

PROPHET heads for the stele, Sha'ul blocks his way with his argument.

KING SHA'UL

For years I've fought in the forefront of battles in the name of YHWH's Chosen People.

Sh'muel ignores King Sha'ul. He waves to a handful of men to follow him.

PROPHET

You! You! Come! *(Pointing to the stele)* This is the command of The God of Everything and All. Destroy this monument of a man's vainglory!!

The people and soldiers push against the stele. The monument falls and breaks to pieces.

KING SHA'UL

No!

Sh'muel turns to leave, SHA'UL reaches for the Prophet's robe.

Prophet, please!

The hem of the robe tears. The people gasp.

PROPHET

TODAY, GOD TORE AWAY THE KINGSHIP FROM YOUR HAND.
ALL IS LOST, SHA'UL. YOUR PEACE OF MIND
WILL NOW COME TO AN END.

KING SHA'UL

(distraught) Prophet, please don't leave me!

Just before he exits, Sh'muel does a double take.

PROPHET

By YHWH's command, I am now to find another man more worthy to be king, not like you or your kind.

Prophet leaves. The people all stare at Sha'ul.

KING SHA'UL

Leave me all of you!

ENSEMBLE

(As the Ensemble exits, they stare back at Sha'ul.)

ONCE HE WALKED A HEAD ABOVE THE SHOULDERS OF MEN,
NOW HE HANGS HIS HEAD IN SHAME! SHAME, SHAME, SHAME.

YONATAN

ONCE WAS LIFTED ON A STAGE, NOW FROM GRACE HE HAS
FALLEN

YONATAN/MICHAL

ONCE A HERO OF NOTE, HIS VICT'RIES NOW FORGOTTEN.

*Sha'ul goes weak in the knees and almost
collapses. Yonatan and Michal run to his aide.
Sha'ul pushes them away.*

SHA'UL

Get your hands off me! I don't need you! I don't need any of
you! Go! *(Yonatan and Michal exit)*

Song: "3. WHAT IS A KING"

I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING HAS JUST COME UNDONE
MY LIFE UNRAVELLED BY MY VERY HAND.
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE DONE A WRONG I CAN'T UNDO
OH, GROUND BENEATH ME EAT ME UP, PLEASE DO.

WHAT IS A KING, IF HE CAN'T HAVE THE FREEDOM,
TO DO AS HE PLEASES, MAKE HIS OWN DECISION.
WHAT IS A KING WITHOUT ULTIMATE POWER?
I'M AT THE TOP. NO ONE ELSE IS HIGHER, THAN ME.

LOOK AT ME NOW, I AM IN THE LEAD,
KING OF 12 TRIBES, I AM THE ANOINTED.
NO ONE CAN QUESTION THE POWER I WIELD,
I AM CHOSEN, I AM THE EQUAL OF GOD!

WHAT IS A KING, IF I HAVE TO CONTEND
WITH, PLEASING A GOD, WHO IS OMNIPOTENT.
WHAT IS A KING, IF I CAN'T HAVE MY WAY?
WHAT IS THE POINT IF GOD HAS THE LAST SAY?

This is not what I was told. Where's the power I was to hold?
What is a throne if I can't have the world? So, I made a
blunder, yes. But should I grovel, demean myself? What is a
king if I can't have it all!

WHAT IS A KING, IF GOD IS A KING, AS WELL?

Blackout
End Prologue