

FADE IN

EXT. - 1ST CENTURY ISRAEL - DAWN

LOW ANGLE ON BUNNIES

The sun is just beginning to rise behind the bunnies, who are sniffing the air. It's chilly and we can see their breath. Suddenly they stop and keenly look toward the camera--craning to see the source of an odd SOUND behind us. They hop toward the action, and the camera moves back as they keep coming closer.

MARY (OFF CAMERA)
Are you two up already?

The BUNNIES stop. They're uncertain whether to proceed.

MARY (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Hope you're staying warm this morning.

That SOUND again. It's a grinding noise, but the BUNNIES smile at each other and hop OVER THE CAMERA toward Mary.

CLOSE ANGLE ON TABLE STREWN WITH DOUGH, GRAPES AND CHEESE

The SOUND stops briefly. A hand reaches into frame and plucks off a couple of grapes.

ANGLE FROM BEHIND BUNNIES

Two grapes fall into frame and bounce gently, one beside each bunny. The rabbits have stopped along the edge of a stone wall. That SOUND starts again.

BUNNIES POV; CAMERA MOVES UP THE WALL, REVEALING MARY

She's working in a small courtyard beside her family's home. The courtyard is defined by a half-wall about three feet high. She's got a fire going under a baking stone and is grinding grain to make dough for the day's meals. She's merrily humming a tune as she works. Mary is about fifteen years old.

HIGH POV (ABOUT FIFTY FEET IN THE AIR); ANGLE ON MARY/COURTYARD

The CAMERA is "hovering", not entirely stable. A couple of small birds have landed on the wall not far from MARY and the BUNNIES.

THEME MUSIC; OPENING CREDITS

CONTINUOUS... CAMERA "FLIES AROUND" DURING SONG

CONTINUOUS... ANGLE ON SUNRISE AND COUNTRYSIDE

CONTINUOUS... ANGLE ON MARY'S HOUSE NEAR A SMALL VILLAGE

As MUSIC FADES we HEAR a deep, pulsing "whoosh" like a large bird's wing-stroke. We've been watching the scene from an ANGEL's POV. He's now descending toward the courtyard.

MARY'S POV, ANGLE ON BUNNIES

MARY (O.C.)
I can't spare any bread today, but
this cheese isn't too old.

They're looking up at her eagerly as she drops some cheese crumbs over the edge of the wall. Suddenly, their eyes grow large and they hop back with a fearful look on their faces.

MARY (O.C.) (CONT'D)
What's wrong? The cheese is good-
go on-try it.

But the BUNNIES cower together, obviously seeing something behind her.

BUNNIES' POV, ANGLE ON MARY

ANGEL
Good morning Mary.

Mary smiles to herself.

MARY
Joseph! You better have that new
bench for my father...oh!

She turns and is shocked to see the angel.

THE ANGEL

ANGEL
Mary, the Lord has blessed you, and
He is with you.

She bows deeply, not looking up as she speaks.

MARY
Sir. I--I don't...

ANGEL
Don't be afraid Mary. God is
pleased with you.

Mary says nothing. She doesn't move.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
Listen carefully Mary. You will
become pregnant and give birth to a
son. You are to name him Jesus.

She has not looked up yet.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Mary?

MARY

I'm listening.

ANGEL

Jesus will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end.

MARY

But... how will this happen? I'm not married.

ANGEL

The Holy Spirit will... come upon you... the power of the Most High will... cover you.

ANGLE ON MARY

She looks up at the angel for the first time.

ANGEL (CONT. GENTLY)

Mary, your baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.

VOICE FROM HOUSE

MOTHER (O.C.)

Mary? Who's out there?

ANGEL (QUICKLY)

Listen, your cousin Elizabeth is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she was too old to have a baby. Mary: God can do anything.

The angel looks intently at Mary.

MARY (LOOKS DOWN)

I--I...

She lifts her head with a look of resolve.

MARY (CONT'D)

...I am the servant of the Lord. May this happen to me as you have spoken.

The angel is pleased, and nods with satisfaction. Mission accomplished. With a powerful stroke of his wings, he launches up and out of frame.

SOUND OF DOOR OPENING

Mary's mother walks around the corner of the house. She hasn't seen the angel. Mary is kneeling alone in the courtyard.

MOTHER

What's going on? Are you hurt?

HIGH POV (GETTING HIGHER AND MOVING AWAY DURING NARRATOR'S SPEECH)

NARRATOR

And that is how it began. Finally the Messiah was coming! God had promised his people long ago that he would send a mighty king to save them. And now young Mary was to play a big part in God's plan. But...there was a problem.

EXT. - JOSEPH - DAY

JOSEPH

She's what?

PULL BACK TO WIDER SHOT

Mary's MOTHER and FATHER stand at Joseph's door.

FATHER

You heard me right, Joseph. I'm sorry.

JOSEPH

But she-- I don't... our wedding...

He's searching their faces, trying to understand.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

...you're certain?

The father gives Joseph a pained look, turns to his wife.

MOTHER

There is no doubt. Mary is going to have a baby.

The father is holding a small wooden case. He hands it to Joseph.

FATHER

We are returning your dowry. Please...

He looks around to see if anybody is within earshot. Only Joseph's DONKEY is nearby. Still, he lowers his voice:

FATHER (CONT'D)
 ...please, we ask that you say nothing about this. Mary is going to Juttah to stay with her cousin Elizabeth.

JOSEPH
 Oh... I see. But--

Gestures down to a BENCH beside the front door.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
 --I finished your bench.

Looks at the dowry box, starts to hand it back.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
 This was for your family...

FATHER (FIRMLY)
 No. We have done what we have done. Please understand...this is... very difficult.

The older couple turns and walks away. It is nearly dark. Joseph stands in his doorway, stunned. Soon he sits down on the bench with a deep sigh.

CUT TO BLACK

Ethereal music begins to echo in the darkness. An indistinct male voice is reciting Revelation 5:9--but it's hard to make out the words in the booming echo chamber.

ANGEL (CLEARLY NOW)
 Joseph, descendant of David!

No reply.

ANGEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Joseph! Listen to me.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP, JOSEPH'S EYES

He squints and struggles in his sleep.

ANGEL (V.O.)
 Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.

JOSEPH'S POV - LOOKING UP AT THE SAME ANGEL WHO VISITED MARY

The angel's face swims in and out of focus. He is looking down at Joseph with a slightly bemused look on his face. The view is still murky.

ANGEL

Did you hear what I said? You must take Mary as your wife.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP, JOSEPH'S EYES

He rubs his eyes without opening them and continues to try and figure out what's going on.

JOSEPH'S POV - THE ANGEL AGAIN

ANGEL

Joseph--you're having a dream. Listen carefully.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP, JOSEPH'S EYES PEACEFULLY CLOSE

He stops struggling in his sleep...

JOSEPH'S POV

The angel comes clearly into focus.

ANGEL

Are you listening?

The CAMERA "NODS".

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Good. You will go ahead with the wedding. The baby inside Mary is from the Holy Spirit. It's a boy. You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Remember: JESUS.

The ANGEL's last word reverberates over and over. His face again loses focus...then he moves out of frame. A different form looms into view--not a face exactly.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP, JOSEPH'S EYES

He squints again, opens his eyes and speaks.

JOSEPH

Jesus... Jesus.

JOSEPH'S POV

The new face is coming into focus now. It's his DONKEY.

EXT. - JOSEPH'S HOUSE - DAY

Joseph has slept outside his front door on the bench he'd made for Mary's father. His donkey is standing over him, licking his face. He sits up abruptly, wipes his face and leans back against the wall of his house. He reaches out to stroke the mane of his donkey.

JOSEPH (SIGHS)
Ugh! Haniel! Oh...what a night.

CAMERA moves back and up to a high shot of Joseph's house during voice-over.

NARRATOR
So Mary and Joseph would get married after all. This was going to be a very special baby. And God was preparing Joseph and Mary for the most important and amazing child ever born.

CAMERA TILTS UP to the SKY above Joseph's house and holds for a moment.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

ANGLE ON a LARGE HOUSE in the mountain town of Juttah. It is the same time of day.

From a distance we see MARY approaching the house. An old man sitting in the courtyard rises and escorts her to the front door.

INT. - ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - DAY

Elizabeth, an older woman who is pregnant, has just entered a well-appointed room when she hears commotion out toward the front of the house.

MARY (O.C. CALLING OUT)
Elizabeth--it's me, Mary!

Elizabeth stops suddenly, clutches her midsection and reaches out to steady herself on a nearby chair.

MARY ENTERS.

MARY
There you are!

Walks toward Elizabeth, arms outstretched.

MARY (CONT'D)
I have missed you sooo much!

But Elizabeth is preoccupied. Mary notices that Elizabeth isn't listening to her.

MARY (CONT'D)
Elizabeth! Are you--?

ELIZABETH (CLUTCHING HER STOMACH)

ELIZABETH
Oh--again!

Mary rushes to help steady her.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
When I heard your voice, the baby
inside me jumped with joy!

She stops and looks intently into Mary's face.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Mary, God has blessed you! YOU more
than any other woman. And he has
blessed the baby you will give
birth to. You are the mother of my
Lord!

MARY (LOST FOR WORDS)
My cousin...

ELIZABETH
Mary, you are blessed because you
believed what the Lord said to you
would really happen.

Mary is stunned.

MARY
How... who told you these things?

Elizabeth is overjoyed.

ELIZABETH
I knew it was true! The mother of
my Lord has come to me! Why has
something so good happened to me?

Elizabeth embraces Mary. It finally dawns on Mary that God
has revealed himself to Elizabeth too.

MARY
Elizabeth!

They laugh, they cry--too bad Kleenex hadn't been invented
yet.

MARY (CONT'D)
My soul magnifies the Lord!

ELIZABETH
Yes! Yes!

MARY
 My spirit rejoices in God my
 Savior!

The significance of what's happening to her overwhelms Mary.

MARY (CONT'D)
 He chose me, a servant girl. From
 now on all generations will call me
 blessed, because God has done great
 things for me.

CAMERA PULLS BACK, TRACKING OUT THRU A WINDOW

The women embrace as we pull back on the scene. Music swells.

CAMERA PULLS UP HIGH ABOVE THE HOUSE, TILTS UP TO THE SKY

DISSOLVE TO:

A NIGHT SKY, STARS TWINKLING — ONE ESPECIALLY BRIGHTLY

NARRATOR
 Besides Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth
 God was preparing many other people to
 welcome the Messiah into the world.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. NIGHT - DESERT CITY - ANGLE ON A LARGE MANSION

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 Far away in the east, three wealthy
 men had been studying the skies...

ANGLE ON A ROOFTOP TERRACE LIT BY LANTERNS

Three men in regal robes pore over charts on a large table.
 They consult an ASTROLABE and look up toward the bright star.

CAMERA TILTS BACK UP TO THE NIGHT SKY

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 Even before Jesus was born, and
 all thru his life...

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - ROME - NIGHT

ANGLE ON THE COLISEUM

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 ...God would use many different
 people all over the world...

CAMERA DESCENDS TO A REVIEWING PLATFORM LIT BY TORCHES

A private feast is taking place. Suddenly a thought strikes the Roman Emperor. He calls over a subordinate and grandly dictates an order.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...in many different ways...

CAMERA TRACKS ALONG PERIPHERY OF PLATFORM

TORCHIERE STANDS cross thru frame.

CAMERA STOPS, PUSHES IN ON THE FLAME OF ONE TORCH

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - BETHLEHEM - NIGHT

ANGLE ON TORCH.

PULL BACK to reveal the INNKEEPER holding the torch, and securing a couple of cows in his stable for the night.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...to prepare for the coming of His
only Son.

INNKEEPER starts walking back to the INN, but stops to look up at the starry sky.

CAMERA TILTS UP

Nothing unusual yet.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - HILLSIDE NEAR BETHLEHEM - NIGHT

Shepherds sleep around a fire, only one is awake. All is calm.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
And it would all come together in a
little town called...

FADE TO BLACK:

JOSEPH
Bethlehem.

FADE IN:

EXT. - NAZARETH TOWN SQUARE - DAY

A ROMAN OFFICER sits at a small table, a cohort of ARMED SOLDIERS surrounds him. On the table are rolls of paper and he holds a writing instrument. Behind JOSEPH is a long line of Nazarene villagers.

ROMAN OFFICER

Excuse me?

JOSEPH

I was born in Bethlehem.

ROMAN OFFICER

You were born in Bethlehem. But here you are to register in Nazareth.

JOSEPH

Yes. My name should be on your rolls: Joseph ben Jacob. I've lived here since I was a child. I pay my taxes in Nazareth.

ROMAN OFFICER (ANNOYED)

Do I look like a tax collector? This is a Roman census. If you were born in Bethlehem, then you have to go register in Bethlehem!

The OFFICER glances angrily up at the SOLDIER beside him, who takes the hint and roughly pulls JOSEPH out of the line.

ROMAN OFFICER (TO CROWD) (CONT'D)

People ∇ this registration is only for those who were born in Nazareth. If you weren't born here, you can't register here.

JOSEPH turns, walks off. A few others also leave the line.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - MARY'S COURTYARD - DAY

MARY

Joseph, at least you tried.

JOSEPH says nothing.

MARY (CONT'D)

Bethlehem isn't that far. I can still walk like a normal person.

She takes a few steps for him.

MARY (CONT'D)

See? No waddling!

Joseph chuckles, but it is clear her pregnancy is quite advanced. The trip will be hard on her.

JOSEPH

Heh-heh...you will ride on Haniel.

He leads her toward the house, past the DONKEY and helps her have a seat on THE BENCH he made for her father.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
Bethlehem is a five day journey. I
won't risk taking you through
Samaria.

Mary leans her head on his shoulder.

MARY (SOFTLY)
God will protect us Joseph.

Mary's father approaches from outside the courtyard. He stands before the couple with a sober look on his face.

FATHER (SHAKING HIS HEAD)
There are no more caravans leaving
from Nazareth. Eliazar says you can
join one in Tiberias that will take
you as far as Jerusalem.

JOSEPH
Jerusalem.

FATHER
From there it's another half-day to
Bethlehem.

CAMERA BEGINS TO PULL BACK WIDE

Mary's mother walks around the corner with a pitcher and cups on a platter. Joseph offers her his seat and she pours water.

Joseph's DONKEY is tied to the courtyard gate.

The BUNNIES hop up onto the half-wall.

NARRATOR
It wouldn't be long now...

CUT TO:

EXT. - DESERT CITY, LARGE MANSION - DAY

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...all the pieces were coming together.

ANGLE ON A ROOFTOP TERRACE

One WISE MAN rushes to grab a few charts and run downstairs.

ANGLE ON STREET/COURTYARD

Two of the WISE MEN are already mounted and waiting on their camels, while the third emerges from the mansion and hastily stuffs a few final items into his camel's travel bags.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY - NAZARETH - THE ROMAN OFFICER & SOLDIERS

The OFFICER is packing up his rolls, while mounted SOLDIERS have brought his horse.

The OFFICER stashes the rolls in his saddle bags and consults a map shown to him by an ADJUTANT. He looks around at the various streets, then points authoritatively down one avenue. He and the cohort all ride off in that direction.

ROMAN OFFICER

That way!

CUT TO:

EXT. - BETHLEHEM - DAY

BUSY STREET IN FRONT OF INN

A line of people waiting for rooms has formed in the street. The INNKEEPER bustles about, holding blankets and gesturing for a family to follow him inside.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The promised messiah for God's people... was finally on His way.

CUT TO:

EXT. - HILLSIDE NEAR BETHLEHEM - DAY

The SHEEP are safely grazing, while two SHEPHERDS sit on a rock, seeking shade and observing the peaceful scene.

CAMERA TILTS UP

A glorious sunny day, with a few small, white puffy clouds.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - CRAGGY MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

JOSEPH walks alongside MARY, who sits atop the heavy-laden DONKEY. She is wearing travel clothing - which includes WHITE GAUZE CLOTH wrapped many times around her. They struggle uphill along the barren, steep path. The trail is strewn with fallen rocks. They are alone.

Suddenly a SOUND from above them forces JOSEPH to shelter MARY from a small rock slide. The threesome hugs tight against the rock wall and the stones skip over them. But they're now covered in dust.

MARY

Joseph, please. If you let me walk,
I promise we'll go faster. Look
we're falling behind.

He shakes the dust off his hair and looks up the path. In the distance we see the tail end of their CARAVAN.

JOSEPH

Are you still dizzy?

MARY

If you'll let me walk on my own,
I'll feel much better. Please?

JOSEPH

Well... maybe just until we get up
to level ground.

MARY

Thank you!

She slides off the DONKEY without waiting for him to help and immediately starts walking. The DONKEY smiles broadly.

JOSEPH (CALLS AFTER HER)

But if you hear any stones shifting
above you--

MARY

Yes Joseph...

She's already walking ahead of him, stepping gingerly over the rubble on the path. She doesn't turn back to speak:

MARY (CONT'D)

...if I hear a rock slide, I'll
take cover along the wall.

JOSEPH hasn't moved yet, and MARY has gone several paces at a rapid clip. She stops and looks back down at him.

MARY (CONT'D)

Come on you slowpoke! Do you want a
pregnant woman to beat you to the
top?

She turns and keeps walking. The DONKEY starts to follow. Joseph looks up at Mary and shakes his head. He can't help but chuckle at her enthusiasm and strength.

JOSEPH (LAUGHING)

If you fall on that rubble, it will
take me TWICE as long to get you up
this pass!

She laughs and keeps going. Joseph catches up to his DONKEY.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
 Alright Haniel, I'm coming.

They walk OUT OF FRAME.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - EXT. DAY/NIGHT - JOSEPH AND MARY'S TRAVELS

MUSIC

DAY: Walking through a meadow with the CARAVAN.

DAY: Crossing a shallow stream - MARY rides, JOSEPH walks.

NIGHT: Sitting around a fire with OTHERS.

DAY: MARY feels the baby kicking inside.

DAY: JOSEPH feeds his DONKEY at the edge of a village.

DAY: Riding on DONKEY, MARY accepts flowers from GIRL.

NIGHT: Sleeping near the fire, with several others. DONKEY guards MARY & JOSEPH.

ANGLE CLOSE ON FIRE

CAMERA PANS AWAY FROM THE FIRE, LEFT-TO-RIGHT

Revealing the three WISEMEN asleep on a desert terrain, surrounded by their camels.

BUNNIES hop into foreground of shot, their backs to camera.

BACKGROUND SCENE WIPES RIGHT-TO-LEFT (BUNNIES REMAIN FIXED)

WIPE TO:

EXT. NIGHT - ROMAN OFFICERS & SOLDIERS sleep near a VILLAGE, a SENTRY stands guard.

CAMERA PANS RIGHT-TO-LEFT; CLOSE ON FIRE

CAMERA PANS LEFT-TO-RIGHT; AWAY FROM FIRE,

INT. NIGHT - INNKEEPER'S HOME

INNKEEPER and his WIFE sit at a table, folding blankets.

BUNNIES are standing in an open doorway, watching.

BACKGROUND SCENE WIPES RIGHT-TO-LEFT (BUNNIES REMAIN FIXED)

WIPE TO:

EXT. - HILLSIDE NEAR BETHLEHEM - NIGHT

SHEPHERDS are sleeping. A BUNNY turns to camera and smiles.

CAMERA PULLS BACK WIDE

Another SHEPHERD is tending the fire and watching the SHEEP.

CAMERA TILTS UP TO THE SKY

A starry night. Slowly, a single star begins to glow and grow...pulsing gently above the peaceful scene.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. - HEROD'S PALACE - NIGHT

The THREE WISEMEN nervously approach the throne, escorted by several ARMED GUARDS. HEROD sits atop a raised platform:

HEROD

Gentlemen! How very nice of you to come visit!

WISEMAN 1 (BOWING)

King Herod.

The other two WISEMEN bow as well.

WISEMAN 1 (CONT'D)

Your Majesty, we are but humble visitors to your Kingdom and do not represent any government or army.

HEROD

Of course! Who would accuse you of such things?

WISEMAN 1 (CONFUSED)

King, your soldiers arrested us and brought us here by force.

HEROD

They did? Such naughty boys! I shall send them to bed without their supper.

The king chuckles and descends the steps toward the threesome. The GUARDS snicker at their bosses' joke.

HEROD (CONT'D)

They really ARE very gentle young men, but they heard you've been asking around town about a new king. Well, you can imagine how such news would get the attention of the King's Guard.

WISEMAN 1

I see. Certainly your Majesty.
We...

(glances at friends,
who urge him to speak)
...yes, we have been following the
star of a long-promised King who
will be born among the Jewish
people.

HEROD

Oh! And that star led you to me! How
lovely! I have LOTS of Jews in my
province. They practically think
they OWN this place!

The GUARDS crack up. HEROD's on a roll.

WISEMAN 1

Uh, well, about that, we expect...

The GUARDS stop laughing. HEROD's grin turns cold at the
interruption.

HEROD (MENACING)

Hmm?

WISEMAN 1 (CONT'D)

...we believe this King to be a
baby. In fact, he may not even have
been born yet.

HEROD steps uncomfortably close to WISEMAN 1.

HEROD (WHISPERING)

I would LOVE to help you find him.
Tell me all about this star...hmm?

A GUARD steps in front of the camera.

CUT TO:

EXT. - BETHLEHEM TOWN SQUARE - DAY

ANGLE ON THE BACK OF A ROMAN SOLDIER

The soldier steps aside to reveal a census registration line
like the one we'd seen in Nazareth. JOSEPH and MARY are just
arriving in town, walking along the line in their search for
an inn.

ROMAN OFFICER (OFF CAMERA)

People: this registration is only
for those who were born in
Bethlehem. If you weren't born
here, you can't register here.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - EXT. BETHLEHEM DAY/NIGHT - JOSEPH AND MARY

DAY: GETTING DIRECTIONS FROM A LOCAL MAN

DAY: WALKING ACROSS FRAME RIGHT-TO-LEFT

DAY: GETTING DIRECTIONS FROM A DIFFERENT LOCAL MAN

DAY: WALKING ACROSS FRAME LEFT-TO-RIGHT

AFTERNOON: TAKING A BREAK IN THE SHADE

EVENING: GETTING TURNED AWAY AT ANOTHER INN

NIGHT: WANDERING UP TO THE INNKEEPER WE'VE BEEN MONITORING

JOSEPH

We need a room...

INNKEEPER shakes his head, but Joseph just stands there. Their faces are lit by the INNKEEPER's lantern.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

...are you certain?

INNKEEPER

I said no. I'm sorry, but we are completely full.

JOSEPH

Sir, please...we've been searching all day. My wife is about to have her baby and we need a place to sleep.

INNKEEPER

You have arrived very late. With this census, every inn is full!

Joseph still doesn't move. The INNKEEPER steps past them and starts toward his animal shelter.

INNKEEPER (CONT'D)

Please excuse me. I have to secure my animals.

He walks across toward the stable we've already seen. Joseph and Mary are exhausted and linger back by the front of the inn.

ANGLE ON THE INNKEEPER

He looks at his half-empty stable, then back to the couple. Then at his stable again.

ANGLE ON JOSEPH AND MARY

JOSEPH (QUIETLY)

I don't know where I can even find
any wood around here to build a
fire.

MARY

Don't worry Joseph, we'll be warm
enough.

INNKEEPER (OFF CAMERA)

Uh... y'know... I have... I may
have something for you over here.

JOSEPH and MARY look in his direction, then walk toward him
and out of frame.

CAMERA TILTS UP

That STAR is much brighter.

CUT TO:

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - HILLSIDE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON A SHEPHERD TENDING THE FIRE

He is trying to stay awake and guard the sheep. It's no use,
and he succumbs... his eyes droop shut. Just as he does, he
is bathed in a brilliant LIGHT...but doesn't wake up.

Off screen we hear shouts of alarm as the other shepherds are
startled awake. Soon a HAND reaches into frame and yanks the
sentry to his feet.

SHEPHERD (GROGGY)

What?

He opens his eyes and is forced to squint.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)

What's going on?

WIDE SHOT OF HILLSIDE

The whole area is lit up by a mysterious light. An ANGEL
emerges from the light and speaks to the frightened
SHEPHERDS.

ANGLE ON ANGEL

ANGEL

Don't be afraid, I bring good news
of great joy for you and all
people. Tonight your Savior was

born in David's town. He is Christ,
the Lord. You will find him wrapped
in swaddle cloth, lying in a
manger.

WIDE SHOT AGAIN

The light gets brighter as scores of ANGELS appear behind the first one.

ANGELS (SINGING)
"Glory to God in the highest!"

ANGLE ON SHEPHERDS

Their faces are lit up against the dark night sky. The musical phrase ends and the light dims.

WIDE SHOT AGAIN

Darkness. No angels anywhere. The SHEPHERDS are alone again with their flocks.

ANGLE ON SHEPHERDS

They exchange stunned looks.

SHEPHERD
A king lying in a manger?

WIDE SHOT AGAIN

The SHEPHERDS leave one guy and a dog behind with the SHEEP, then head toward town.

CAMERA TILTS UP

The STAR is noticeably brighter now, and is shining down on a site near the edge of Bethlehem.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - OUTSIDE HEROD'S PALACE - NIGHT

The three wisemen have just been ushered out by GUARDS. The large doors close behind them. They're alone with their CAMELS.

WISEMAN 2
I don't trust Herod.

WISEMAN 1 (LOOKS OVER SHOULDER)
We'd best discuss that somewhere
else old friend...

He looks up at the STAR, silently gleaming above them.

WISEMAN 1 (CONT'D)
 ...the star hasn't moved since
 yesterday.

The others look up.

CAMERA TILTS UP

WISEMAN 2 (OFF CAMERA)
 I think Bethlehem is in that
 direction.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - BETHLEHEM INN - NIGHT

WIDE LOCKED SHOT as the INNKEEPER and his WIFE carry blankets from their INN over to the STABLE. After they go into the STABLE, the scene is still for a moment. Then...

The SHEPHERDS walk into frame from behind camera and head toward the STABLE.

CUT TO:

INT. - BETHLEHEM STABLE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON BABY JESUS IN THE MANGER

He is wrapped tightly in WHITE GAUZE CLOTH.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL THE ENTIRE SCENE

MARY is close beside the manger and JOSEPH is behind her. The innkeeper's WIFE wraps MARY in a BLANKET, then lays another across the manger to keep the baby warm. The INNKEEPER hands JOSEPH a stack of blankets and hangs a lantern on a nearby post.

SHEPHERD (OFF CAMERA)
 They're in here!

The INNKEEPER walks off camera toward the entrance of the stable. His wife and the Holy Family look to see what's happening.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
 It's her! And the baby is here too!

WIFE
 Tell those men to go away! They're
 waking the baby.

ANGLE ON SHEPHERDS

The INNKEEPER prevents them from entering.

OTHER SHEPHERD
Please sir, we've come to worship
him!

INNKEEPER
Worship who?

SHEPHERD
The baby! He is the Messiah!

ANGLE ON JOSEPH/MARY/WIFE

WIFE
You are out of your minds. Go away!

OTHER SHEPHERD (OFF CAMERA)
But angels told us where to find
him!

At this, JOSEPH and MARY exchange a look of surprise.

ANGLE ON SHEPHERDS

They crane their necks to look around the INNKEEPER and catch
a glimpse of the baby.

ANGLE ON JOSEPH

JOSEPH
Please let them come in. These men
have heard from the Lord.

The innkeeper's WIFE looks at JOSEPH with alarm.

The SHEPHERDS enter frame and approach the manger to look at
the BABY. MARY folds down the blanket so they can see him.
Silently, they fall to their knees and bow down in worship.

The INNKEEPER and his WIFE are stunned. MARY and JOSEPH a
little less so. Soon the SHEPHERDS sit back up. Nobody says
anything. They all just look at the CHILD.

SHEPHERD (SOFTLY)
I guess I never thought of the
Messiah as a baby.

CAMERA PULLS BACK, OUT OF THE STABLE AND UP INTO THE AIR

BETHLEHEM sleeps. The STAR continues to light the STABLE.

NARRATOR
So the Savior of the world, the
long-promised Messiah, had come to
earth as a baby... lying helpless
in a stable.

CAMERA TILTS UP

FADE TO:

NIGHT TURNS TO DAY - CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - BETHLEHEM - DAY

WIDE LOCKED SHOT - SMALL HOUSE NEAR THE INN

THREE WISEMEN on camels approach the HOUSE, having come from the town center. They dismount.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But Jesus wasn't raised in a barn.

JOSEPH is working on some wood outside the house. A WISEMAN asks about the baby. MARY appears, carrying JESUS. The visitors all bow deeply.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

After his birth, the wisemen arrived with gifts...

Gifts are presented to the parents. The small chest of gold is so heavy that it takes two men to carry.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...including a large amount of gold, which Mary and Joseph could use as money.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - AFTERNOON - BETHLEHEM

SAME WIDE SHOT OF JOSEPH'S HOUSE, A FEW HOURS LATER

The WISEMEN are leaving via a different route.

NARRATOR

And soon they would need that money...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - BETHLEHEM - NIGHT

SAME WIDE SHOT OF JOSEPH'S HOUSE, THAT NIGHT

NARRATOR

...because an angel appeared to Joseph in another dream...

JOSEPH comes out of the house with their few belongings in some satchels and secures them on the back of the DONKEY.

CUT TO:

INT. - HEROD'S PALACE - NIGHT

HEROD is screaming at his GUARDS, who draw swords and run quickly from the throne room.

NARRATOR
 ...the angel warned Joseph that
 King Herod was trying to find Jesus
 to kill him.

HEROD
 I want every baby boy in Bethlehem
 killed!

CUT TO:

EXT. - HIGH DESERT - NIGHT

Begin CLOSING MUSIC

JOSEPH leads the DONKEY, which carries MARY and JESUS and all their earthly goods.

CAMERA PULLS OUT WIDE

It is a starry, moonlit night. The Holy Family turn and walk from the bottom of frame toward the horizon at the top.

NARRATOR
 What an adventure for a carpenter
 and his young family! Little Jesus
 had just been welcomed into the
 world, when suddenly his parents
 had to run away and hide him in
 Egypt. God was watching over young Jesus,
 keeping him and his parents safe.

A SHOOTING STAR. Then another. Holding on the night sky...presently comes a pink glow.

Far away on the horizon, a FAMILY of three with two DONKEYS appears walking toward camera. A father and six year-old son on foot, mother on one donkey, the other beast loaded down with their belongings.

CLOSE-UP as the rising sun is now in their eyes.

CAMERA CRANES UP

Behind them, looming from the horizon, the PYRAMIDS OF GIZA are being lit from top-to-bottom as the earth's shadow surrenders to the sun's rays.

MONTAGE OF CLOSE-UPS, MEDIUM, WIDE SHOTS

The family makes their way toward the opposite desert horizon, leaving Egypt. They don't look back.

NARRATOR

Jesus' parents had taken him to Egypt, because in Israel, King Herod was looking to kill him...
 ...the Angel of the Lord told Joseph in a dream that Herod had died, and he should take his family back to Israel. And so it was that they would begin their new life...

WIDE SHOT - CAMERA TILTS UP AND SKY FILLS FRAME

CAMERA TILTS DOWN

EXT. - MODEST STONE SYNAGOGUE- DAY

NARRATOR

...in Nazareth.

TOWNSFOLK are standing at the windows and doorways, cramming to see inside. TWO KIDS run from window to window hopping up and down in a futile effort to witness the event.

INT. - SYNAGOGUE - DAY

The small interior is packed full of people. They converse excitedly, in whispered tones.

WOMAN 1 (TO ANOTHER WOMAN)

He healed my husband's deaf ear!

MAN 1 (TO ANOTHER MAN)

I saw him cure a paralyzed man.

MARY stands along one side near the front. A woman beside her leans over and whispers:

WOMAN 2

Your little boy is all grown up now.

MARY smiles and nods, then turns back to watch.

The PRIEST motions for the crowd to quiet down and gestures to a man seated on the platform.

PRIEST

Today Jesus ben Joseph is back in Nazareth. The reading is from the prophet Isaiah.

JESUS rises, takes the scroll and steps to the podium. The crowd becomes hushed in anticipation.

JESUS (READING)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

He pauses, surveying the crowd.

JESUS (CONT'D)
He appointed me to tell the Good News
to the poor...

ANGLE ON POOR FOLK LISTENING INTENTLY

JESUS (CONT'D)
He sent me to free those who are
prisoners of sin...

ANGLE ON JESUS

He's looking at the crowd, speaking from memory now.

JESUS (CONT'D)
And to tell the blind they can see...

ANGLE ON BLIND MAN, WHO PERKS UP AT THIS STATEMENT

JESUS (CONT'D)
...and...

ANGLE ON JESUS

JESUS (CONT'D)
To free everyone who suffers.

WIDE SHOT OF CROWD, RAPT AND SILENT

JESUS (CONT'D)
Now--

CLOSE-UP OF JESUS

JESUS (CONT'D)
--this is the time. I announce that
the time as come when the Lord will
show great kindness to his people.

WIDE SHOT OF THE STAGE

Total silence. JESUS rolls up the scroll, turns to hand
it back to the PRIEST-- who just stands there in
stunned silence. So Jesus sets the scroll back on the
podium and sits down.

ANGLE ON FACES IN THE CROWD, WAITING, WATCHING CLOSELY

JESUS (CONT'D)
Today...

WIDE SHOT OF STAGE - PUSHING IN ON JESUS AS HE SPEAKS

JESUS (CONT'D)
 ...these words have come true. Right
 here, as you were listening.

The CROWD'S buzz builds up. Astonished looks are
 exchanged.

WOMAN 3 (CALLING OUT)
 Blessed be the name of the Lord!

The crowd's approval is building rapidly.

MAN 2 (SHOUTING)
 The Lord is restoring the Kingdom!

The PRIEST is agitated by the tumult, and glances back
 at two dignitaries standing near the door. PHARISEES.
 They scowl and turn to leave. Jesus sits calmly amid
 the chaos.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - "JESUS THEME" MUSIC

NARRATOR
 Jesus' had become quite famous.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 He had been baptized by John.

DOVE DESCENDS ON JESUS

JESUS ALONE IN THE DESERT - SATAN APPROACHES

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 ...and tempted by Satan.

JESUS REFUSES SATAN

JESUS
 A person doesn't only live by eating
 bread. A person lives by doing
 everything the Lord says.

JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE AT WEDDING

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 He had started his amazing
 ministry...

JESUS HEALS A NOBLEMAN'S SON

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 ...healing the sick who were brought
 to him...

JESUS TEACHES WOMEN AT A WELL IN A TOWN SQUARE **

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 And teaching people everywhere.

JESUS TALKS TO NICODEMUS AT NIGHT

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 Jesus' message was...

JESUS (TO NICODEMUS)
 ...God loved the world so much that
 he gave his one and only Son... so
 whoever believes in him may not be
 lost, but have eternal life.

NICODEMUS ponders.

CAMERA TILTS UP TO STARRY NIGHT SKY

Sky brightens; Theme Music ends. The sound of
 lapping water as the CAMERA tilts down.

EXT. - LAKE GALILEE - DAY

Two FISHERMEN work on their nets, their boat beached
 beside them.

PETER
 And besides, father always said you
 were the best fisherman.

ANDREW
 He did not--I never heard him say
 that!

PETER
 No, not to you, he didn't.

CLOSE-UP ON PETER

PETER (CONT'D)
 But from the first day you came out
 with us on the boat...

A MAN'S SHADOW APPEARS ON THE GROUND BESIDE PETER

PETER (CONT'D)
 ...he told us right away that you--

PETER LOOKS UP

It's not Andrew. It's JESUS.

PETER (CONT'D)
--you...

JESUS
Hello fisherman.

PETER SHOOTS A LOOK AT ANDREW

ANDREW IS STARSTRUCK

ANDREW gestures back wordlessly, pointing at Christ, as if to say "It's him--Jesus!"

JESUS smiles at Peter, then walks over to look at their BOAT. He is carefully considering the craft. To break the awkward silence, Andrew blurts out:

ANDREW
Rabbi, I saw you change water into wine!

JESUS continues examining the boat's woodwork.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
At the wedding!

JESUS finally turns back to face them, but says nothing.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Remember? The wedding in Cana!

JESUS
Yes, I remember that wedding.

He's finished with the boat. JESUS walks between them and pats ANDREW on the shoulder.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Nice boat.

And he keeps walking away.

PETER AND ANDREW EXCHANGE PERPLEXED LOOKS

After a few steps, JESUS stops and turns to face the men.

JESUS (CONT'D)
So Andrew, you saw what happened in Cana.

ANDREW
Yes! I--

He quickly looks over at Peter, trying to decide whether to declare himself openly.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Rabbi, no one could do that unless
God was with him.

JESUS TURNS TO PETER

JESUS
And you are the older brother, Peter.

PETER SENSES THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT

PETER
Yes, teacher. I--
(quick glance at
Andrew)
...all of Galilee believes you have
been sent from God.

JESUS looks toward the boat.

ANGLE ON THE BOAT

ANGLE ON PETER

Peter turns to his boat, then back to Jesus.

ANGLE ON JESUS

JESUS
I want you both to follow me.

ANGLE ON PETER, ANDREW

They are stunned by the statement.

ANGLE ON JESUS

JESUS (CONT'D)
I will teach you how to fish...for
men.

ANGLE ON PETER

He is captivated; looks at Andrew, then back at their boat and nets.

ANGLE ON BOAT AND NETS

ANGLE ON PETER

Peter looks over at Andrew again.

ANGLE ON ANDREW

ANDREW also looks at the boat, then at Jesus.

PETER (OFF CAMERA)
Andrew, help me get this boat out of
the water.

ANGLE ON PETER

He is pulling on the boat...

ANGLE ON ANDREW

He runs to help Peter.

ANDREW
So you're going?

PETER
Aren't you?

ANDREW
I've been telling you about Jesus
since the wedding! Of course I'm
going.

PETER gives his brother a stern look, then they both
crack up laughing.

WIDE SHOT FROM THE WATER OF ALL THREE MEN

PETER and ANDREW leave their boat and nets on the shore
and walk off with JESUS.

MONTAGE - BEGIN "DISCIPLES THEME" MUSIC

CUT TO:

EXT. - GALILEE - DAY

Different BOAT, differnt BROTHERS.

NARRATOR
Jesus was looking for twelve good
men. Besides Peter and Andrew...

JESUS, PETER and ANDREW come upon JAMES and JOHN, also
tending to their nets.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...he called two other brothers,
James and John, who were also
fishermen...

LARGE HOUSE IN A TOWN

A WEALTHY MAN sits at a table in front of his courtyard with a fountain. A CITIZEN is paying his taxes in coins.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...and Jesus chose a tax collector...

JESUS steps into frame from behind the CAMERA.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...named Matthew...

JESUS stands across the street from MATTHEW... who looks up at the Lord, gives the money back to the man, gets up and follows Christ.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...and six others, with names as common as Thomas... and as unusual as Lebbaeus...

THOMAS SEES JESUS WALK BY, HESITATES, THEN RUNS TO CATCH UP

BARTHOLOMEW SITS UNDER A FIG TREE

LEBBAEUS LISTENS TO JESUS ON THE STEPS OF A SYNAGOGUE

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...the twelfth person Jesus chose was named...

END "DISCIPLES THEME" MUSIC

CUT TO:

EXT. - CLOSE-UP ON A MAN'S FACE - DAY

He is walking briskly, showing signs of exertion.

PETER (OFF CAMERA)
Judas! Judas, come on--we have to go!

JUDAS
I'm coming!

Behind him a voice calls out:

MAN 3
Sir--please stop! We have something for the Rabbi!

JUDAS stops.

PULL OUT:

EXT. - ROADSIDE - DAY

A MAN and his SMALL SON have caught up to JUDAS

MAN 3

Please sir--my son wants to give you
a coin for Jesus.

BOY (HANDING A COIN)

While Jesus was talking, my leg was
healed!

JUDAS (HOLDS OUT MONEY BAG)

Praise be to God! I will be sure to
tell the master. Thank you.

The BOY drops in the coin, then the PAIR turn to follow
the departing crowd. They turn and wave--and the dad
calls out something like "Thank you again!" and the boy
hollers another happy "Goodbye!".

JUDAS runs OFF CAMERA in the other direction, calling
out to Peter.

JUDAS (CONT'D)

OK, Peter, I'm coming!

CUT TO:

EXT. - A SMALL HOUSE NEAR LAKE GALILEE - DAY

Seated by the front door, a YOUNG GIRL about 6 years
old, amuses her TODDLER SISTER, with a rag doll.

CUT TO:

INT. - THE SMALL HOUSE - DAY

A WOMAN, presumably the mother of the girls, is
bustling about preparing a meal. She looks toward the
main kitchen TABLE...

ANGLE ON TABLE

It is piled high with fishing nets and tools.

ANGLE ON WOMAN

WOMAN (CALLING OUT)

Gadi! Gadi--I need you!

A YOUNG BOY, about 10, enters from the adjoining room.
He's looking dejected.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Oh Gadi, I thought you were outside waiting for your father.

GADI

No, I was checking on grandma.

WOMAN

Oh please let her sleep Gadi. I need you to clear off the table--and help me prepare for dinner.

GADI

Mamma--is grandma dying?

WOMAN

Oh, Gadi... I--
 (walks over
 and hugs
 him)
 ...I don't think so.

PETER ENTERS.

He's carrying the TODDLER.

PETER

Carmiya, I brought Andrew and Judas-

He stops short upon seeing his wife and son in tears. He steps over to look into the adjoining room.

TODDLER

Grandma's sick!

The 6 year-old GIRL enters, leading JESUS by the hand:

GIRL

Momma--Jesus is here!

She pulls JESUS toward the other room.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Jesus can make Grandma better!

ANDREW and JUDAS enter. PETER goes over to comfort his wife. JESUS stops at the door, looks in, then turns to CARMIIYA:

JESUS

This is your mother?

CARMIIYA

Yes teacher, she's been sick for almost a month.

GIRL (TO JESUS)
 We prayed to the Lord for our
 Grandma, and now you've come!

JESUS smiles at her:

JESUS
 So, Yafa, you believe the Lord will
 heal your grandmother?

YAFA
 Yes sir. Come!
 (Pulls him into the
 room)

CUT TO:

INT. - BEDROOM - DAY

GRANDMA lies on her back in bed, very still.

YAFA
 Feel how hot she is.

JESUS takes GRANDMA'S hand. It is red and swollen.
 There is a crowd at the doorway now. Jesus looks back
 at them, then down at YAFA. He places his other hand on
 the woman's head, and breathes one word:

JESUS
 Aviva.

YAFA
 You know my grandma's name?

The woman's HAND resumes its proper shape and color.
 She sits up and is amazed to see so many people looking
 at her.

YAFA takes her GRANDMA'S hand:

YAFA (CONT'D)
 Grandma, you're not hot anymore!

GRANDMA
 (stands, picks up Yafa)
 Yafa--my big girl!

YAFA
 We have visitors Grandma--this is
 Jesus!

GRANDMA looks over to JESUS and bows slightly.

GRANDMA
 Hello Rabbi.

(examines him head to
toe)
You look thin--have you had nothing
to eat?

JESUS (LAUGHING)
No--Peter keeps telling me about your
cheese knish.

AVIVA
You never tasted my knish!?
(leads Yafa to kitchen)
Come Yafa, we have to feed the poor
Rabbi.

As they exit, Yafa turns back to address Jesus.

Yafa
I knew you were sent by God!

Peter puts down the Toddler, who follows her sister
out. Then he, Andrew, Judas and Carmiya look at each
other, and back to Jesus with amazement. Jesus also
heads for the kitchen.

JESUS (CALLS AFTER HER)
I know how to prepare the dough.

AVIVA (OFF CAMERA)
Wash your hands first!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - MONTAGE OF DINNER - DAY

"DISCIPLES THEME" MUSIC

Aviva bustles about happily dispensing food. Gadi and
Carmiya are seated together. Yafa sits on one side of
Jesus, Judas on the other. The Toddler clambers up onto
her uncle Andrew's lap. Peter is pleased with the
scene.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - PETER'S HOUSE - DAY

"JESUS THEME" MUSIC

A crowd has gathered outside Peter's house. Jesus
teaches and lays hands on many sick, including
children.

MAN (AS BOY IS HEALED)
A miracle!

WOMAN
It's a miracle!

On the periphery of the crowd stands a PHARISEE, who sidles up to JUDAS and offers a coin:

PHARISEE
This is for you.

JUDAS (HOLDS OUT MONEY BAG)
We thank you, kind sir.

But the PHARISEE slips the coin into JUDAS' pocket.

PHARISEE
Your master is quite a man. The people are very excited.

JUDAS looks down at his POCKET, closes the MONEY BAG, then looks back at the grinning PHARISEE.

JUDAS
Our God is restoring the Kingdom to Israel!

PHARISEE
Ah, so that is what's happening...
(looks back to Jesus
and Peter)

ANGLE ON JESUS AND PETER

PHARISEE (CONT'D)
...and this carpenter... and that fisherman... are prophets?

ANGLE ON JUDAS

He doesn't know what to say.

JUDAS
Uh, no... I mean...

PHARISEE
Well good luck with that...
(turns to leave, pats
Judas' shoulder)
...I'll be in touch.

CLOSE-UP OF JUDAS

He glances around nervously to see if anybody noticed what just happened. We HOLD on JUDAS' FACE as he regains composure.

SOUND OF LAPPING WATER

PETER (OFF CAMERA)

Judas!

JUDAS turns his head, looking off in the opposite direction of the Pharisee.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GALILEE LAKE SHORE - DAY -

ON PETER

PETER

How much money do we have?

JUDAS

How much do you need?

PETER

Jesus wants us to feed everybody.
(gestures up the hill)

PULL BACK to reveal 5,000 people on a hillside. JESUS sits near the base of the hill, the crowd gathered above and around him in a cove that forms a natural amphitheater. He is teaching them.

ANGLE ON JUDAS

JUDAS

We're in the middle of nowhere here!
Gergessa is two hours away! We'd need
a caravan of--I don't know--a hundred
donkeys to carry all the food.

ANDREW (OFF CAMERA)

Peter--look here!

ANDREW approaches with a young BOY carrying a small BASKET.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

This basket is a start.

PETER and JUDAS look at the BOY and his BASKET, then give Andrew a withering look.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

What?

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)

Peter--bring the lad.

PETER looks off-screen toward the hillside. Then he, JUDAS, ANDREW and the BOY walk out of frame.

ANGLE ON JESUS

The BOY and MEN arrive.

JESUS (CONT'D)
So Reuben ben Hillel--you are willing
to share your food with us?

REUBEN (OPENS BASKET)
I... I brought five loaves and two
fish. But you can have them.
(looks at Jesus)
H-how did you know my name?

JESUS smiles at the lad and tousles his hair.

JESUS
Thank you for your offering. Stay
right here.
(to Peter)
Have the people sit down.

PETER and some DISCIPLES walk up the hillside and call
out to the people to be seated. Meanwhile, down behind
them...

JESUS has set the BASKET on a LARGE ROCK and opened it
up. He raises both arms skyward and lifts his head:

JESUS (CONT'D)
Thank you Father for this food, and
for young Reuben's generous heart.

ANGLE ON REUBEN

His eyes are closed, his hands are folded in prayer.

JESUS (VO) (CONT'D)
Now, Jehovah Jireh, feed your people.

REUBEN's eyes open--he can't wait to see what will
happen next.

ANGLE ON JESUS

He reaches down into the BASKET and hands LOAVES/FISH
to ANDREW, JUDAS and two other DISCIPLES--the food just
keeps coming out of the basket. Every time Jesus
reaches in, more food comes out.

ANGLE ON YOUNG REUBEN

Eyes big as saucers.

ANGLE ON JESUS

He sees the boy's wonder, and smiles at him:

JESUS (CONT'D)
 You and I will eat last. Can you
 wait?

The BOY grins and nods eagerly.

MONTAGE: FEEDING 5,000 - "JESUS MUSIC" BEGINS

The PEOPLE see what's happening. Several reaction shots of FACES in the crowd, cutting back to JESUS from their POV. He is still pulling food out of that basket and the DISCIPLES continue ferrying it back and forth.

Eventually JESUS sits down with young REUBEN, plus PETER, JUDAS and ANDREW to eat. They're all enjoying the food. ANDREW mock-punches PETER in the shoulder for doubting him. Everybody is happy.

During the montage we hear JESUS in voiceover:

JESUS (V.O.)
 Earthly food spoils and ruins, so you
 should work to get the food that
 stays good always.

The DISCIPLES gather up leftover food into 12 baskets.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I am the bread that gives life.
 Whoever comes to me will never be
 hungry, and whoever believes in me
 will never be thirsty.

WIDE SHOT - HILLSIDE - DAY

Time-lapse locked-off shot: the SUN begins to set, sky darkens, the crowd filters away in many directions, the disciples load up the baskets and then depart in the boat...stars come out. Jesus is alone at the same rock, praying.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Those who see the Son and believe in
 him have eternal life, and I will
 raise them on the last day. This is
 what my Father wants.

JESUS walks up the hillside and finds another spot to pray. But the wind kicks up and a flash of lightning distracts him. He stands and looks out across the lake.

NARRATOR
 Jesus had sent his Peter and the
 others ahead to Bethsaida in a boat.

But a storm was blowing in and Jesus
saw they were in danger.

JESUS spots the disciples in trouble, and walks out of
frame in their direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. - LAKE GALILEE - NIGHT

Looking out over the water from the beach. JESUS walks
past camera and out onto the water, headed toward the
distant boat with his back to the camera.

ANGLE ON JESUS FROM 50 FEET ABOVE

JESUS leaves the shore behind and is walking briskly.

ANGLE FROM THE BEACH

JESUS is barely visible now from this angle. Soon a
swell blocks our view of him.

ANGLE FROM JESUS POV

Shooting over JESUS' shoulder. A large WAVE obscures
his view of the BOAT, so he stops. The WAVE splits
apart and he walks thru the middle toward the BOAT.

ANGLE ON JESUS FROM 100 FEET ABOVE THE BOAT

We can't hear the disciples over the noise of the
storm, but we can see JESUS entering from the top of
frame. The DISCIPLES see him too. He's within 300 feet
and closing.

ANGLE FROM JESUS POV

The DISCIPLES are freaking out.

JESUS (CALLING OUT)
Have courage--it's me!. Don't be
afraid.

JESUS keeps walking. Soon PETER shouts from the
boat:

PETER (SHOUTING)
Lord, if it's really you, command me
to come to you on the water.

JESUS (CALLS)
Come on!

PETER gets out of the boat and starts walking toward Jesus, who continues toward the BOAT. We're still looking over Jesus' shoulder as PETER draws within 15 feet--a wave crashes near him and his face becomes fearful.

NARRATOR

But as Peter realized that he was walking on water, his faith left him.

Peter starts to sink:

PETER

Lord, save me!

JESUS takes a couple of quick steps and reaches down out of frame to grab Peter. When Jesus leans back up into frame, PETER stands up in front of him. He is stunned to be standing on the water.

JESUS

Why did you doubt?

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON JESUS AND PETER - POV FROM BOAT

PETER clammers aboard with the help of ANDREW and JUDAS. JESUS follows effortlessly, without assistance. He straightens himself up and looks at the men to see that they're all okay. Then turns to look out over the bow of the craft--pointing deliberately toward shore.

JESUS

Bethsaida.

Immediately the BACKGROUND ZOOMS/BLURS and the craft docks at the Bethsaida PIER.

ANGLE ON DISCIPLES - BACK OF BOAT, LAKE/STORM BEHIND THEM

They are amazed and relieved. They start to gather food baskets and walk past camera to exit the front of the boat.

CAMERA REMAINS FIXED ON HORIZON

The storm passes. The sun rises. Lake gulls sing out.

CAMERA PANS SLOWLY AROUND, REVEALING THE FISHING VILLAGE OF BETHSAIDA

There are some other FISHING BOATS nearby, with FISHERMEN busily preparing to set out.

SMALL SHOPS line the street along the shore. There's a crowd gathered in a small park-like clearing beside the shops.

ANGLE ON BACK OF CROWD

The camera "pushes" between the people to see what they're looking at.

JESUS AND DISCIPLES, GIVING OUT BREAD FROM THE BASKETS

JESUS talks while ANDREW, MATTHEW, JAMES and JOHN give out the last of the bread.

JESUS

It was not Moses who sent the bread from heaven... it was my Father. And now he sent me--I am the bread of life.

JESUS keeps talking to them, but there's a fuss at the back of the crowd, which we'll cut to immediately. The following words are only barely heard in the background:

JESUS (BACKGROUND)

Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.

ANGLE ON PETER BEHIND THE CROWD

Several MOTHERS with BABIES and TODDLERS try to push into the crowd. PETER has his arms stretched out to stop them.

PETER

No, I'm sorry. I said the Rabbi is talking to some important men.

MOTHER

We just want Jesus to bless our children!

PETER (LOUD, FRUSTRATED)

I heard you the first time--

ANGLE ON JESUS

He stops talking because of Peter's raised voice.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

--but I'm telling you that Jesus is busy right now!

Silence. Lake gulls can be heard in the distance.

JESUS

Peter.

The crowd parts, opening a straight path from PETER to JESUS. A couple of the MOTHERS lean around PETER to look at JESUS.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Let the little children come to me.

PETER is embarrassed, he steps aside and gestures for them to go ahead. A couple of TODDLERS start toward JESUS, MOTHERS with BABIES following.

JESUS (CONT'D)

The kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these little ones.

A couple of TODDLERS climb up into his lap.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You--

(points to the men
around him)

--you must accept the kingdom of God as if you were this child, or you will never enter it.

ANGLE ON JESUS FROM PETER'S POV

CAMERA PULLS BACK as JESUS places his hands on the CHILDREN'S heads and pronounces a blessing. PETER stands with his back to us watching the impromptu ceremony. Stepping out from the back of the crowd, our PHARISEE walks away from the scene, keeping track with the camera, so his face takes up the left half of frame. He's not happy.

After several steps, the PHARISEE stops. The CAMERA continues to move back until we can see that he's talking to a MAN with his back to us, also watching Jesus with the children. The MAN stands in the shade of a shop canopy. CAMERA STOPS.

PHARISEE (WITH DISGUST)

Now he's greater than Moses! The bread of life? I don't even know what that means!

No reply. The PHARISEE holds out a COIN to the MAN. But as the MAN takes it, the PHARISEE won't let go.

PHARISEE (CONT'D)

You will be in Jerusalem at Passover?

MAN

Of course.

PHARISEE

Really? That could be very dangerous
for your bread-man.

He lets go of the coin, turns and walks toward camera.

MAN (TURNS AFTER HIM)

What? Why?

The PHARISEE doesn't answer, walks past CAMERA and out of frame. The MAN steps out from the shade to call after him. It's JUDAS.

JUDAS

What danger?

JUDAS stands perplexed for a moment, then turns his back to the camera and walks back over to the crowd.

ANGLE ON JESUS - CLOSE UP

KIDS are climbing on him and he's holding a BABY. He looks up at JUDAS, who is approaching.

ANGLE ON JUDAS - MEDIUM - JESUS' POV

JUDAS looks worried, but notices that Jesus is looking at him. He smiles defensively--knowing his turmoil is out of place.

POV SHIFTS SLIGHTLY TO RIGHT

Behind JUDAS, Jesus sees the PHARISEE walking away.

ANGLE ON JESUS - CLOSE UP

He's still covered in KIDS, so he's been smiling. But his eyes show clearly that he understands what just happened.

CAMERA PANS LEFT, PUSHES THRU CROWD TOWARD LAKE

NARRATOR

Jesus knew his teaching made some
people angry. But even the good
things Jesus did...

CAMERA stops with a perfectly-framed postcard view of LAKE GALILEE. We cannot see any land across the horizon. The PIER and the disciples' BOAT are the only man-made objects in view.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - "JESUS THEME" MUSIC

JESUS HEALS POOR BLIND MAN ON SABBATH (AT A SYNAGOGUE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...like healing the sick...

JESUS CALLS LAZARUS FROM THE TOMB

JESUS EATS/DRINKS WITH 'PUBLICANS/SINNERS'

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Or like helping people who lived
sinfully...

JESUS CALLS ZACCHAEUS OUT OF THE TREE

GOOD SAMARITAN HELPS; PRIEST & PHARISEE WALK PAST

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Even Jesus beautiful story about the
Good Samaritan...

TWO PHARISEES AT NAZARETH SYNAGOGUE TURN & LEAVE ANGRY

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Just made those people angry.

CUT BACK TO

EXT. - LAKE GALILEE - DAY

CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN ON WATER/SKY

END "JESUS THEME" MUSIC

TIME-LAPSE WITHIN FRAME - DAY TO NIGHT

Beyond frame, the sun traverses the sky: shadows cross the BOAT/PIER and then it becomes dark. CAMERA has pushed/zoomed past the boat/pier and now view is filled by LAKE/SKY, the HORIZON bisects mid-frame.

MORPH TO

EXT. - JERUSALEM - NIGHT

The HORIZON line deforms and draws a silhouetted SKYLINE of the great city. Twinkling STARS become LIGHTS IN WINDOWS.

NARRATOR
And now at last it was Passover week
in Jerusalem.

THE SUN RISES BEHIND THE CITY

CAMERA TILTS DOWN - THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM IS EMPTY

Soon JESUS approaches the CITY WALL/GATE riding on a DONKEY.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 And Jesus was heading into the city
 where he knew many people would not
 be happy to see him...

CAMERA DROPS DOWN TO ROAD LEVEL, RIGHT BEHIND JESUS

CAMERA follows JESUS/DONKEY thru the CITY GATE.

As we come thru into a STREET/PLAZA. Some PEOPLE recognize Jesus and run toward him waving. Others pick up PALM FRONDS.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 ...but Jesus also knew that many
 people would praise him...

The CROWD grows in size and intensity. It's JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY on Palm Sunday.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 ...and that many would give glory to
 God.

JESUS crosses thru PLAZA, followed by PETER, ANDREW, JUDAS and the other DISCIPLES. They exit, the CROWD following.

CAMERA STAYS IN EMPTY PLAZA

A DOG and his BOY run thru frame, chasing the parade.

TIME-LAPSE - MORNING TO AFTERNOON

SHADOWS move across the HOUSES/SHOPS.

CAMERA FOLLOWS AROUND THE CORNER WHERE JESUS RODE

AN EMPTY STREET. SO CAMERA MOVES ALONG TO THE NEXT CORNER

No crowd anywhere. A few folks walk thru frame.

CAMERA FOLLOWS 4 PHARISEES around another CORNER.

JESUS and some DISCIPLES are buying fruit from a GROCER under a CANOPY. The PHARISEES recognize JESUS and stop.

JUDAS is counting out coins to the grocer's 6 year-old SON. He looks up and makes eye contact with his PHARISEE "friend". A different PHARISEE mocks JESUS:

PHARISEE 2

So the bread-man comes to Jerusalem.

JESUS and the DISCIPLES turn to see who's behind them.
The BOY steps behind JESUS out of fear of the
PHARISEES.

PHARISEE 3

Eating pomegranates. What's wrong,
did you run out of manna?

JESUS

Ah, gentlemen!

(chewing, brings BOY
out from behind him)

You can help us with a question...

(done chewing)

...about "The Christ".

(looks at Judas'
friend)

Whose son is he?

PHARISEE

The Christ? He is the Son of David.

JESUS gives the man a quizzical look. Then glances at
#3, questioningly.

PHARISEE 3

That's right. You should have paid
attention in 'shule'.

PHARISEES all have a nice chuckle.

JESUS

So then... I wonder why David called
him 'Lord'?

The PHARISEES are confused.

PHARISEE 2

What?

JESUS

Remember? David wrote: 'The Lord said
to my Lord: Sit by me at my right
side, until I put your enemies under
your control.'

PHARISEE 3 opens his mouth, raises his hand...says
nothing.

JESUS (CONT'D)

David calls the Christ 'Lord.' So how
can Christ be David's son?"

PHARISEE 2 (STRUGGLING)
He's the... he--

PHARISEE (TUGS HIS FRIEND)
--we don't want to be late to the
Temple.

The PHARISEES walk off together.

PETER, ANDREW and the other DISCIPLES crack up, not
JUDAS.

NARRATOR
Jesus knew the scriptures better than
the Temple leaders. He may have been
born in David's town, but he himself
was the very Son of God.

JESUS thanks the GROCER, says goodbye to the BOY, then
he and the DISCIPLES walk off in the other direction.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
After that day none one was brave
enough to ask Jesus any more
questions.

GROCER hands a broom to his SON, who begins sweeping.

CAMERA CRANES UP ABOVE THE GROCER'S STAND

EXT. - JERUSALEM - HIGH/WIDE SHOT - DUSK

TIME-LAPSE - AFTERNOON TO NIGHT

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - ABOVE JERUSALEM - NIGHT

CAMERA SWOOPS down into a NEIGHBORHOOD and pushes in on
a 2nd story WINDOW.

JESUS and the DISCIPLES sit around the table eating.
The mood is light. But even while he's eating, JESUS
looks troubled. He sighs out loud.

The DISCIPLES all stop eating and look at him. He
doesn't look up.

JESUS (SIGHS)
One of you... will turn against me.

The DISCIPLES say nothing. They look at each other.

DISCIPLE 1 (WHISPERS)
What's he talking about?

DISCIPLE 2 (WHISPERS BACK)
I don't know.

JESUS says nothing more...and resumes eating. Slowly, the others pick up where they left off and CONVERSATIONS restart. But young JOHN is sitting next to JESUS and leans over to him:

JOHN (WHISPERS)
Lord, who will turn against you?

The other DISCIPLES have rediscovered their appetites, and are passing around bowls of food and talking. JESUS reaches over and takes a piece of bread from the middle of the table.

JESUS (WHISPERS BACK)
The man I give this bread will turn against me

So JESUS dipped the bread and held it out to JUDAS.

JUDAS smiles and reaches up for the bread, but JESUS won't let it go. He looks intently at JUDAS.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Do what you are going to do... go quickly.

JUDAS' smile vanishes. JESUS lets go of the bread. JUDAS sits back with anger rising in his face. He looks at the BREAD, then back at Jesus. JUDAS flicks the bread onto his plate, pushes back his chair, stands and leaves.

ANGLE ON JOHN AND JESUS

JOHN is stunned, JESUS resumes eating. The others don't know what just happened.

PETER (OFF CAMERA)
Hey Judas--bring back some more of those little raisin cakes, will you?

JOHN looks up at JESUS, who pops in one last piece of chocolate, wipes his mouth with a cloth and places both hands on the table:

JESUS
Alright. I have a new command for you:

The DISCIPLES look up at him.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Love each other.

(looks around the
table)

The DISCIPLES process his words.

JESUS (CONT'D)
You must love each other as I have
loved you.

JESUS takes a LOAF OF BREAD, stands and tears off a
piece, giving the first piece to PETER. He talks while
he continues distributing:

JESUS (CONT'D)
People will know that you are my
followers if you love each other. My
Father himself loves you.

Finished passing out bread, JESUS takes a BOTTLE and
tops off the CUPS of a couple DISCIPLES.

JESUS (CONT'D)
He loves you because you have loved
me. And because you believed that I
came from God. And now...

He SITS DOWN again at the head of the TABLE.

JESUS (CONT'D)
...now I am going back to the Father.

ANGLE ON DISCIPLES FROM BEHIND JESUS

JESUS holds up his piece of BREAD.

BEGIN "JESUS THEME" MUSIC

CAMERA PULLS BACK SLOWLY, OUT THE WINDOW

We can sorta hear Jesus talking (Luke 22:19-20), but
the music and distance make his words indecipherable.
Plus the Narrator starts talking over him almost
immediately.

JESUS
This bread is my body that I am
giving for you.

NARRATOR
That night Jesus and his friends
spoke for a very long time.

CAMERA PULLS FURTHER AND FURTHER BACK FROM THE HOUSE.

JESUS
This cup...

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

He was very clear about what was going to happen to him next. But he also promised them that, no matter how difficult things were, their Father in heaven would always take care of them.

WIDE ON THE COURTYARD/GARDEN BESIDE THE HOUSE

ANGLE ON BUNNIES

Lit by silvery moonlight, they're eating CARROTS dug up from a small RAISED GARDEN BED beside the HOUSE. Soon a door opens, casting a shaft of WARM ORANGE LIGHT across the PLANTER.

The BUNNIES FREEZE and look toward the source of light.

ANGLE ON HOUSE/GARDEN - MEDIUM SHOT

A YOUNG BOY comes out, carrying a PITCHER and a TOWEL over one arm. He CLOSES the DOOR behind him and walks past the BUNNIES without stopping. He reaches the corner of the house, just past the GARDEN BED.

He is about to climb an EXTERIOR STAIRWAY when he turns to the BUNNIES:

BOY

Don't think I didn't see you there.

He tosses them some BREAD CRUMBS, which they eagerly HOP TOWARD. Then he TURNS BACK and starts up the STAIRS.

ANGLE ON TWO-STORY HOUSE - WIDE SHOT

A MAN exits UPPER ROOM, descends STAIRWAY.

NARRATOR

Jesus and his friends were finishing the Passover meal...

The MAN meets the BOY halfway down and SHOVES him aside.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...one of Jesus' followers had decided to betray him to the Temple leaders.

ANGLE ON MAN AT BOTTOM OF STAIRWAY - CLOSE-UP

It's JUDAS. He's angry. He notices a large CLOTH NAPKIN still tucked into the neck of his TUNIC--yanks it out and THROWS it at the BUNNIES. Then he TURNS to leave.

BUNNIES peek out from under the CLOTH, exchange a look.

CUT TO:

EXT. - JERUSALEM STREETS - NIGHT

Following JUDAS,

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Judas knew that the Temple leaders
wanted to stop Jesus from spreading
the message of God's kingdom.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - LARGE RESIDENCE W/COURTYARD - NIGHT

JUDAS arrives at the HIGH-WALLED courtyard; some SERVANTS sit
around a FIRE. A BURLY GUY dressed in half-priest/half-guard
outfit stops JUDAS briefly, they exchange words we can't
hear, then JUDAS walks into house.

NARRATOR

Judas also knew where Jesus would
be later that night...

CUT TO:

INT. - NIGHT - CAIAPHAS' RESIDENCE - WIDE SHOT

Several PHARISEES/PRIESTS watch JUDAS hold out both hands;
his PHARISEE friend counts out 30 PIECES of SILVER.

NARRATOR

...and that the Temple leaders
would pay a lot of money for that
information.

Money in hand, JUDAS and the PHARISEE exit. HYMN ends.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE BACK ON THE TWO-STORY HOUSE

BEGIN THEME MUSIC AND OPENING CREDITS

JESUS and 11 DISCIPLES exit the UPPER ROOM and descend the
STAIRWAY. They head in the opposite direction Judas went.

CAMERA FOLLOWS them thru empty STREETS, as they leave town
for the GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

CUT TO:

EXT. GETHSEMANE - NIGHT - NEAR GARDEN

END THEME MUSIC AND OPENING CREDITS

The TWELVE MEN enter frame. JESUS stops before entering the GARDEN. He turns to face his friends--deep in thought.

JESUS

Tonight...all of you will leave me.

The DISCIPLES protest.

DISCIPLE 1

But Lord, none of us would ever leave you!

Jesus holds up his hand to stop them:

JESUS

The scriptures say 'Kill the shepherd, and the sheep will scatter.'

(looks at each of them)

But after I rise from the dead, I will meet you again in Galilee.

(looks off right)

This way.

JESUS walks off right, into the GARDEN, the DISCIPLES stand and look at each other in confusion/preplexity for a moment before following him.

WHIP-PAN LEFT:

BACK TO EDGE OF JERUSALEM

ZOOM/PUSH TO A HOUSE JUST INSIDE THE CITY

JUDAS peeks around the corner of a house spying on Jesus and the disciples. Seeing them enter the garden, he ducks back behind the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PLAZA JUST INSIDE THE CITY - NIGHT

JUDAS stands near the CORNER of the HOUSE with his PHARISEE friend and three BURLY JEWISH GUYS dressed in half priest/half-guard outfits. They hold TORCHES and SMALL CLUBS.

JUDAS (EVALUATING HIS TEAM)
So just three men? Jesus has eleven!

PHARISEE
These men only represent the
Sanhedrin. The High Priest says
Pilate is sending us a Roman troop.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

PETER jogs to catch up with JESUS.

PETER (WHILE WALKING)
Lord, even if everyone else leaves
you, you must know that I will not.

JESUS
Simon Peter--
(stops to face PETER)
--Satan is testing you, but I have
prayed that your faith will not
fail.

PETER
I am ready to go to prison or even
die for you.

JESUS (KINDLY)
Let me tell you something Peter:
(puts both hands on Peters
shoulders)
...before the rooster crows
tomorrow morning, you will say
three times that you don't know me.

PETER
Never Lord!

JESUS smiles sadly, turns and walks off again. PETER doesn't
move. The OTHERS file past him deeper into the GARDEN.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PLAZA JUST INSIDE THE CITY - NIGHT

JUDAS, the PHARISEE and the three BURLY JEWISH GUYS are
joined by a ROMAN OFFICER and six ROMAN SOLDIERS carrying
LANTERNS and WEAPONS.

PHARISEE
Gentlemen, thank you for coming.

ROMAN OFFICER

Are you expecting trouble? I
thought this Jesus was a peaceful
man.

JUDAS

Of course he is.

PHARISEE

There should be no trouble from the
Rabbi--but some of his followers
can be, uh...excitable.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

JESUS and the DISCIPLES arrive at a clearing. JESUS gestures
for them to be seated, then walks a little further with
PETER, JAMES and JOHN.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PLAZA JUST INSIDE THE CITY - NIGHT

JUDAS and the GANG are finishing their mission-briefing:

JUDAS

...and your signal will be my
personal greeting to Jesus.

The burliest JEWISH GUY, MALCHUS doesn't follow:

MALCHUS

Personal greeting? What's that?

JUDAS (EXASPERATED)

What else? A kiss! You arrest the
man I greet with a kiss.

MALCHUS rolls his eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

JESUS prays alone while PETER, JAMES and JOHN sleep.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PLAZA JUST INSIDE THE CITY - NIGHT

The ROMAN OFFICER and his SOLDIERS are impatient. He gestures for them to head off for the GARDEN.

ROMAN OFFICER (TO PHARISEE)
 No wonder Pilate sent us. You two
 would stand here talking all night.
 (motions for them to
 follow)
 Let's get this over with.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

ON JESUS. He stands up from praying, steps back toward PETER, JAMES and JOHN, who remain asleep.

JESUS
 Are you still sleeping? My time has
 come.
 (looks off camera to
 the other eight men)

JESUS' POV

The distant TORCHES and LANTERNS appear as JUDAS, his PHARISEE, the BURLY GUYS and the ROMAN COHORT approach the other SLEEPING DISCIPLES.

JESUS (OFF CAMERA) (CONT'D)
 Peter--get up.

ANGLE ON JESUS

He looks to make sure PETER, JAMES and JOHN are awake.

JESUS (CONT'D)
 Here comes the man who has turned
 against me.

JESUS walks toward the kerfuffle, past CAMERA and exits.

PETER, JAMES and JOHN stand up into frame, rubbing their tired eyes and stirring themselves awake. PETER straps on his SWORD. When they realize Jesus has left, they quickly rush to follow him.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

ORIGINAL CLEARING. The other 8 DISCIPLES are stirring and awakening. Jesus walks thru past them to stop the MOB.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Who are you looking for?

The MOB stops. Burly MALCHUS steps up with a TORCH and CLUB.

MALCHUS
Jesus of Nazareth.
(holds his torch up to
shine on Jesus' face)

JESUS (FIRMLY)
I am... Jesus.

ANGLE ON MOB

Hearing "I Am" shocks the PHARISEE and BURLY GUYS, who gasp and shrink back--several MEN fall down. They recover and gather themselves quickly, sheepishly.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I asked who you are looking for.

MALCHUS
Jesus?

ANGLE ON JESUS - FROM MOB'S POV

JESUS
Yes. If you are looking for me, let
these men go.
(gestures behind him to
the DISCIPLES)

JUDAS steps into frame from behind camera with arms outstretched toward JESUS. He embraces the Lord and kisses Him on both cheeks.

JUDAS
Teacher!

ANGLE ON JESUS & JUDAS - CLOSE-UP

JESUS (QUIETLY)
So my friend, you have betrayed the
Son of Man with a kiss.

ANGLE ON CROWD - WIDE SHOT

The BURLY GUYS move forward and MALCHUS grabs JESUS' arm to lead him away.

The DISCIPLES holler out in protest and rush forward.

PETER raises his SWORD as he nears MALCHUS, but he stumbles and his sword glances off the side of the big man's head.

The ROMANS move into positions with LONG SWORDS and SPEARS.

MALCHUS screams and immediately reaches up to the side of his head, wailing in pain.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Peter--stop!

MALCHUS (SHOUTING, ANGRY)

My ear! You cut off my ear!

JESUS steps over to hold PETER's SWORD. PETER doesn't let go.

JESUS (TO PETER)

You know my Father would send
armies of angels if I asked.

JESUS lets go of the SWORD and reaches out to MALCHUS. He helps him stand up and touches the side of his head. JESUS' HAND GLOWS. The man pulls his hand away--no blood. The ear is miraculously restored.

The DISCIPLES have all run away, except PETER.

JESUS (TO PETER)

This is how it has to happen.
(fixes him in an intense
look)
Peter...it is written.

PETER is in tears. He raises his SWORD again toward the MOB.

The ROMANS and BURLY GUYS raise their weapons to prepare for PETER'S attack. JESUS turns to address the MOB:

JESUS (CONT'D)

So here you are with swords and
clubs as if I'm a dangerous
criminal.

The COMBATANTS hold their threatening positions. JESUS calmly steps over and picks up a MONEY BAG. It jangles as he holds it out to JUDAS, who retrieves it in embarrassment.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You know Malchus, I've been in the
Temple every day this week--you
could've arrested me there at any
time.

MALCHUS steps forward without his club, keeping an eye on PETER.

MALCHUS (GENTLY TAKES JESUS' ARM)
Rabbi... please come now.

JESUS looks at PETER.

PETER, SWORD still raised, looks at JESUS, then over at the MOB. He backs away slowly, then lowers his sword, turns and walks back deeper into the GARDEN.

JESUS walks toward the MOB, which PARTS to let him through. MALCHUS follows closely. The ROMANS and BURLY GUYS exit first, then the PHARISEE.

JUDAS remains, bending down to pick up a lantern. He holds up the light to watch PETER walk off.

ANGLE ON PETER

He stops and turns to look back. All he sees is JUDAS' leaving. The lantern's warm rays gradually diminish. PETER drops his SWORD, slumps his shoulders and puts his head in his hands.

Young JOHN peers out from behind a nearby TREE. Seeing that the danger has passed, he comes over to comfort PETER.

CAMERA CRANES UP ABOVE THE OLIVE TREES; PANS BACK TO CITY

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - LARGE RESIDENCE W/COURTYARD - NIGHT

The MOB and JESUS, whose HANDS are now BOUND, arrive at the courtyard; SERVANTS still sit around the FIRE.

As the MOB heads to the MAIN ENTRANCE, two of the BURLY GUYS lead the ROMANS away and they disappear around a far corner of the house.

CUT TO:

INT. - CAIAPHAS' RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Several PHARISEES/PRIESTS sit around chatting. They all stop talking and look up as JUDAS and his PHARISEE enter with JESUS and MALCHUS. Everybody stands and begins to form a circle, into which JESUS is led.

All defer to the HIGH PRIEST, CAIAPHAS, the only one to remain seated.

JESUS stands alone facing CAIAPHAS.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - FIRE IN COURTYARD - NIGHT

Sleepy SERVANTS and other JEWISH FOLK sit around the FIRE. We HEAR a DOOR OPEN and the group looks up toward the house.

MALCHUS (CALLING)(OFF CAMERA)
Hashem ben Ithiel!

A MAN at the FIRE nudges his FRIEND, who is sleeping.

MAN 4
Hashem--you're next!

HASHEM stirs himself, and looks around.

MALCHUS (OFF CAMERA)
Come on man! Caiaphas is waiting!

As HASHEM walks away, some OTHER PEOPLE arrive and stand around the fire. PETER and JOHN are with them.

We HEAR the DOOR CLOSE and attention returns to the fire.

MAN 4 (SHIVERS, REACHES TOWARD FIRE)
Cold night!

Various nods and GRUNTS of agreement. Things are QUIET again.

A YOUNG WOMAN sitting down notices PETER standing in the SECOND ROW and catches his eye. He SHIFTS behind someone to avoid her gaze.

YOUNG WOMAN (TO PETER)
You--
(points at him)
--you were with Jesus, that man
from Nazareth.

Everybody looks at PETER.

PETER (ACTS SURPRISED, AMUSED)
I don't...
(shakes his head)
...know what you're talking
about.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - CAIAPHAS' RESIDENCE - NIGHT

HASHEM stands inside the circle pointing angrily at JESUS while making accusations. PHARISEES/PRIESTS nod and look at each other with wry smiles.

ANGLE ON JESUS

He says nothing; doesn't look at Hashem. Has a million-miles away expression. The HIGH PRIEST intently studies Jesus.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - FIRE IN COURTYARD - NIGHT

HASHEM rejoins the chilly people at the FIRE, squeezing his way into the front rank between his friend, MAN 4 and JOHN.

MALCHUS (CALLING) (OFF CAMERA)
Dothan ben Ramah!

MAN 4, Hashem's FRIEND, gets up to take his turn.

HASHEM (TO HIS DEPARTING FRIEND)
Don't worry, they'll believe you.

As he turns to call after his friend, some COINS fall out of HASHEM's pocket. He gathers up the COINS and looks sheepishly at everybody.

HASHEM (CONT'D)
I mean, why wouldn't they believe us?

ANGLE ON THE PEOPLE AROUND THE FIRE

The SKY is now starting to get a LIGHT PINK GLOW. Nobody replies, but HASHEM recognizes PETER.

HASHEM (CONT'D)
Don't I know you? You're one of Jesus' followers!

Once again the focus is on PETER.

PETER
No, I'm not...I don't know him.

ANGLE ON the YOUNG WOMAN

She continues to eye PETER suspiciously.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - CAIAPHAS' RESIDENCE - NIGHT

MAN 4 is exiting the circle.

MEDIUM SHOT FROM BEHIND JESUS

CAIAPHAS stands, points at JESUS and makes an angry declaration.

JESUS evidently replies--we see him shrug his shoulders and his head moves slightly as if speaking. But when he finishes, CAIAPHAS is enraged and begins to TEARS the front of his CEREMONIAL TUNIC.

The two BURLY GUYS start to punch and slap JESUS in anger.

PULL BACK WIDE

The ROMANS ENTER. The assembled DIGNITARIES are all in an uproar over something Jesus said. CAIAPHAS gestures for the guards to take Jesus out.

CUT TO:

EXT. - FIRE IN COURTYARD - DAWN

The SKY is now glowing ORANGE as dawn approaches, but it's still cold outside. Another YOUNG WOMAN is sitting beside the first one. They look at PETER and whisper about him.

YOUNG WOMAN 2 (POINTS AT PETER)
I'm certain that man is a follower
of Jesus!

PETER
I tell you, I'm not!

The PEOPLE around the fire look at PETER skeptically. JOHN looks up at his friend.

PETER (CONT'D)
No! May a curse fall on me if I'm
not telling the truth. I don't know
that man!

A ROOSTER CROWS nearby. The SOUND of the large front DOOR BURSTING OPEN. The group LOOKS toward the house.

ANGLE ON JESUS

His HANDS are TIED and he is led roughly by the ROMANS now, followed by a number of PHARISEES and PRIESTS. JESUS is bloodied and dishevelled. He looks at Peter.

Another ROOSTER CROWS.

ANGLE ON PETER

He is aghast at the sight of Jesus.

ANGLE ON JESUS - SLOW MOTION

LOOKING directly at Peter while walking

ANGLE ON PETER - DOLLY-IN/ZOOM-OUT (SPIELBERG/HITCHCOCK)

He locks eyes with Jesus. The ROOSTER CROWS a third time. PETER'S face contorts with shame.

HIGH WIDE SHOT OF RESIDENCE AND COURTYARD - SUNRISE

As JESUS and his CAPTORS exit the COURTYARD, the GROUP around the FIRE disperses except for JOHN. PETER stands forlorn.

NARRATOR

Jesus knew what was about to happen to him, just as he had known what Peter would do.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - JERUSALEM STREETS, PLAZAS - MONTAGE - DAY

The ROMANS lead JESUS by a ROPE. They are followed by a large contingent. They pass the GROCERS SON, who sadly watches JESUS. With each successive SHOT, the CROWD grows. MARY MAGDALENE rushes in from a side-street and is shocked to see JESUS.

JESUS (V.O.)

The world will be happy to see me die. You will cry and be sad and mourn for me, but... you will see me again. Then your hearts will rejoice; and no one will take away your joy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - PILATE'S COURTYARD - DAY

JESUS, the ROMANS and the LARGE CROWD enter. The PEOPLE fill the COURTYARD. Only the ROMANS and JESUS walk up the STEPS.

JESUS (V.O.)
 My kingdom does not belong to this
 world. I came into the world to
 tell people about the truth.
 Everyone who belongs to the truth
 listens to me.

PILATE sits in a covered JUDGEMENT SEAT. JESUS stands facing
 PILATE.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Father, I am coming to you now. But
 I pray for all the people who will
 believe in me from now on, that you
 will keep them safe from the Evil
 One

After a brief conversation, PILATE MOTIONS to the GUARDS, who
 take JESUS back into the GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

PILATE rises to address the CROWD.

ANGLE ON PILATE

PILATE
 I find no fault in this man that he
 should be put to death.

ANGLE ON PRIESTS

They TURN to the CROWD and give a signal.

CROWD
 Crucify him! Kill him on a
 cross! We have no king but Caesar!

DISSOLVE MONTAGE OF SHOUTING PEOPLE IN THE CROWD... PILATE
 BAFFLED... PRIESTS GLOATING... MARY MAGDALENE CRYING...WIDE
 EYED GROCER BOY... JOHN SLIPPING INTO THE COURTYARD

ANGLE ON PILATE

He turns and gestures to someone behind him. The GUARDS bring
 JESUS out, now wearing a CROWN OF THORNS and a PURPLE ROBE.

JESUS (V.O.)
 What should I say?

PILATE turns to the other side, where a GUARD holds a BASIN
 and a TOWEL for him.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Should I say, 'Father, save me from
this'?

PILATE dips his hands into the BASIN, then holds his wet hands out toward the CROWD, wiping the water off at them.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
No! I came here for this.

PILATE turns toward JESUS, who looks straight ahead. PILATE nods to the GUARD, who shoves JESUS stumbling toward the steps.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Unless a grain of wheat falls to
the ground and dies, it will remain
just a single seed.

WIDE SHOT OF GOVERNOR'S COURTYARD

Several ROMAN GUARDS hold a large wooden CROSS at the bottom of the stairs.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But if a seed falls and dies...

JESUS struggles down the stairs.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...then it will make many seeds.

ANGLE ON MARY MAGDALENE

She's transfixed on the scene before her. JOHN enters frame beside her.

NARRATOR
Jesus knew this was God's plan. He
had told his friends many times
about his death...

MARY, the mother of Jesus enters frame from the other side.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...but now that it was actually
happening, it was more than their
hearts could bear.

The THREESOME comfort each another and continue to watch the spectacle in the courtyard. The GROCER BOY shuffles over and leans against JOHN as well.

CAMERA CRANES UP THE WALL

JERUSALEM COMES INTO VIEW AS CAMERA CLIMBS HIGHER

DARK CLOUDS GATHER ON THE HORIZON

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

When John the Baptist first saw
Jesus, this is what he said:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - GOLGOTHA - DAY

DARK CLOUDS continue to gather. LIGHTNING flashes in the distance. There are three CROSSES on the CRAGGY HILL just outside JERUSALEM. There's almost nobody watching. STRAGGLERS can be seen leaving the site, fleeing the elements. There is an OX tied to a CART standing off to the side.

NARRATOR

"Here comes the Lamb of God, who
takes away the sins of the world!"

CAMERA TILTS DOWN PAST THE CROSSES

ANGLE FROM ABOVE on two CLUSTERS of PEOPLE; one sitting huddled near the MIDDLE CROSS, the other standing further back.

CAMERA CRANES DOWN TO NEAR GROUND LEVEL

Looking from behind a CROSS, which is so close to camera that it's out of focus on the far left edge of frame. All we can see of it is wood.

JOHN, MARY MAGDALENE, Jesus' MOTHER and ANOTHER MARY huddle together nearest to the CROSS.

Behind them a little bit stand the ROMAN OFFICER and two of the SOLDIERS who arrested Jesus. MALCHUS is with them. They look up at the crosses from time-to-time, but mostly shield their faces from the wind and dust.

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)

It is finished!

WIDE SHOT - FROM AN ADJACENT HILL; JERUSALEM IN BACKGROUND

CLOUDS HAVE TOTALLY DARKENED THE SKY

LOUD THUNDER; A LIGHTNING BOLT STRIKES THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY

CLOSE-UP ON ROMAN OFFICER

ROMAN OFFICER (QUIETLY)
This man really was the Son of God.

DISSOLVE TO:

LONG SHOT - FROM ADJACENT HILL (FRAMING GOLGOTHA HILLTOP)

The CROSSES are empty, and the SOLDIERS are taking them down.

NARRATOR
It was a horrible day for Jesus' friends.

The OX pulls the CART down the hill, accompanied by a handful of PEOPLE. We can't tell who's who, as it's dark and they all appear in SILHOUETTE.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Now they had to hurry and bury
Jesus before sundown, because the
next day was the Sabbath.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - THE TOMB - DAY

Several MEN carry a WRAPPED BODY from the CART into the TOMB.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Jesus was laid in a brand new tomb
that had never been used before.

When they come out, they roll a large, round STONE over the entrance. The MEN leave, but several WOMEN remain.

SAME SHOT - DISSOLVE IN SOME WORKERS AND ROMAN SOLDIERS

The WORKERS are up on top of the STONE, pouring something hot to seal it in place.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
The Temple Priests were afraid that
Jesus' friends would steal his body
and pretend he had been raised from
death.

The SOLDIERS order the WOMEN to leave.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
So they asked Pilate to seal the
tomb and guard it. And Pilate did
what they asked.

FADE TO WHITE:

FADE IN ON BLAZING MORNING SUN

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Sunday morning, the first day of the week, dawned with a glorious sunrise...and this day held an amazing surprise.

CAMERA CRANES DOWN FROM SKY TO A VERDANT GARDEN

ANGLE ON TWO BUNNIES

They hop around nibbling on FLOWERS. There are BUTTERFLIES and BIRDS flitting about.

MARY MAGDALENE (OFF CAMERA)

They've taken the Lord away!

THE BUNNIES PERK UP AND TURN TO LOOK BEHIND CAMERA

CAMERA CRANES UP; PANS LEFT

There's a STONE PATH running thru the GARDEN, leading to a CAVE/TOMB, where a LARGE ROUND STONE has been rolled aside.

PETER and JOHN walk toward the TOMB with MARY MAGDALENE.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

See!? The stone is rolled away.
Where did they take Jesus?

JOHN takes off at a run toward the TOMB, PETER follows at a brisk walk.

ANGLE ON TOMB ENTRANCE

JOHN stops at the mouth of the cave, glances off to the side:

TWO ROMANS LAY "SLEEPING" BEHIND A BUSH 20 FEET AWAY

JOHN turns back and peers inside the TOMB. PETER arrives, glances quickly at the ROMANS, then goes straight in. JOHN follows him. We can't see anything inside the TOMB, as it's too dark.

CAMERA STOPS

JOHN (OFF CAMERA)

Peter, what's that cloth over there?

MARY MAGDALENE steps into frame, but doesn't want to go any closer.

PETER (O.C.)

That was used to wrap his head.

JOHN (O.C.)

How did... what--? What happened here?

PETER comes out of the TOMB holding some strips of cloth. He looks nervously at the passed-out ROMANS, then quickly walks toward CAMERA, past MARY MAGDALENE on out of frame. JOHN comes out too and chases after Peter:

JOHN (CONT'D)

Peter--the Lord did say he would see us again!

MARY MAGDALENE turns toward CAMERA watching them depart. She is troubled, and turns back toward the TOMB. Tentatively, she approaches the entrance and looks inside.

CAMERA TRACKS ALONG

She begins sobbing.

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)

Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?

MARY stands and looks back past CAMERA at Jesus; thinks he's the gardener.

MARY MAGDALENE

Sir, if you took him away, please tell me where you put him.

JESUS

Mary.

ANGLE ON JESUS

He looks... different. He's dressed in a new kind of OUTFIT, his HAIR is lighter, BEARD a little more trim. It's almost imperceptible, but he appears to be GLOWING.

ANGLE ON MARY MAGDALENE

MARY MAGDALENE

Teacher! Oh teacher!

She runs toward him, past CAMERA.

TWO SHOT - MEDIUM

MARY has fallen at his feet.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)
You've come back to us!

JESUS
Soon I will go back to my Father-
and your Father.

MARY MAGDALENE
No Lord!
(standing up)
Stay here with us!

JESUS
Mary--

MARY MAGDALENE
Please?

JESUS
Mary, I need you to go tell my
brothers to go on to Galilee.

MARY MAGDALENE
Oh--you can come see them now-
Peter and John were just here!

JESUS (KINDLY, FIRMLY)
Mary, tell them to meet me in
Galilee.

LOW ANGLE WIDE SHOT - FROM BETWEEN THE BUNNIES

BUNNIES look at each other and smile.

Behind them, JESUS sends MARY MAGDALENE on her way.

NARRATOR
Jesus really was alive!

CAMERA FLIES UP; POINTS DOWN

High overhead view of GARDEN, TOMB and COUNTRYSIDE

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
His promise had come true after
just three days.

CAMERA PULLS UP 200 FEET

THIN, WISPY CLOUDS PASS IN FRONT OF CAMERA

When the view clears, there are several WOMEN arriving at the TOMB.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Mary Magdalene was telling everyone
that her Lord was alive...

CAMERA DROPS BACK DOWN TO THE TOMB

The ROMANS are still lying behind the bushes. MARY MAGDAELENE is showing her friends where she saw Jesus. Suddenly there's a BRIGHT LIGHT.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
...an angel told Mary and her
friends that Jesus had risen and
was on his way to Galilee.

ANGEL appears on top of the STONE and talks to the WOMEN.
BUNNIES hop into corner of frame.

WIPE TO:

INT. - PETER'S HOUSE - DAY

The WOMEN are excitedly telling the DISCIPLES what they saw.

NARRATOR
But even Peter didn't believe what
the women said.

WIPE TO:

EXT. - ROAD TO EMMAUS - DAY

JESUS is walking and talking with two other DISCIPLES. They walk right past two BUNNIES.

NARRATOR
Jesus appeared to two of his
followers walking on the road to
Emmaus...

WIPE TO:

INT. - HOME IN EMMAUS - NIGHT

JESUS is with the same two DISCIPLES giving thanks for a MEAL. When he breaks the bread...

NARRATOR

...but they didn't recognize Jesus
until he prayed and broke the bread
for them.

Their FACES light up with recognition, and instantly JESUS
disappears.

WIPE TO:

INT. - CAIAPHAS' HOUSE - NIGHT

The two ROMANS GUARDS from the tomb explain to the PRIESTS
what happened at the tomb.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile the two guards from the
tomb told the priests how there was
an earthquake and an angel and how
Jesus rose from death.

CAIAPHAS nods to the PHARISEE, who again counts out money to
the GUARDS, as he had for Judas days earlier.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

So the priests paid the guards to
lie about it, and say that Jesus'
followers stole his body while they
slept.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - GALILEE SHORELINE - DAY

ANGLE ON PETER'S FISHING BOAT - FROM SHORE

PETER, ANDREW, JOHN and FOUR OTHERS fish 100 yards offshore.

CAMERA PANS RIGHT along shoreline. In the distance a MAN
walks toward camera, approaching the fishermen's makeshift
camp: some logs and utensils, etc.

ON PETER AND ANDREW

They're fishing, but are discouraged to only have a few FISH
in a SMALL WOOD PAIL.

They look out and see the MAN starting a fire. They don't
recognize him.

ON MAN ARRIVING AT FIRE

It's JESUS. He crouches down to stoke the embers and toss a
few branches on the fire.

ON DISCIPLES ABOARD BOAT

They pull up their NETS again on the LEFT SIDE of the boat, facing shore. Empty. Jesus calls out to them from shore:

JESUS (DISTANT)
Friends, have you caught any fish?

The DISCIPLES look at each other as if to say "Who's this?". PETER calls back.

PETER (SHOUTS OFF CAMERA)
No!

JESUS (DISTANT)
Throw your net into the water on the right side of your boat.

The DISCIPLES look at each other again. They shrug as if to say "Why not?" and haul the net across the deck.

ON JESUS

With an arm load of WOOD, looks out at the boat.

ON DISCIPLES

They're pulling up the NET--which is chock-full of FISH. The DISCIPLES are stunned. FISH fall everywhere onto the DECK. JOHN turns around and looks back at shore:

JOHN
Peter--it's the Lord!

PETER'S eyes light up. He jumps over the right side of the boat and starts swimming to shore.

ANDREW (TO THE OTHERS)
Let's head back!

The DISCIPLES haul up the net with all their might.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - GALILEE SHORELINE - DAY

Peter sits at the fire, dripping wet, with a TOWEL over his shoulders, chewing a mouthful of food. He looks over to his left at SIX LARGE BUCKETS overflowing with FISH.

ON JESUS

He's looking down to his right at the same FISH. He looks up at Peter and smiles.

ON PETER

PETER (TALKS WHILE CHEWING)
153. We've never caught that many
fish in one haul!

ANGLE ON THE OTHER DISCIPLES

While eating, JOHN elbows ANDREW, also chewing, to look at Jesus and Peter.

ANGLE ON JESUS AND PETER

JESUS
A lot of fish...

PETER (GRINS, WIPES MOUTH)
I'm a fisherman.

JESUS
Hmmm...

JESUS flashes a quick look over at John.

ON JOHN - CLOSE-UP

JOHN stops chewing, makes eye contact with Jesus. Then looks over to Peter.

ON JESUS

JESUS (CONT'D)
...so Simon Peter...
(looks down at fish again)
...do you love me more than these?

JESUS looks up at Peter and narrows his gaze. Off camera, Peter coughs and chokes.

ON PETER

PETER
Lord! Yes--of course I love you!

PETER is incredulous, as if to say "How could you ask that?"

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)
Then take care of my lambs.

ANGLE ON JOHN AND ANDREW

JOHN (WHISPERS TO ANDREW)

Uh-oh.

ANDREW (WHISPERS BACK)

What?

JOHN

When Jesus first came here to call us, what did he say we'd learn?

ANDREW

...to be fishers of men. I forgot about that!

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)

Again Simon Peter, son of John...do you love me?

ON PETER

He's starting to figure it out.

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAIAPHAS' COURTYARD - FLASHBACK:

PETER

May a curse fall on me if I'm not telling the truth: I don't know that man!

BACK ON PETER AT GALILEE

PETER

Yes Lord, you know--that I love you.

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)

Then take care of my...

ON JESUS

JESUS is holding a dead FISH by the tail. He drops it into a BUCKET and looks back to Peter.

JESUS (CONT'D)

...take care of my sheep.

ON JOHN

JOHN (WHISPERS TO ANDREW)

Three times!

ANDREW

You think he'll ask Peter again!?

JESUS (OFF CAMERA)

Simon Peter, do you love me?

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAIAPHAS' COURTYARD - FLASHBACK:

PETER (OFF CAMERA)

I don't know that man!

BACK ON JESUS AT GALILEE

He looks intently at Peter, waiting for an answer.

PETER (OFF CAMERA)

Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.

JESUS (NODDING)

Take care of my sheep Peter.

ANGLE ON JESUS & PETER - FROM BEHIND, JUST LAKE & SKY BEYOND

PETER nods too. Jesus stands and offers a hand to PETER; helping him get up.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Follow me.

JESUS puts his arm around PETER; they walk out of frame together.

CAMERA HOLDS - BLUE LAKE; BLUE SKY

BEGIN CLOSING THEME MUSIC

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

All power in heaven and on earth is given to me.

SKY TURNS GREEN; MORPHS INTO A HILLSIDE

BUNNIES HOP INTO FRAME; CAMERA TILTS UP

JESUS stands at the top of the HILL with his arms raised toward a small crowd of DISCIPLES and WOMEN.

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Make followers all over the world...

ANGLE ON PETER, ANDREW, JOHN

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...and baptize them in the name of
 the Father...

ANGLE ON MARY MAGDALENE, THE OTHER WOMEN

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ANGLE ON THE OTHER DISCIPLES

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Teach them to obey everything I
 have told you.

ANGLE ON JESUS

JESUS (CONT'D)
 And I will always be with you...

HE RISES SLOWLY INTO THE AIR; OUT OF FRAME

ANGLE ON PETER - MED. SHOT - FROM JESUS POV - PULLING BACK

JESUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I will continue with you until the
 end of the world.

ANGLE ON CROWD FROM BEHIND, LOOKING UP INTO AN EMPTY SKY

NARRATOR
 And then he was gone. Jesus was
 returning to His Father in heaven.

The DISCIPLES stop looking into the sky. The crowd is joyful,
 but subdued. PETER gestures that they should leave.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 And those men and women did change
 the world. Jesus sent them the Holy
 Spirit to help spread the Good
 News.

As the CROWD makes its way down the HILLSIDE, CAMERA PUSHES
 IN on the two BUNNIES. One is still looking up into the sky.
 The other watches the crowd.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 And that same Spirit is still with
 us today...

BUNNIES turn and look into CAMERA.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...helping us to live for Jesus.
And helping us tell the Good News
that He is alive and preparing a
place for us in heaven.

FADE OUT