall be our servants and serve us.

Saul and his soldiers stare at Goliath in stunned disbelief then argue among themselves who should fight Goliath. David emerges from behind the line.

DAVID (to Saul): I will go and fight with this Philistine.

Scribe exits. Townspeople watch as Goliath swings his sword at David. David is quick and is able to elude Goliath. David carries a slingshot.

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Who is This Boy?

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/who-is-this-boy.mp3 (instrumental)

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/who-is-this-boy-vocals.mp3

TOWNSPEOPLE: *[sing]*

Who is this boy who wants to slay Goliath?
What is his name?
We're certain that he's mad
Who is this boy who comes from out of nowhere?
What is his name?
We'll write it on his grave.

GOLIATH: *[sings]*

Ho, ho, ho, ho
I never have laughed harder
How long he lives
Depends when I sneeze
Who is this boy who wants to slay the giant?
What is his name?
I'll write it on his grave.

TOWNSPEOPLE: *[sing]*

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

What is his name?

What is his name?

What is his name?

David twirls the slingshot over his head and fires it at Goliath. Goliath holds his forehead and screams in agony. He falls to his knees then dies. David takes Goliath's sword and stands over him in triumph then exits. Shofar sounds three times as townspeople gather to learn and spread the news about David's triumph. There ensues much celebration. The High Priest stands aside.



Freedom! / Fanfare

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/freedom_and_fanfare.mp3 (instrumental)

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/freedom_song.mp3

SOLOIST: [*sings*]

Come everybody

Let the word go out

Let the word go out

For freedom

Come everybody

Let the word go out

Let the word go out

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

We're free!

TOWNSPEOPLE: *[sing]*

Come everybody
Let us sing for joy
God has sent a boy
To free us
Come everybody
Let us sing for joy
God has sent a boy
A man!

Come everybody
Let us dance and sing
God has sent a man
To free us
Come everybody
Let us dance and sing
God has sent a man
A king!

David enters. Townspeople dance around him.

HIGH PRIEST: *[sings]*

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Freedom's here
Let the word go out
Our freedom's here
Let us sing
Know the Lord above has
Heard our pleas
Bend your knees
Pray to thee.

TOWNSPEOPLE: *[sing]*

Come everybody
Let the word go out
Let the word go out
For freedom
Come everybody
Let the word go out

Let the word go out
We're free!
God has sent a boy
To free us
God has sent a man
A king!

Jonathan enters with soldiers amid fanfare. He is in his late

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teens, early 20's, not as strong or as impressive as David.

JONATHAN: Come, David. All Israel has heard of your great victory. My father sends me to escort you back to camp.

DAVID: Your father? Who is your father? And who are you?

JONATHAN: I am Prince Jonathan, the son of Saul.

Townspeople giggle among themselves.

JONATHAN: Silence!

DAVID: They laugh. Why do they laugh?

JONATHAN: It is true. I am a prince. But I am only a prince by birth.

DAVID: What do you mean?

JONATHAN: Oh, David...

JONATHAN: *[sings]*

The Call Me A Prince

They call me a prince
But am I as strong as you?
I could not kill a giant
With only a stone

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Maybe fifty stones
And three-hundred men
That's what I need
To only defend
They call me a prince.

[speaks] I'm a prince? Hah!

[sings]

I'm laughed at wherever I go
"Jonathan," they say,
"is not like Saul.
He lacks the strength
to sound the call."
They call me a prince.

But you with your strength
And courage and wisdom
You are a prince
Beyond all contention
If I had just part of your sign
I'd be remembered for all time
They call me a prince.

JONATHAN: *(to his soldiers)* Ready, men? March!

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Jonathan begins to exit with soldiers. He turns back and notices David not following.

JONATHAN: *(to David)*

You're not coming?

DAVID: Tell your father I will join him later. I must first give thanks to He who has delivered me from the hand of the Philistine.

JONATHAN: As you wish. Come, men.

Jonathan and soldiers march off. Townspeople follow. David stands alone.

DAVID: Oh, Lord. How glorious is Thy name in all the earth. *(pause)* A prince? Am I truly a prince? Well, perhaps now. But what when I grow old? What will become of me then?

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

DAVID: [*sings*]

When I Grow Old

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/when-i-grow-old-instrumental.mp3 (instrumental)

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/when_i_grow_old.mp3

Oh when I grow old
Will my heart run free?
Will I still believe
In everyday, that one day
The world will cry no more.

Oh when I grow old
Will my thoughts have changed?
Will I be the same?
To laugh and love, hope and dream
And listen to wisdom when She calls.

Or will I think best of days past
With no dream to hold
And hide away from each day
And from the voice that calls.

Oh when I grow old
Will my heart run free?

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Will I still believe
In everyday, that one day
The world will cry no more

Saul sits at his throne flanked by his court on both sides.

Saul's Chant

SAUL: It happened many times.
COURT: The prophet Samuel came. The prophet Samuel came.
SAUL: And one day he anointed me the king.
COURT: For all the people to see. For all the people to see
SAUL: And I was honored with gifts.
COURT: Gifts from all the lands. Gifts from all the lands
SAUL: And Israel was great.
COURT: An army matched by none. An army matched by none.
SAUL: And nations feared our force.
COURT: And begged to be our slaves. And begged to be our slaves.
SAUL: And slaves were better than none.
COURT: But Samuel refused, but Samuel refused, but Samuel refused such things.
SAUL: And anointed him another.

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David's soldiers enter.

DAVID'S SOLDIERS: *[sing]*



Oh How Proud We Are!

http://danielwolffmusic.com/david_audio/oh_how_proud_we_are.mp3

In the morning with the sunrise
We are marching into war
There to guide is our leader
Great in all the things he does.

(Refrain sung twice)

Oh how proud we are!
We are marching into war
Oh how strong are we
We are led to victory.

Jonathan enters.

All united under David
We are ready for the call
In the battle none is better
With a sword than blessed he.

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

(Refrain sung twice)

Oh how proud we are
We are marching into war
Oh how strong are we
We are led to victory

David enters and bows before Saul.

DAVID: My lord. You commanded me to kill a hundred Philistines. But I have slain two hundred Philistines.

SAUL: So I've heard. As I've heard people sing, *(sings mockingly)* "Saul has slain his thousands but David his ten thousands." Perhaps it was a mistake to make you a captain.

DAVID: I serve only you, my lord. I seek no glory for myself.

SAUL: May it always be so. *(to court)* Come. Let us see the fruits of *my* great victory.

Saul and court leave. David and Jonathan remain.

JONATHAN: You must be careful. My father grows more jealous of you each day.

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DAVID: And you, Jonathan? Are you jealous of me too?

JONATHAN: Oh no, David. I could never be jealous of you. I love you more than my own soul.

JONATHAN [*sings*]



More Than My Soul

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/more_than_my_soul-instrumental.mp3 (instrumental)

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/more_than_my_soul_jonathan.mp3

More than my soul
More than my soul
More than all things
That heaven allows.

Take all my land
Take, it is yours
Nothing can fill me
More than you here

More than my gold
Even my gold
Little compared
When thinking of you.

More than my name

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

More than my name
I'd be unknown if
Known just by you

DAVID: *[sings]*

Jonathan

Oh, Jonathan
Everyday of the year
With each season passed
I think of you.
Oh Jonathan
Though we live but a time
Can I believe it's true?

[Duet]

DAVID: Oh Jonathan

JONATHAN: More than my soul

DAVID: Everyday of the year

JONATHAN: More than my soul

DAVID: With each season passed

JONATHAN: More than all things

DAVID: I think of you

JONATHAN: That heaven allows

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

DAVID: Jonathan
JONATHAN: More than my name
DAVID: Though we live but a time
JONATHAN: More than my name.
TOGETHER: Can I believe it's true?
JONATHAN: More than my soul
More than my soul

DAVID: Oh Jonathan
JONATHAN: More than my soul
DAVID: Everyday of the year
JONATHAN: More than my soul
DAVID: With each season passed
JONATHAN: More than all things
DAVID: I think of you
JONATHAN: That heaven allows
DAVID: Jonathan
JONATHAN: More than my name
DAVID: Though we live but a time
JONATHAN: More than my name
TOGETHER: Can I believe it's true?

End of ACT I

ACT II

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

David enters as townspeople cheer.

TOWNSPERSON:

David, we stand in awe of you. No man, not even Saul, is so successful in battle. Tell us, how do you triumph in all your ways?

DAVID: Do you remember Moses? How he climbed Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments?

TOWNSPEOPLE: Yes.

DAVID: Well...

Some townspeople sit while others remain standing.

DAVID: *[sings]*



I Thank Him

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/i_thank_him-instrumental.mp3 (instrumental)

http://danielwolfmusic.com/david_audio/i_thank_him.mp3

Some men don't climb
Some men never ask why

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Their lives a silly game
They play till the end.

But some men ask why
Some men live to know why
Their lives a constant climb
To see what's beyond.

To each man there comes a time
To move or stay behind
A choice we all must bear
But I know what must be done
I know I must move on
To reach my promised land

Oh sometimes I feel the road's so long
And sometimes I feel I can't go on
But when I sit beneath a tree
I thank Him, I thank Him
I thank Him for all that he's done.

Sometimes I feel the way's too rough
And sometime I feel I've had enough
But when I feel the breezes blow
I thank Him, I thank Him

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

I thank Him for all that He's done.

Sometimes along the way
I think of yesterday and how
Life was very sure
But I know those days are gone
I know I must move on
And do what God has planned for me.

DAVID and TOWNSPEOPLE: [sing]

Oh sometimes I feel the road's so long
And sometimes I feel I can't go on
But when I sit beneath a tree
I thank Him, I thank Him
I thank Him for all that he's done.

*Saul enters with soldiers as David and townspeople exit singing:
"I Thank Him, I Thank Him, I Thank Him for all that He's
done."*

SAUL: Thank him? The people thank David? For what?
It's me they should thank. I am their king!
(pause) Or am I? (pause) Oh, how could I have
been so blind?

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SAUL: *[sings]*

How Could I Have Made Such Mistakes?

How could I have made such mistakes?
Letting this boy have his own way
I've known such ways before
I've known such ways before.
Jonathan, return to my side
This *boy* must now surely die

Jonathan enters. Saul sings directly to Jonathan.

I know how this one thinks
I know how this one thinks

*Jonathan pleads with Saul [speaks]: No, father, no. No! No!
He runs off to warn David.*

I've known such ways before
I've known such ways before.

Suddenly it becomes very clear
What this boy thought

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

That he might appear
Stronger than his king
Stronger than his king
How could I have made such mistakes?

David stands alone in an empty field. Jonathan enters. He is out of breath.

JONATHAN: David! David, you must run! My father plans to kill you.

DAVID: Kill me? Why? What have I done? What is my crime that he seeks my life?

JONATHAN: He's become mad. He thinks (*almost laughing*) you will one day be king. Hurry! You must go.

DAVID: Come with me then.

JONATHAN: You know I can't. I can't leave my father. This is the last time we shall ever meet.

DAVID: No, Jonathan.

DAVID and JONATHAN: [*sing*]

It is Said (Farewell Duet)

DAVID: [*sings*]

It is said that God has many worlds
If it's true then I will wait for you

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DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Oh be alive
Let nothing ever stand more strong
Be alive
And it will not be long.

JONATHAN: *[sings]*

Wait for you?
What chances are there in times beyond?
No other time could ever match our love
Oh be again
So happy a time has gone away
Times we shared can be no more.

DAVID and JONATHAN: *[sing]*

I am lost, lonely and aching
And have no home
Nothing can ever be the same.

Jonathan takes off his cloak and gives it to David.

JONATHAN: Take this. It will keep you warm at night.

DAVID: More than my soul, Yonatan.

JONATHAN: More than my soul, Dăvid.

David exits. Jonathan waves farewell then exits. Scribe enters.

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SCRIBE: And David dwelt in the wilderness and Saul sought him everyday but God delivered him not unto his hand.

Scribe exits. David and his soldiers stand around a campfire.

DAVID: *[sings]*

Make Me A Brilliant Star

My arms are so weary
My feet cannot step
Beside me, please guide me
I cannot forget
Your words and your wishes
In prayer, in my heart
Yours I awaken each day.

DAVID: See, see that I never fail.

SOLDIERS: My arms are so weary. My feet cannot step.

DAVID: Protect me from those who do harm.

SOLDIERS: Beside me, please guide me. I cannot forget.

DAVID: See, see that I may prevail.

SOLDIERS: Your words and your wishes in prayer, in my heart.

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TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

DAVID: Protect me and guide me in life.

TOGETHER: Yours I awaken each day.

DAVID: Oh God, guide me, protect me. Make me a brilliant star.

Soldiers join in one at a time until all are singing:

Oh God, guide me, protect me.
Make me a brilliant star.

DAVID (*looks at Jonathan's cloak*): [*sings*]

Oh God, guide him, protect him
Make him a brilliant star.

David and his men hear Saul and his soldiers approaching. They quickly exit. Saul, Jonathan, and soldiers enter. A soldier bends down to inspect the dying embers of the campfire.

SOLDIER: My lord, it's still warm. They can't be far ahead.

SAUL: Quick men!

Soldiers rush off.

JONATHAN: Father, why do you do this? What has he done?

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

SAUL: Jonathan, don't you see? As long as David lives you will never be king. I'm doing this for you!

Saul leaves. Jonathan remains with two soldiers.

JONATHAN: For me? He's doing this for me? But what good is it to be king if I'm alone? No, there is only one thing now that I desire.

JONATHAN: *[sings]*:

Death is a Messenger of Joy

Death, how it so moves me
How it holds me in its power
I relish each thought of death
I am immersed by it
Everyday it comes close
And beckons, and beckons.

I wait for death
It will release me
Free me from pain
Death is a messenger of joy
It will unite me with David
For all eternity

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

Soldier: *[speaks]* My lord, the Philistines!

Three Philistine soldiers enter. A sword fight ensues. Both of Jonathan's men are slain. Jonathan is left to fight the three Philistines.

JONATHAN: *(summons his courage, shouts)* Come on!

He stabs and kills one but is overpowered and slain by the remaining two. Philistines exit. Saul enters with armor-bearer and looks down at the body of Jonathan. He falls to his knees and cradles Jonathan's lifeless body. He is consumed with grief.

SAUL: My son, my son.

SAUL: *[regains composure, sings]*

The More I Know

The more I know less time I have
What I had wished is not
What I had feared is true
David will rule this land
And I shall wither like a leaf.

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

To armor-bearer:

So take thy sword and thrust me
Lest these Philistines thrust
And make a mock!
And I will leave this world
With pride
Oh God. Why hast thou forsaken me?

Saul is stabbed from behind by his armor-bearer. He falls to his knees.

SAUL: *[sings]* Oh God, guide me, protect me
Make me a brilliant star.

Saul dies. Armor-bearer exits. David, his soldiers and townspeople enter and see the bodies of Saul and Jonathan lying side by side. David falls to his knees, looks up, and appeals to the heavens.

DAVID: Tell it not in Gath, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice. The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. The bow of Jonathan turned not back.

DAVID: *[sings]*

DAVID

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

How Are the Mighty Fallen

Saul and Jonathan
Were noble and courageous
In their lives
Even in their death
They were not divided.
Ye daughters of Israel
Weep over Saul
Who clothed you in scarlet
And other delights
Who put ornaments of gold
Upon your apparel

DAVID, SOLDIERS, and TOWNSPEOPLE: [*sing*]

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!

Scribe enters.

SCRIBE: And David was 30 years old when he began to reign. And he reigned for 40 years.

Scribe, soldiers, and townspeople kneel before David.

דָּוִד

TO EACH MAN THERE COMES A TIME

THE END

Book Music and Lyrics by Daniel A. Wolf
Additional Music and Orchestration by Ed Etkins

www.danielwolfmusic.com/david

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