

MARANATHA

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. TEMPLE MOUNT - DAY

SUPER: JERUSALEM 2015 A.D.

People pray at the western wall. An eclipse ensues. The sun blackens. Others null about in a self-indulgent bliss.

INT. TEMPLE - YITZHAK'S ROOM - DAY

A wisp of a rabbi, RISHON YABLON (40's), flails in. YITZHAK KADURI (70's), is on his last leg and lies in a medical bed.

:Their conversation's in HEBREW.

RISHON

The sun has turned dark as
sackcloth as the prophecies warned.

Yitzhak's distressed and reaches for some papers scattered on the floor. Rishon rushes over.

RISHON

Rabbi, easy. I'll get the doctor.

Rishon turns to leave. Yitzhak's decrepit hand grabs his tallit and pulls him close.

YITZHAK

I've met with Messiah.

He motions to the papers on the floor. Rishon scoops them up and hands them over. Yitzhak begins to write.

YITZHAK

His return is immanent. He'll lift
the people and prove His word.

He hands Rishon the paper and breathes his last.

RISHON

Rabbi. Rabbi, Yitzhak...

His eyes bulge as he stares at the scrawl.

INT. TEMPLE - OFFICE - LATER

Anxious rabbi's pour in. Rishon scribbles on a white board with vigor. He circles the first letter of every word.

He steps back. The circled letters begin to spell YESHUA.
GASPS reverberate and drown out to--

EXT. SHAHHAT, LIBYA - NIGHT

--3 SIKORSKY UH-60 BLACK HAWK helicopters lacerate the sky.

SUPER: 214.3 KM FROM BENGHAZI

INT. BLACK HAWK - MOVING - SAME

U.N. soldiers sit at guard. BENJAMIN GLEASON (20's), a black optimistic staff SGT. thumbs a cross dangling from his neck as he reads from a bible.

SOLDIER 1
They've got nukes.

SOLDIER 2
We're occupying - not invading.

SOLDIER 1
Radar's been picking up radiation
levels in other countries.
Theological countries.

Soldier 1 nods to Benjamin. The soldier's banter stifles at the poignant gaze from a rugged war-dog known by MAJ. RON J. DEFARROW (40's).

He shifts his focus over to Benjamin.

DEFARROW
What'cha reading there, son?

BENJAMIN
Just putting on my armor, sir.

Noticing Benjamin's cross.

DEFARROW
Think that book's gonna protect
you, kid?

Off the soldier's snicker.

DEFARROW
This is all you need.

He motions with his M-16.

DEFARROW

These men here; have faith in 'em.
'Cause out in the field, they're
who's protecting you.

BENJAMIN

For you have faith in the soldiers
who've got your back, but mine lies
in He whose got theirs.

Defarrow glares.

EXT. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

A large tent drapes over a work station. People scatter and try to catch papers that float away as the helicopter lands.

ANDREW COLE (30's), a studious archeologist, meets the deploying soldiers.

ANDREW

What's going on here?

Defarrow eases out of the chopper.

DEFARROW

Major Ronald Jean Defarrow.
National defense - united nations.
Who's in charge?

Andrew notices soldiers encircling the camp.

ANDREW

I am. What's this about?

CEMETERY - LATER

Have bombs gone off? Hundreds of graves are disrupted.
Defarrow sifts through the loose soil. Andrew hovers near.

ANDREW

These graves just exploded open.
Science can't seem to explain this.
Other reports have come in from
around the globe with similar
happenings.

Benjamin stands among some locals speaking ARABIC. Defarrow puffs a cigar until the cherry beams bright. Smoke billows.

DEFARROW

The decomposing bodies emitted pockets of gas that's built up over centuries. With enough pressure, you'll get yourself an explosion.

ANDREW

That may be true, but that doesn't explain the bodies rising fully intact, sir.

The local's conversation becomes clamorous. Defarrow stands.

DEFARROW

Tell them keep quiet or I will.

ANDREW

They say this is from a prophecy in the bible. What we Christians refer to as the rapture.

Defarrow lets out a pithy sigh. Benjamin's overwrought.

DEFARROW

You people - always ascribing prophecy to scientific matters. Thought archeologists weren't biased?

BENJAMIN

Sir, this is described in the bible. The dead in Christ are the first to rise--

DEFARROW

Sargent, when I ask your opinion, then, and only then, will you speak. Got it?

BENJAMIN

Yes, sir.

DEFARROW

Get in touch with command. Let 'em know we're all set here.

Benjamin salutes, then boots away. Andrew points to some adjacent graves.

ANDREW

These people were buried only months ago. If your supposed theory is true, then surely there wasn't enough time for--

Defarrow's conduct is surmise.

ANDREW

Major, why does this have the
interest of the united nations?

Andrew notices an obscure symbol on Defarrow's right hand as
he WHISTLES. Soldiers close in around the perimeter.

DEFARROW

That'll be all, doctor. This site's
officially under the jurisdiction
of the united nations directed by
president Apollyannas.

Soldiers escort people away. Andrew runs, fear-stricken.
Defarrow pulls out his glock and fires a single shot.

Andrew falls to the ground. Benjamin kneels to his side.

ANDREW

Never thought I'd live to see it.

BENJAMIN

What...?

ANDREW

The end of days...

He passes. Benjamin squints to Defarrow who's distraight.

EXT. OFF HIGHWAY - DAY

A massive billboard of president De'lideon Apollyannas is
positioned along the highway. It reads -

*"Our hope. Our promise. Our redemption! De'lideon - our
future!"*

SUPER : PRESENT DAY

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - ELIJAH'S ROOM - DAY

ZACHARIAH (40's), leans against the bed. Teardrops streak a
crayon-drawn picture, clasped in his coarse hands.

He rises, tack's the picture into the wall, then grabs a
sweating glass of scotch from a nearby shelf.

OFFICE

Zachariah plumps down in a chair behind a cluttered desk. A TV flickers to the side. He kills the last of his glass.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)
An Israeli rabbi is calling all the
Jews back to the holy land.

EXT. ISRAEL - DAY (ON TV)

Rishon gives an announcement to a large crowd in HEBREW.

RISHON
It's my duty to call on the twelve
tribes of Israel. Return to the
promised land and await our
Messiah. His return is near.

People CHANT.

BACK TO:

OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The chanting tunes into a CALL from Vance. Zachariah flips off the TV, considers answering, but types on his computer.

ZACHARIAH V.O.
If there is an omniscient being up
there, how could he allow so much
malice to litter the world, to
render evil in place of good and
watch the weak squirm in defeat?
The truth; there isn't. It's time
to tear down our bulwarks of
religious perjury and confide in
the ever so abundant - absent God.

He scrolls over the page and reflects on what he just wrote.

INT. ELIJAH'S ROOM - NIGHT/BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Tubes run from a buzzing MACHINE on the floor into the nostrils of ELIJAH (6), who lies debilitated in his bed.

Zachariah tucks him in.

ELIJAH
Read me something.

ZACHARIAH

Okay, buddy. Which one tonight?

Zachariah pulls a children's book from a shelf.

ZACHARIAH

This one?

Elijah shakes his head. He pulls out another.

ZACHARIAH

How about this one?

ELIJAH

Read from that one.

He points to the bible.

ZACHARIAH

Didn't know you read that one.

ELIJAH

Caroline reads it to me.

ZACHARIAH

I see...

He grabs the bible and sits next to Elijah. He sighs as he shuffles towards the front.

ZACHARIAH

And the woman said to the serpent,
We may eat the fruit of the trees
of the garden but the tree in the
midst of the garden, God has said,
'You shall not eat it, nor shall
you touch it, lest you...

He catches himself.

ZACHARIAH

Let's read from somewhere else.

ELIJAH

How does he talk?

ZACHARIAH

Who, the snake? He uses his mouth,
like you.

He tickles him.

ELIJAH

But snakes can't talk, dad.

ZACHARIAH
Just a story, Eli. Nothing more.

ELIJAH
Caroline said everything in there
is true. You know what else I was
thinking, dad?

ZACHARIAH
What else were you thinking?

ELIJAH
How'd all the animals in the world
fit in one boat?

ZACHARIAH
Must've been a big boat.

ELIJAH
Caroline said it was a miracle.

The machine shuts off. Relief.

ZACHARIAH
All done.

He sets the bible aside. Elijah removes the tubes.

ZACHARIAH
How do ya' feel?

ELIJAH
Good.

ZACHARIAH
Good. Goodnight, son.

He kisses the top of his head and canters for the door.

ELIJAH
Do you believe in miracles, dad?

Zachariah's woebegone.

ZACHARIAH
Get some sleep.

He escapes into the --

HALL

Just in time. His hysterical sob sends him to his knees.

END FLASHBACK:

DJ (PRE-LAP)

We're here with Evangeline Cole from the organize truth foundation who allocate theories to the Christian faith. Please oblige us.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

Zachariah plugs along the interstate. Radio drones in the BG.

EVANGELINE (ON RADIO)

It's not a theory. Albert Pike wrote it in his letter to Mazzini in 1871. Quote - Then everywhere, the citizens, obliged to defend themselves against the world minority of revolutionaries, will exterminate those destroyers of civilization and the multitude, disillusioned with Christianity, whose deistic spirits will from that moment be without compass or direction, anxious for an ideal, but without knowing where to render its adoration, will receive the true light through the universal manifestation of the pure doctrine of Lucifer, brought finally out in the public view.

DJ (ON RADIO)

And you believe this is all happening right now - in Washington?

Zachariah increases the volume and exits off the 405.

EVANGELINE (ON RADIO)

How'd you think they're going to usher in the Antichrist? They'll destroy the economy, stir up civil unrest, indoctrinate the public and imprison those who refuse the mark.

A HONK blasts. He skids to a halt, nearly slamming into a locomoting convoy of military vehicles. He sits back, shaken.

EVANGELINE (ON RADIO)

De'lideon Apollyannas is what the bible calls the man of perdition. And you voted for him.

A billboard becomes visible after the mile-stretching caravan finally ends. Zachariah's fixated on it.

DJ (ON RADIO)

Right. More on that when we return.

De'lideon Apollyannas holds the world. The text reads -

"He's got the whole world in his hands."

JAMES (PRE-LAP)

Religious perjury -- Absent God?
Zach, what are you doing?

INT. JAMES' OFFICE - DAY

The office is chic. Zachariah sits in a chair across from JAMES CONWAY (50's). He careens over his desk.

ZACHARIAH

I found something worth writing.

JAMES

From heartwarming bliss to an equivocal flippant assault on God? Look, Zach I'm your publisher, but I'm also your friend.

Zachariah pads over to the window.

ZACHARIAH

If there's a God - He needs to be exposed for the fraud He really is.

JAMES

You don't mean that.

James strolls over, consoling.

JAMES

Maybe you should focus on something else for awhile. Give yourself the time to properly grieve.

Zachariah's phone VIBRATES. Vance again. He silences it.

ZACHARIAH

I'm dealing with it the only way I know how, Jimmy.

JAMES

Take some time. Revive the man you once were, then write something.

JAMES (CONT'D)
And I assure you - that'll be
something worth writing about.

Zachariah's eyes gleam hope, but sink with his hollow heart.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Zachariah clumps through the busy sidewalk and collides with ASHER COLE (8), knocking him down.

EVANGELINE O.S.
Asher!

Zachariah recognizes his likeness to Elijah as he helps him to his feet.

EVANGELINE COLE (30's), scurries over. There's a noticeable attempt in her countenance, despite her unkept style.

EVANGELINE
How many times have I told you not
to run away from me? I'm Sorry.

She pulls Asher close. They trot away. She's a magnet to Zachariah's eyes until they blend into the crowd.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE - MOVING - NIGHT

Zachariah glides down back streets with careless haste.

EXT. EDGE OF CITY - NIGHT

He dismounts from the bike to espy the chatoyant lights below. His eyes glisten.

INT./EXT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zachariah parks his bike in the garage.

LIVINGROOM

Zachariah lolls across his couch. Bottle of booze in hand. He sips and flips channels on the TV.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)
Palestinians are outraged at
Israeli's reconstructing the ruins
of King Solomon's temple.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV) (CONT'D)
 President Apollyannas met with
 Israel's prime minister and chief-
 advisor in honor of the peace
 treaty established in twenty-
 fifteen.

He flips the channel.

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS (ON TV)
 A new day dawns among us. We, the
 humankind, must come together in
 unity. Under one law. One religion.
 One currency. A new order.

He flips the channel and takes a sip. Eyes very heavy.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)
 Top law enforcement officials,
 including homeland security, have
 stated our country, at some point,
 will face a major cyber event that
 will have detrimental effects on
 our lives, our economy, and every
 day functions that sustain our
 society. NASA warns, It's just a
 matter of days before this
 catastrophic event occurs.

The bottle drops. Zachariah drifts into a drunken coma.

LIVING ROOM - DAY

Zachariah's eyes flicker awake. A blanket drapes around him.
 The bottle's gone. He gets up and rubs his headache away.

He shuffles into the -

KITCHEN

He pours some coffee and sits at the table. The front door
 opens. CAROLINE (20's), out of breath and sweaty, jogs in.

CAROLINE
 You're alive.

ZACHARIAH
 Not an adjective I'd use.

CAROLINE
 Hi, Leviticus.

She grabs a red tabby cat from the floor and sets it atop the table. She chugs a bottle of water and joins Zachariah.

CAROLINE
How'd the meeting go?

ZACHARIAH
Back to the drawing board.

CAROLINE
God blesses those who glorify His
name - not bash it.

That remark didn't sit well. He stalks into the kitchen and rummages through the cabinets. He gawks at Caroline.

She dawdles over to the sink and pulls out the liquor bottle below. Their eyes are moored.

CAROLINE
You're only bandaging the pain.

He snatches the bottle, forcing his eyes away.

ZACHARIAH
You find solace in the bible. I
find mine in a bottle.

He pours a big gulp into his mug, then sits back down. Leviticus HISSES at him.

ZACHARIAH
Get Leviticus off of the table.

She puts the cat onto the floor.

CAROLINE
There's no point in living if you
live like you're already dead.

He sips hard on his drink. She tears up.

ZACHARIAH
I get by with what gives life to
these dry bones.

CAROLINE
Let Him give you life. You're still
an amazing author. You could do so
much if you were just willing.

ZACHARIAH
There's something I won't miss.

She clutches his arm and begins to cry.

CAROLINE

I'm not telling you how to live your life. I'm asking you to help me live mine. If you don't want to live for you, then live for me.

This conviction spears his heart.

ZACHARIAH

Don't cry, baby.

CAROLINE

You don't have to go through this alone. And you don't need this.

She scoots his glass away.

ZACHARIAH

I'm sorry. It's just so hard.

CAROLINE

We both lost him. And we're both going to get through this.

He ruminates her words, then gives her a big hug.

ZACHARIAH

I've been so selfish.

CAROLINE

He'll bring peace. You just have to believe.

ZACHARIAH

I'll try, honey. I promise.

INT. ZACHARIAH'S OFFICE - LATER

Zachariah sips a coffee mug at his computer. A large luggage drops to the floor. Caroline hustles down the stairs.

ZACHARIAH

All packed up?

He prances over with a big hug.

ZACHARIAH

I'm going to miss you, sweetheart.

CAROLINE

It's only a few months.

She sniffs his mug.

ZACHARIAH
Just coffee.

CAROLINE
Just checking.

ZACHARIAH
Where are you off to?

CAROLINE
Church.

ZACHARIAH
It's Saturday.

CAROLINE
I know. You should come.

ZACHARIAH
It's the day of rest.

His PHONE rings.

CAROLINE
You'll be back eventually.
Maybe even meet a lady.

ZACHARIAH
You're the only lady in my life.

CAROLINE
Love you, dad. Don't work too hard.

ZACHARIAH
Love you too, babe.

She skips out. He glances at his phone. Vance again.

BACKYARD

He steps out and answers the phone.

ZACHARIAH (INTO PHONE)
Hey, Vance. No I saw that you
called. I'm sorry. Been kind of
busy -- I miss you too. Tomorrow?
Yeah, I can meet you. Okay.

He notices several blue and red lights in the distance. He studies them for a few moments, then heads back inside.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Chatter radiates through the dinning room. Zachariah's anxious. VANCE (30's), approaches. He's suave and energetic.

VANCE

I can't believe it. Zachariah in
the flesh.

They embrace.

TABLE - LATER

Vance shovels food into his mouth. Zachariah's distracted.

VANCE

How's my favorite niece?

ZACHARIAH

You know Caroline. Found a church.
Leaves for New York tomorrow.

VANCE

What's she doing there?

ZACHARIAH

Seminary.

VANCE

How's her dad?

ZACHARIAH

I'm fine.

VANCE

How's the writing?

Zachariah scoots food around his plate.

ZACHARIAH

Yesterday was the first time I rode
in months.

VANCE

I said writing, but good to know
you're still using the bike.

Zachariah puts his cutlery down.

ZACHARIAH

Publisher suggested I take some
time off.

Vance shoves his dish aside.

VANCE

Well, the timing couldn't be more perfect. Business is booming. Don't have enough guys to fill a crew.

A waiter delivers lunch to a family nearby. Zachariah watches as they take hands and pray.

VANCE

Could use some help. What'dya say?

Zachariah's entranced.

VANCE

Zach...

He snaps his attention back to Vance.

ZACHARIAH

Sure. Just like old times.

A TV in the distance catches Zachariah's eye. There's a graph of percentages rising as stocks plummet.

VANCE

Perfect. I'm excited for you to see where the company's --

Zachariah's focused on the TV. Vance trails off.

INT. CAR - MOVING - EVENING

Zachariah's a mannequin. The RADIO buzzes in the BG.

DJ 1 V.O

Reports are coming in from all over the country. They just appeared.

DJ 2 V.O.

NASA doesn't even know what these lights are. Some say it could be the return of Jesus Christ.

DJ 1 V.O

Right. We've all heard that before.

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Boxes spill onto the floor as Zachariah ransacks his hoarded past. He pulls out a tool belt.

Leviticus jumps atop a tool box and gives a vivacious MEOW.

ZACHARIAH
Leviticus, move.

The cat HISSES and bats its paw.

ZACHARIAH
Come here.

Zachariah eases his hand out. Leviticus becomes possessed-like and attacks him. His hand's a geyser of blood.

He GROWLS in pain and hurries away.

KITCHEN

Zachariah runs to the sink. Blood's everywhere. He quickly opens a cabinet. No antiseptic. He opens drawers - nothing.

Confused and in pain, he spots the liquor bottle on the counter. He grabs it and douses his wound.

Out of reflex, he takes a big swig. From his periphery, a picture of Caroline, Elijah and him comes into view.

All the pressure, guilt, and shame has reached it's boiling point. He smashes the bottle onto the floor.

INT./EXT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The front door opens. Two feet zigzag through shards of glass and puddles of liquor.

A trail of blood leads to the couch where Zachariah's passed out. Caroline broods above.

CAROLINE
Really? Wanted to say how proud of
you I am before I left...

He flounces awake.

ZACHARIAH
Caroline, It's not what you think.

CAROLINE
It's never what I think, is it?

She hastens out of the house.

DRIVEWAY

She starts her car. He chases over.

ZACHARIAH
Let me explain.

CAROLINE
I don't want anymore explanations.
I can't keep watching you do this.

ZACHARIAH
Caroline...

CAROLINE
I got a plane to catch. I'll be
praying for you.

She speeds away. The rumble of the engine muddles into -

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

SNAP! SNAP! Zachariah lowers a nail gun. He steps away from a wall he just pieced together. He clutches his bandaged hand.

VANCE O.S.
You still got it.

Vance saunters over.

ZACHARIAH
This hand's not much use.

VANCE
It's about time for lunch anyway.

LATER

From a stack of lumber, Vance devours his lunch. Zachariah surveys the site. Workers scatter around.

VANCE
Something must be in the air.
Neighbor's dog barked his head off
all night. Didn't get any sleep.

Vance cracks open a beer. He motions to Zachariah with another. He declines.

ZACHARIAH
What's this place going to be?

VANCE

Don't know. I was contacted by some private enterprise a few weeks ago. Said they needed these facilities built in the next few months.

ZACHARIAH

Who was it?

VANCE

Not sure. All I know is the money's right. Just don't have a good crew.

ZACHARIAH

You've done well, Vance. Your sister would've been proud.

Vance throws his arm around Zachariah.

VANCE

She'd be proud of both of us. Don't shut me out, Zach. You're the only family I've got left.

EXT./INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Zachariah pulls into his driveway. At the mailbox, he retrieves overdue bills to a funeral home and hospital.

He eases his attention to a house across the street. A family quickly packs their minivan and speeds away.

He tilts his focus from the van to several more vibrant blue and red lights positioned in the sky.

Two BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS fly towards them. A large flock of birds fly in the opposite direction.

LIVING ROOM

Zachariah flips on the TV.

REPORTER (ON TV)

This is unlike any UFO encounter, we as a country, have experienced simultaneously. President Apollyannas is live in Washington.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT (ON TV)

President De'lideon Apollyannas stands behind a podium.

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS

It's important that we remain calm.
Right now, we're not certain what
the lights are but they don't seem
to pose any immediate threats.

NEWS ANCHOR

Rest assured America and feel safe
knowing De'lideon Apollyannas leads
our dear country.

BACKYARD

Zachariah ambulates around his porch. He peers into the sky.
Phone to his ear. RING - RING.

He gets Caroline's VOICE MAIL. He pockets his phone and
hustles inside.

A PLANE surges overhead amidst the stars. The blasting engine
fades into -

INT./EXT. ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT

SUPER: MANHATTAN, NEW YORK. 8:22 PM

- The roars from an animated CROWD as small trimmers shake
the building.

BARTENDER

Those lights up there - they're
aliens. Been visiting us for years.
This time to take over the planet.

The bartender pours a martini into two glasses, then hands
them to a young man.

BARTENDER

Better drink up, kid. Never know
when it's going to be your last.

The young man nods and stumbles away.

TABLE

An affrighted young woman sits alone. The guy places the
martinis on the table and plops down across from her.

YOUNG MAN
Hardest part of a martini's
carrying it to the table.

They sip their drinks.

YOUNG MAN
It's said the martini's the only
invention as perfect as the sonnet.

She looks around in panic.

YOUNG MAN
They're just trimmers. Relax.

A bigger trimmer shakes the building. Everyone GASPS. GLASS
shatters. The woman crawls under their table.

Others follow suit. The guy flounders away.

ROOFTOP

The door flies open. The building continues to shake. The guy
drunkenly looks over the edge and sips his glass.

He looks behind him - drops his glass - eyes nearly popping
out of his head.

A boeing 757 is seconds away from plummeting into the
building.

An astroid hurdles down to the earth in the distance. It
disappears upon impact.

A tidal wave of fire rushes towards him. He squeezes his eyes
shut. The CRASHING plane morphs into -

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

- A SKILLSAW slicing through a two-by-four. Zachariah brings
the two pieces to a wall he and Vance are building.

ZACHARIAH
I'm going to try Caroline again.

VANCE
I'm sure she's fine, Zach.

ZACHARIAH
Should have called by now.

He steps away. Vance's impatient.

MAN O.S.

Vance, come give me hand over here.

Zachariah has his phone to his ear. Vance climbs atop the structure beside the man.

The ground begins to shake. The structure wobbles.

Vance loses his footing and falls onto the active skillsaw. He SCREAMS in agony. Zachariah ankles to his side.

Vance's arm has been cut clean off. Zachariah takes his belt from his waist and wraps it tightly around the bloody wound.

ZACHARIAH

Call 9-11!

A worker darts away to call. Vance's SCREAM fades into -

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

- A doctor typing on a computer. Vance lies sedated in a bed. A robotic machine prints a 3-D replica of his arm.

HALLWAY

Zachariah paces. Phone to his ear. Caroline's VOICE MAIL again. He lowers the phone as the doctor approaches.

DOCTOR

Zachariah?

The lights flicker.

ZACHARIAH

Is he gonna be all right?

DOCTOR

He'll be fine.

ZACHARIAH

Where you able to save his arm?

DOCTOR

Depends on what you mean by save.

They head towards the waiting room.

ZACHARIAH

How do you mean?

DOCTOR

Prosthetics are nearly a thing of the past. Our flaws, now few and far between.

ZACHARIAH

You stitched it back on, then?

DOCTOR

I'm talking about 3-D printing. It's made nearly everything replaceable. Really at this rate, not much separates us from godhood.

ZACHARIAH

What about Him?

He points up.

DOCTOR

Well, if He was doing His job than we'd be out of the job. Am I right?

He winks, then motions towards double doors.

DOCTOR

Nurse will check you out up front.

WAITING ROOM

A nurse slides over a form as Zachariah legs up to the counter. She blows a gum-bubble. It splats over her lips.

NURSE

Fill these out.

Zachariah browses over the paperwork.

NURSE

Something wrong?

ZACHARIAH

Just remember the days when there were only two gender options.

She blows another bubble. It POPS loudly.

NURSE

Times sure are a changin'.

The lights flicker once more. A TV becomes audible. Zachariah jerks his head to a reporter's VOICE.

REPORTER (ON TV)

An unprecedented astroid hit off the coast of Luquillo, Puerto Rico last night around eight thirty PM, eastern time. The east coast is a total loss. NASA won't release any information. Threats of an EMP attack --

WAITING ROOM - SAME

Darkness. The electricity shuts off. GASPS of panic emanate. The backup power beams on.

Zachariah gathers himself, then storms over to the elevators. They don't work. He navigates down a flight of stairs.

EXT. HOSPITAL/CITY - DAY

People rove amuck and SCREAM in panic. Cars crash. HORNS blare. There's RIOTING and LOOTING.

The city, once calm and serene, now a scramble of devastation. Zachariah desultorily follows the herds.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

It's a black Friday, just no deals. The mob kicks, pushes and kills, if they have to in order to acquire provisions.

Zachariah rounds the corner. Evangeline's atop a crashed car YELLING into a bullhorn. Others hold signs at her side.

A crowd encircles them. Some on their knees. Some in mockery.

EVANGELINE

His judgment is upon us. Repent now while there's still hope.

The blue and red lights splatter the opaque sky. Many TRANSPORT and BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS fly overhead.

EVANGELINE

They're the fallen angels. These are the end of days. Call on Jesus and you'll be saved.

BRICK THROWER

Shut up, lady.

Someone from the crowd throws a brick. It hits a fellow by the name of CALEB (40's). Zachariah's stunned by the scene.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Frantic people pack this place. Shelves are barren. Saying this store's in disarray's an understatement.

Zachariah looks over the havoc. He darts through the mess. Up one aisle - down the next.

He spots a case of water inside of a knocked over shopping cart. He tramps over - grabs it - but so does someone else.

MUSCULAR MAN

Let go.

Zachariah keeps a firm grip. The man pulls out a glock, cocks the hammer, then shoves it in his face.

MUSCULAR MAN

I got kids...

Zachariah's a wretch. He slowly lets go of the water. The man zips off. Alleviation. Seconds later --

BANG! BANG! Zachariah clenches his eyes shut for each gunshot. SCREAMS. He wanders around the corner.

The water quickly gets snatched away. The muscular man's bleeding on the floor. Dead.

Beside him lies a veteran COP. He's been shot in the neck. He clutches his wound. People are oblivious.

Zachariah kneels beside him and cushions his head. The cop reaches for his wallet.

ZACHARIAH

Don't move - be still.

The cop flips to a picture of a little girl.

COP

This is my baby.

ZACHARIAH

She's beautiful.

Zachariah scans the scenery.

COP

I'm all she's got in the world.
 (gasping)
 I didn't mean to kill him - I
 didn't mean to.

ZACHARIAH

You did what you had to.

COP

Will God forgive me? Say He'll
 forgive me.

Zachariah whirls. The picture drops to the floor. The cop's
 body goes limp. He sets the picture on his chest.

EXT. CITY - CONTINUOUS

Zachariah's raddled as he slogs into the street. Total chaos.
 He inches towards his car. A head pops up.

The car veers away. Not too far before a body SMASHES through
 the windshield.

A brigade of MILITARY VEHICLES swarm the streets. Soldiers in
 riot gear set up road blocks.

Pedestrians try to evade the soldiers but are no match.

The soldiers beat them and zip-tie their hands. They toss
 their captives into the vehicles.

A small military truck patrols to the scene. Defarrow emerges
 with a bullhorn and an M-16.

He FIRES a round into the sky. Everyone goes silent.

DEFARROW

Under direct authority of president
 Apollyannas, marshall law is now in
 effect. Don't be alarmed. You're
 under the complete protection of
 several delegated branches of
 judicial and military authorities
 alike. A curfew's been instated
 effective immediately. Go back to
 your homes and await further
 instructions. Medical's stationed
 at my three o'clock. Peace and
 security's our number one concern.

DEFARROW (CONT'D)

If anyone decides to get out of order, the consequences will be severe and could necessitate judicious deadly force.

The frenzied people plod down the streets, mutely. Zachariah follows suit.

Others are escorted into transport vehicles. Soldiers begin to unload equipment and set up tents.

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zachariah slinks in. It hasn't hit him yet. He looks around.

BATHROOM

He cogitates at his reflection in the mirror, then inspects his bloody hands.

He turns on the facet. The steady stream gradually dissipates into a trickle, then nothing.

ZACHARIAH

This is your idea of peace?

He grabs a towel and scrubs his hands and face. He takes off his shirt and wades into his room, then faints.

CUT TO:

BEGIN DREAM:

EXT. INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

A crowd in khaki attire marches forward. Zachariah's got a shaved head and grips something, only making out "The E C U".

END DREAM - BACK TO:

BEDROOM - DAY

Zachariah's eyes flicker open. The sun beams on his face. SCRATCHES come from downstairs. He springs up.

LIVING ROOM

He prowls down the stairs. A baseball bat's fastened to his hands. The SOUNDS come from the back door.

He peers around the corner - it's Vance. He drops the bat and opens the door. They embrace.

KITCHEN

Zachariah paces, making a call. Vance's right arm is bandaged. He tries the facet. Nothing.

VANCE

The hell happened? I go under and wake up to find the world's ending.

ZACHARIAH

There was an astroid.

VANCE

You hear from Caroline?

Zachariah holds up the phone. Just a DIAL TONE.

VANCE

What about those lights?

An ALARM blares from afar. They glance at each other.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Zachariah and Vance mince with crowds. The city's destroyed.

ZACHARIAH

She's dead...

VANCE

You don't know that.

ZACHARIAH

The east coast is under water. It goes without saying.

VANCE

Just have faith.

Zachariah's not keen to his advice, given the current plight.

U.N. SOLDIER (PRE LAP)

Form single lines.

U.N. TENT

The masses file into lines. They slowly edge forward.
Soldiers hand out care packages. Vance and Zachariah join.

PERSON IN CROWD
What's happening? There's no
electricity - no water.

U.N. SOLDIER
Take your supplies and go back to
your homes.

PERSON IN CROWD
Is this because of the aliens?

The CROWD roars. The lines grow congested in fear. People
ahead of Zachariah and Vance whisper amongst themselves.

PERSON IN CROWD 2
I heard Canada wasn't effected.
People are trying to get there
before they shut down the borders.

Vance overhears the conversation. He looks to Zachariah as
they approach the soldiers.

M.R.E. SOLDIER
How many in your household?

ZACHARIAH
Two.

The soldier hands Zachariah two packages.

VANCE
What's this?

M.R.E. SOLDIER
Weeks worth of supplies. Keep
moving.

ANGRY MAN O.S.
He's got more than the rest of us!

The crowd erupts in furious CHATTER and encircle the men.

SCARED MAN
Please!

ANGRY MAN
You more important than me?

The frightened man backs away. The crowd won't let him escape.

ANGRY MAN

Give me that!

Benjamin stands at guard, nerve-stricken. The angry man punches the frightened man. The package fumbles aside.

Someone else grips it and darts off. The angry man charges after him.

ANGRY MAN

Where do you think you're going?

Defarrow nods to Benjamin. He steadies his rifle. His finger quivers over the trigger for what feels like an eternity.

BAM! The man with the package falls to the ground. GASPS.

The angry man falls to his knees. Hands above his head. Three more SHOTS are fired. He goes down.

Defarrow shoves the rifle into Benjamin's chest. He accepts his gun back. Defarrow stamps out into the multitude.

DEFARROW

If anyone tries another stunt like that there will be no hesitation to shoot every last one of you. Once you've gotten your supplies go back to your homes. Heed this, anyone caught on the streets after eighteen-hundred will be shot. You can take that one to the bank.

EXT./INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - EVENING

Does the sun still exist? The blue and red lights radiate in the glum sky.

KITCHEN

Shadows dance over the walls from candle lighting. Zachariah and Vance eat M.R.E.'s at the table.

VANCE

Maybe it's what everyone's always talked about. The end of days.

ZACHARIAH

Don't you start talking like that.

VANCE

It's a possibility we have to face.

ZACHARIAH

Even if they are aliens, we've got the best military in the world.

VANCE

Someone mentioned something about Canada. We should check it out.

ZACHARIAH

The roads are blocked. We don't have a car.

VANCE

Your bike.

ZACHARIAH

No.

VANCE

You can't shut this out, Zach.

Zachariah throws his meal off the table. He strides over to the couch and tries the phone again. Vance slowly approaches.

ZACHARIAH

I'm not shutting this out. So much has happened so quickly. And now I've lost my second child.

VANCE

I was never any good at nurturing. When Sam died - I was scared then, I'm scared now. I'm here for you.

They're silent.

ZACHARIAH

I had that dream again.

VANCE

The word you can't make out?

ZACHARIAH

Yeah.

VANCE

What if Caroline was right? Maybe this was predicted thousands of years ago.

Zachariah's intolerant.

CAROLINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zachariah flips through a photo album. He laughs and smiles at the pictures, which gradually molds into a remorseful cry.

CAROLINE'S ROOM - DAY

Zachariah's asleep on the floor. Photo album aside. His eyes spring open.

VANCE O.S.

Zachariah!

LIVING ROOM

Vance is quizzical. The TV buzzes a snowy picture. Zachariah tries the faucet. Water sprays out.

The TV tunes to an alert screen. The picture cuts to De'lideon Apollyannas at a podium.

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS (ON TV)

Greetings my fellow countrymen. I want to start off by reading a passage from one of the holy books. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth. We've been through a lot over the past few days.

CUT TO:

INT. RANDOM HOMES - DAY

People are bewitched by the family altar - "TV".

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS (ON TV)

But as we mourn the great loss of lives and geography, what remains of our country and world, no less, must continue to be sustainable. I, for one, can not and certainly will not, exalt a God of such destruction and devastation. We've now determined the lights above are forms of intelligent life, but ascertain they're not hostile beings. They're aware our planet is changing.

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS (ON TV) (CONT'D)

We must adapt to these changes by taking all the necessary steps. Me, along with my administration, have forged together a resolute plan of action that will be instated hastily. The world must come together as one.

Vance is a statuette. Zachariah's charmed.

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS (ON TV)

We must turn from our antiquated beliefs and confide in one another. In order to know who's for us and who stands against us, a mandatory chip known as the international-unified-identification-mark will be the symbol of our ubiquitous allegiance. The mark can be obtained at your local hospitals and pharmacies. There will be a two day grace period. After those two days, anyone who hasn't gotten the mark will be held in internment camps. If you don't stand with us, you stand against us. We the people, not God, will fight to keep our planet in order. Get back to work - go shopping - continue about your daily lives. Rest your faith in me and be assured; our world will persist. In time we will say, we DO remember - we HAVE rebuilt - and NOW - we are stronger.

BACK TO:

LIVING ROOM

Vance shuts off the tv.

VANCE

Submit or be imprisoned.

ZACHARIAH

As it should be. You didn't see how it was when it first happened.

Zachariah treads to the door.

VANCE

Where are you going?

ZACHARIAH
To get the mark.

VANCE
Zachariah, wait a minute.

ZACHARIAH
You wanted a solution - this is the
only option.

EXT. CITY STREETS - SAME

Hundreds of people storm the streets, spellbound.

INT. RANDOM HOME - SAME

Families cull together with their bibles in prayer.

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

The door's ajar. Zachariah's ready to hoof it.

VANCE
This isn't right. Maybe we should
say a prayer first.

ZACHARIAH
No God's coming to save you, Vance.
Time to get on board.

VANCE
Can't always be impulsive, Zach.
Some things aren't irreversible.

Fire burns in Zachariah's eyes.

FRONT YARD

Zachariah races out of the house. Vance chases after him. He spins him around. Zachariah punches him.

Vance wallops Zachariah until he maneuvers on top. Zachariah jabs him 3 times.

ZACHARIAH
I did. What. I though was right.
What Sam would've wanted.

They brawl for awhile.

VANCE

It wasn't your fault, Zach. She was gone either way.

ZACHARIAH

What would you know? You cower when things get tough. Just like now.

Zachariah gets a good slug in. Vance rolls over.

VANCE

I can recognize the things I can't control. Beatin' yourself up and hate'n God won't bring 'em back. You were always the one to think things through. Do that now.

Zachariah lurches inside. Vance just lays in the grass.

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Zachariah's showered and prepares a meal on the stove. Vance moseys in. Zachariah dumps scrambled eggs on two plates. The TV squawks in the BG.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

Today's one for the history books. Becky Ramos has the story.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY (ON TV)

People hoard in lines, receiving the mark of the beast.

BECKY RAMOS (ON TV)

It's a beautiful site to see everyone stand together on a common idea. People waited in lines for hours to receive the mark.

MAN 1 (ON TV)

I do feel safer now. It's such a relief not having to worry about identification or money, 'cause it's all right here.

(showing mark)

President Apollyannas is making the world better through and through.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

There you have it. The world couldn't expect a better leader.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV) (CONT'D)
 De'lideon Apollyannas has taken the
 reins and turned the world around.
 I got mine earlier.

The anchor shows his mark.

BACK TO:

KITCHEN - SAME

Zachariah shifts his focus from the TV back to Vance.

VANCE
 Sorry about yesterday.

ZACHARIAH
 Me too.

Zachariah holds out a plate.

VANCE
 I'm not hungry.

ZACHARIAH
 I'm going down there first thing in
 the morning. With or without you.

Zachariah dumps the plate onto his and sits at the table.

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Vance unravels his bandaged arm. It looks like it's healing.

EXT. PHARMACY - DAY

Businesses are back in full function. Signs hang in windows -
 NO I.U.I.M, NO SERVICE, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Hundreds of dead birds blanket the streets. Vance and
 Zachariah advance in one of the lines.

ZACHARIAH
 It's going to be okay.

PHARMACIST O.S.
 Next, please.

Vance anxiously curls his fingers with his new arm.

ZACHARIAH
 Go on.

He steps up. The pharmacist has a small gun-like machine.

PHARMACIST

Right hand.

He holds out his right hand and winces. She takes his hand and snaps the machine.

PHARMACIST

Next.

VANCE

That's it?

PHARMACIST

Easy-peasy.

VANCE

That wasn't bad at all.

He steps aside. Zachariah comes forward.

ZACHARIAH

See, nothing to worry about.

PHARMACIST

Right hand, please.

Zachariah holds out his hand. The floor and walls begin to shimmer. People GASP and SCREAM. Buildings start to crumble.

The crowd runs. This one's larger than before. Many people are killed. Vance and Zachariah are separated. Rubble plummets from the collapsing structures.

VANCE

Zach! -- Zachariah!

Ambulances race to the scene with their earsplitting SIRENS. The military ushers people to safety.

SOLDIER

Everyone move out!

Pieces of falling debris come CRASHING down on the soldier. Zachariah scrambles to his feet and legs away.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Zachariah sprints down a suburban street. Light trimmers continue to shake the earth. He calls out, undirected.

ZACHARIAH

Vance!

A motorcyclist has fallen over. Zachariah crouches for security. The trimmers cease.

A military vehicle approaches. Three U.N. SOLDIERS boot out.

U.N. SOLDIER 1

You there. Let me see your mark.

Zachariah faces the three armed soldiers. Arms raised above his head. They surround him.

ZACHARIAH

I was about to get it when -

U.N. SOLDIER 2

You're coming with us.

They try to apprehend him. He's not going without a fight.

ZACHARIAH

Hold on a minute.

U.N. SOLDIER 1

Put your hands behind your back.

ZACHARIAH

Wait.

U.N. SOLDIER 1

Stop resisting!

The soldiers move in tighter. Zachariah pushes one of them and frees himself.

They steady their rifles at him. He raises his arms. A soldier opens fire -- CLICK - CLICK - CLICK.

The gun's jammed. Obviously an act of God! Zachariah takes this as a moment to RUN.

Other soldiers arrest the motorcyclist. Zachariah spurts over to the bike and REVS the engine.

SHOTS fire around him. He accelerates away.

INT. U.N. MILITARY VEHICLE - MOVING - DAY

One soldier drives. The others are in the back - guns drawn.

U.N. SOLDIER 1 (INTO RADIO)
We have a potential threat.

COMMANDER V.O.
Eliminate all threats.

U.N. SOLDIER 1 (INTO RADIO)
Rodger.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS/HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zachariah adroitly maneuvers through the debris-ridden roads.
He flies onto the highway.

The soldiers are right behind. They open FIRE. Amazingly,
they miss every shot.

He looks in his side mirror. One of the soldier's aims a
rocket launcher at him.

He swerves past a wrecked car - BAM! The car EXPLODES in
flames. He checks again. The soldier's aim looks better.

He fires. The rocket hits the pavement, catapulting the bike
forward. Zachariah flies several yards away from the highway.

The bike's destroyed and tumbles end-over-end, engulfed in
flames. The soldiers slow down near the wreckage.

U.N. SOLDIER 1
All threats eliminated.

They dispatch. Zachariah's lifeless body lies in the grass
near a dense wooded area.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Zachariah's eyes flutter. He's barely conscience. He's being
toted through the forest on a stretcher.

Several people at either side. His eyes open once again. They
approach a large gate below a watch tower.

MARK O.S.
Maranatha.

The gate opens. Zachariah passes out.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. COMMUNITY - INFIRMARY - DAY

Zachariah revives in a hospital bed. His leg's bandaged. He looks around the room and spots Elijah at a table nearby.

ZACHARIAH

Eli?

Elijah looks over to him. Through zachariah's delirium, Elijah DISSOLVES into - Asher. The boy from earlier.

ASHER

Mommy.

Evangeline pounces in.

EVANGELINE

I told you to leave the man alone.

ASHER

But mom...

EVANGELINE

No buts. Did you finish your chores?

He lowers his head.

EVANGELINE

That's what I thought. Go on.

Asher bounces out. Evangeline perambulates over to the bed.

ZACHARIAH

Where am I?

They lock eyes, recognizing one another.

EVANGELINE

You're safe. You were hurt.

ZACHARIAH

How long have I been here?

EVANGELINE

Nearly two weeks.

Zachariah tries to sit up. He GRUNTS in pain.

EVANGELINE

I need to change your bandage.

She unravels his bandaged leg. He grabs her wrist.

EVANGELINE

It's okay. Here -

She hands him a glass of water. He slowly loosens his grip.

EVANGELINE

He must be looking out for you.
You're lucky to be alive.

ZACHARIAH

He?

She redresses his injury.

EVANGELINE

YHWH.

He keels over.

INT. COMMUNITY - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A society of people gather in colloquy. Caleb seems to preside. His right hand man, JOHN (40's), is near. A scrawny man known as MARK (30's) stands back, confident.

CALEB

We don't have enough supplies to
take on anyone else.

JOHN

He's right. We nursed him back to
health. I say we cut him loose.

MARTHA (40's), sets out dishes on a smaller table of kids.

MARTHA

What if he's got the mark?

CALEB

He doesn't have the mark. He
doesn't have any food neither.

MARK

I found him. I say he stays.

CALEB

He'll deplete our supplies before
we have a chance to need 'em. We
have to go to the city.

Evangeline comes into the kitchen. Everyone's hushed.

EVANGELINE

Is it not to share your food with
the hungry and provide the poor
wanderer with shelter?

I guess we know who runs this joint. They groan.

EVANGELINE

What if it were you? Or you? Should
we turn you away too? Our salvation
isn't in our provisions.

MARTHA

She's right.

MARK

God brought him here. Must be a
reason for it. Right, Evangeline?

They go silent as Zachariah turns the corner. Asher takes his
hand and guides him into the kitchen.

EVANGELINE

Asher, come sit down.

She pulls Asher's arm, leading him back to the table.

EVANGELINE

Welcome. How are you feeling?

He looks around the sojourners.

ZACHARIAH

Look, I don't want to impose.

Evangeline sights Caleb. Off her look -

CALEB

What's your name?

ZACHARIAH

Zachariah.

CALEB

There's no imposition, Zachariah.
We're happy to have you.

ZACHARIAH

Who are you people?

EVANGELINE

Everyone, I'm sure we all have many
questions, but right now let's eat.
Sure you could use some real food.

She aids Zachariah to the table. Martha makes him a plate of food. He looks over to Mark, who stares at him.

MARK

We're dignitaries of the faith.

Mark sits across from him. There's a big spread. Everyone sits together and joins hands.

Zachariah looks coy as Asher grabs his hand. Evangeline takes his other, unabashed. The chemistry is unmistakable.

EVANGELINE

Shall we?

They bow their heads. She prays. Zachariah notices Caleb staring at Evangeline. He sees him. Both shut their eyes.

INT. COMMUNITY - ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Evangeline shows Zachariah to his room. It's modest.

EVANGELINE

It's not much but it'll do.

Mark carries a box in.

MARK

Me and the others scrounged some things together for you. Clothes, toiletries, things like that.

Zachariah takes the box.

ZACHARIAH

Why are ya'll helping me?

MARK

Matthew 25:35

ZACHARIAH

What's that?

Evangeline hands him a bible.

EVANGELINE

All the answers are in here. Get some rest.

Her and Mark clip out. Zachariah sets the box down and flips through the bible to Matthew 25:35.

EXT. COMMUNITY GROUNDS - DAY

Zachariah uses a cane as he and Evangeline tour the campground. Caleb and John work on a windmill.

EVANGELINE

That's Caleb and John. They handle the maintenance around here.

They look down with a nod. Zachariah waves in return.

EVANGELINE

Our power comes from the wind turbine. The rest is solar energy.

ZACHARIAH

Who does this belong to?

EVANGELINE

It was an inheritance. Lost, forgotten - dedicated to God.

Mark and Asher fill baskets with ears of corn in the field.

EVANGELINE

You met Mark. He's the one who found you. Hey, Mark.

He waves.

ZACHARIAH

The boy's yours?

EVANGELINE

Asher. Yeah.

KIDS run passed. Martha hangs laundry on a close-line.

EVANGELINE

Martha does the laundry and watches the children.

Martha looks over.

MARTHA

Maranatha, Evangeline.

EVANGELINE

Maranatha, Martha. We all do our part to keep this place running. The rest we rely on Yeshua. Jehovah-jireh. Our lord provides.

EXT. COMMUNITY - LAKE - DAY

Evangeline and Zachariah approach the lake.

EVANGELINE
This is where we get our water.

ZACHARIAH
What's that mean - Maranatha?

EVANGELINE
Our Lord comes. It's Aramaic. It's
said the apostle Paul used it to
identify the true Christians.

Zachariah stares back, incredulous.

EVANGELINE
You're not a believer, are you?

He hobbles away.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Zachariah limps in and rummages through the cabinets. Caleb
sits at the table, unbeknownst to Zachariah.

CALEB
Not going to find any here.

Zachariah perks up. Caleb struts over.

CALEB
I miss coming home from a hard days
work to a nice bottle of bourbon
waiting for me. Still can taste it
on my lips from time to time.
Evangeline's outlawed most of all
the vices. Who says you can't have
faith and a drink - am I right?

Zachariah deliberates, then staggers away.

INT. COMMUNITY - OFFICE - DAY

Zachariah wanders around the room and finds a large printer.
There's a stack of documents. Before he can look it over -

MARK O.S.
Andrew put that together for the
organization before we disbanded.

Mark's at the threshold.

ZACHARIAH
What is it?

MARK
A way to share the Gospel. It all happened before we had a chance to publish it. This was his place.

ZACHARIAH
Who's Andrew?

MARK
Better talk to Evangeline.

INT. COMMUNITY - ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - DAY

Zachariah lumbers into his room. Asher's next to his bed. He's got a drawing in his hand.

ASHER
I drew a picture for you,
Zachariah.

Zachariah takes the picture from him. He points to a figure who looks to be him and Asher.

ZACHARIAH
Is this you and me?

ASHER
No, that's me and Jesus. This is
you, next to mommy.

Evangeline pops her head through the doorway.

EVANGELINE
I hope he's not bothering you.

ZACHARIAH
Not at all.

EVANGELINE
We should change your bandage.

INFIRMARY

Zachariah's leg's propped up. Evangeline pours antiseptic on his wound. He cringes and notices a ring on her finger.

EVANGELINE
He likes you, you know?

ZACHARIAH
Where's his father?

She glances at her ring, then moves her hand away. She re-drapes his wounded leg.

EVANGELINE
He died three years ago on a dig.

ZACHARIAH
He was an archeologist?

EVANGELINE
That's right. He was in Africa during the pre-trib.

ZACHARIAH
Pre-trib?

EVANGELINE
The dead in Christ were the first to rise.

ZACHARIAH
How'd he die?

EVANGELINE
A martyr. Didn't gave up his faith.

ZACHARIAH
Maybe he should have.

She stretches the bandage tight. He grunts in pain.

EVANGELINE
Some things are worth dying for.

She finishes wrapping his leg. Their eyes are tethered.

EVANGELINE
All done.

He breaks the moment and hops over towards the door.

EVANGELINE
Whatever it was that you did before, just know - we can make our plans, but He determines our steps.

He contemplates, then exits. Caleb's at the threshold and enters. Evangeline puts her supplies away.

CALEB

You shouldn't be doing that. It's the sabbath.

EVANGELINE

You a pharisee, now?

CALEB

You've been spending a lot of time with our new friend.

EVANGELINE

He's hurt. I'm the only doctor around here. Which reminds me, we're almost out of antiseptic.

CALEB

Well, if we'd go into town.

EVANGELINE

Caleb, we're waiting on the Lord.

CALEB

Me, you and Andrew started this place. Remember? Now here you are making all the decisions.

She continues to clean up. He grabs her wrist.

CALEB

Some of us have been talking.

EVANGELINE

He was MY husband. This is MY land -

Asher appears at the door.

ASHER

Mommy...

Evangeline and Caleb look over. Caleb kneels down beside him.

CALEB

Hey, pal. Everything's fine. Just talking with your mom.

ASHER

I heard yelling.

Evangeline brushes over.

EVANGELINE

No, honey. No one's yelling.

Caleb rises.

CALEB

We'll talk about this later.

He ruffles Asher's hair as he exits.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Nobody's in site. Ears of corn rip from their stalks. Zachariah and Asher fill their baskets.

ZACHARIAH

I was about your age the last time
I did this.

ASHER

I like picking the corn. Caleb says
I'm too young. Do you think I'm too
young, Zachariah?

ZACHARIAH

Seem to be doing just fine. Why do
you think he says that?

ASHER

He says there's not enough food for
everybody.

ZACHARIAH

God's got a lot of people to look
after. We can't be the only ones.

ASHER

(remembering)

Seek first the kingdom of God and
everything will be added to you.
That's what my mom says.

EVANGELINE O.S.

Asher.

Stalks divide as Evangeline comes through.

EVANGELINE

There you are. I've been looking
everywhere for you.

ASHER

You found me.

EVANGELINE

Yes I did. Go wash up.

Asher sprints off.

ASHER O.S.
Bye, Zachariah.

ZACHARIAH
My fault. Didn't see anybody
working the field. Thought I'd lend
a hand - he wanted to help.

EVANGELINE
We don't work on the sabbath.

ZACHARIAH
Right.

A SHOFAR tones in the distance.

EVANGELINE
It's time.

ZACHARIAH
Time for what?

A giant smile crawls across her face.

INT. COMMUNITY - CHURCH - DAY

This is truly a site to be seen. People dance. Sing.
Fellowship. Complete unrestrained worship.

Zachariah and Evangeline prance in. He's skeptical.

Mark plays a guitar. Others play different instruments.
Evangeline takes a spot in the front.

EVANGELINE
Our God is Alive!

People CHANT and HOLLER!

EVANGELINE
(in tongues, then)
He is our redemption, our provider!
Jesus, our savior! Jehovah-jireh -
Maranatha! Our Lord is coming!

Mark watches Zachariah frigidly blend into the congregation.

INT. COMMUNITY - ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - LATER

Zachariah packs up his stuff. Mark barges in.

MARK

What are you doing?

ZACHARIAH

I don't belong here.

MARK

I know the worship affected you.

ZACHARIAH

I don't believe what you do.

He leaves the room.

MAIN ROOM

Zachariah potters past as everyone trickles in.

EVANGELINE

Where are you going?

ZACHARIAH

I appreciate all you've done for me, but I can't stay here.

EVANGELINE

You think you're going to survive out there? The wrath of God is pouring out.

ZACHARIAH

You forget one thing. I don't believe in God.

People clear a path to the door.

EVANGELINE

Than let me show you.

He stops, facing the door. Caleb's pensive.

EVANGELINE

Let me show you what's out there. Then you can decide.

He turns.

ZACHARIAH

Tomorrow.

EVANGELINE

Tomorrow.

Zachariah goes back to his room. Caleb's eyes pierce her.

EVANGELINE

I know what you're going to say.

CALEB

You said it was too dangerous to go out there, now you're taking him.

EVANGELINE

He has released us.

He starts to dash away. She stops him.

EVANGELINE

I don't think God wants you to go.

CALEB

I'm the one who wanted to go in the first place, remember?

EVANGELINE

Your place is here. Be the watchman that you are. I'll bring supplies.

Caleb fumes as she walks away.

INT. COMMUNITY - ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

KNOCK - KNOCK. Zachariah opens the door. Martha holds up a piece of paper and begins to read.

MARTHA

I just wanted to share with you what the Lord is speaking. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you - not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future. Then you'll call on me and come and pray to me, and I'll listen to you. You'll seek me and find me - when you seek me with all your heart. I'm going to be praying for you, Zachariah. I think you should be praying too. Goodnight.

She heads off. He's intrigued.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. ELIJAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Elijah's in bed with his breathing MACHINE buzzing. Caroline prays beside him. Zachariah peers through the cracked door.

CAROLINE

I declare healing in the mighty
name of Jesus. We give you all the
honor and praise. We love you Lord.

Zachariah comes past her to Elijah. She heads for the door.

ZACHARIAH

Hey, buddy. How's your breathing?

ELIJAH

(through the mask)
Better.

Zachariah removes Elijah's mask and turns off the machine.

CAROLINE

Remember Eli, there's power in
prayer. Believe in a miracle.

ELIJAH

I believe.

Zachariah looks back to her.

CAROLINE

Bye, dad.

She leaves.

ZACHARIAH

(to Eli)
Get some sleep.

He kisses the top of his head.

EXT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caroline's about to drive away. Zachariah rushes up to her.

ZACHARIAH

Caroline, I'd appreciate it if you
didn't give him false hope like
that. It confuses him.

CAROLINE

The bible says to heal the sick. To raise the dead and spread the good news of Jesus.

ZACHARIAH

There is no good news, Caroline. Eli is going to die. That's it. There is nothing else.

CAROLINE

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed you'll move mountains. There's power in Jesus' name, dad.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. COMMUNITY ENTRANCE - DAY

Zachariah and Evangeline stand at the gate. John and another man pull it open as they exit. Caleb scorns.

JOHN

Come back to us, now.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Zachariah and Evangeline trudge through the dense forest.

ZACHARIAH

How are you so sure of all this?

EVANGELINE

It says He'll assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

ZACHARIAH

Has He?

EVANGELINE

There was a Rabbi who called on the twelve tribes. After the Israelis rebuilt the third temple - he was never heard from again.

ZACHARIAH

Probably because he was a fraud.

EVANGELINE

De'lideon will sit in that temple.
He will declare himself god. And he
will be worshiped by the unsaved.

Zachariah's bemused.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Zachariah and Evangeline arrive at the city. Everything
appears to be functioning normally.

ZACHARIAH

See. Everything's fine.

DOWNTOWN

They proceed through the crowded strip. Evangeline notices
people seem to be entranced.

A MAN's thrown out of a restaurant. He falls to the ground.
An EMPLOYEE steps out.

MAN

Please, I'm so hungry!

The employee points to his right hand, then away. There are
dark circles around his eyes and he could be decaying.

EMPLOYEE

Get lost!

Evangeline kneels beside the man and hands him some food.

EVANGELINE

Jesus loves you!

The man instantly devours it. They continue on their way.

ZACHARIAH

What was wrong with his face? Why
wouldn't he let him eat?

EVANGELINE

Those without the mark can't buy,
sell or trade.

A U.N. VEHICLE screeches behind them. Two soldiers jump out,
beat the man and throw him into the truck.

Zachariah and Evangeline hunch behind a corner and observe.
The soldiers drive away.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Workers put the finishing touches on the facility Zachariah and Vance worked at earlier.

Vance leans over a table and writes on a clipboard. Zachariah and Evangeline try to remain undetected as they sneak up.

ZACHARIAH

Psst!

Vance turns to face them. He also has dark circles around his eyes and could be decomposing.

VANCE

Zach, where have you been, man? I thought you were dead.

They embrace.

ZACHARIAH

No - No, I'm fine. How are you? Are you okay?

Evangeline looks around the site.

VANCE

Never better. You were right. The mark was the best thing for us all.

EVANGELINE

He's got the mark of the beast. They all do.

VANCE

Mark of the beast? Who is this woman, Zach?

ZACHARIAH

What's wrong with your face?

VANCE

What are you talking about? You were right. After I got the mark everything changed. Look at my arm.

He extends his arm. He's got full use of it but he doesn't realize it's festering.

Zachariah stares at it. There's a hypnotic tone to Vance's speech they begin to pick up on.

VANCE

Wait, you didn't get it? You know what they do to people who don't have the mark?

He gathers his things and starts to dart away.

ZACHARIAH

Vance, wait. Come back with us.

VANCE

Come back with you where? Don't you get it, Zach? This is how we live now. Our only option. You said that, remember?

ZACHARIAH

I was wrong. This isn't right. You were the one who said that.

VANCE

This is right. The world is a better place now, thanks to De'lideon Apollyannas.

Zachariah and Evangeline are aghast. Suddenly, a loud CALL comes from all around.

Everyone stops abruptly and drops to their knees. They worship De'lideon Apollyannas' voice.

ZACHARIAH

Vance, what are you doing? Get up.

Zachariah tugs at his shirt.

VANCE

Get off of me.

EVANGELINE

Let's go.

She pulls his arm and they trample off.

The facility that they're building is an interment camp. Barbed and razor wire drape across the double fences.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Evangeline keeps a steady pace. Zachariah ambles behind and fumbles to the pavement, crying.

ZACHARIAH

How is this happening? I can't believe in a God who's taken everything from me.

She stops and faces him.

EVANGELINE

Once you've experienced the love of God everything changes. You'll never be the same again.

ZACHARIAH

My son was born just to die. Why would a loving God do that?

EVANGELINE

Just how he sent his own son to die. For you. And me. For your family. Soon we'll understand.

Zachariah mulls.

EVANGELINE

It's not too late for you, Zach. Repent and ask His forgiveness.

ZACHARIAH

I've devoted my life to defaming Him. How will He forgive me?

EVANGELINE

He already has.

He shines with hope. Suddenly, the blue and red lights in the sky begin to vanish. People stop and watch.

Zachariah and Evangeline look around. A giant HAILSTONE crashes down on a car.

People SCREAM and erratically disseminate. Many more hailstones plummet down on buildings, roads and people.

DEMONS begin to materialize from the hailstones. They glide among the people. Only the saved can see them.

A storm blows in. They race through the chaos in between demons, crashing cars and hailstones with only their lives.

INT. COMMUNITY - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Everyone gathers with anticipation. A SHOFAR sounds in the distance. Mark rushes in.

MARK
They're back.

MAIN ROOM - LATER

The assembly gathers around Evangeline. Asher's at her side.
THUNDER cracks as rain PITS and PATS outside.

MARTHA
What was it like out there?

EVANGELINE
Worse than we imagined.

GASPS strew. Evangeline reads from a bible.

EVANGELINE
The angels who didn't stay within
their own position of authority,
but left their proper dwelling, He
has kept in eternal chains under
gloomy darkness until the judgement
of the great day. Jude 1:6.

Caleb swaggers up to her.

CALEB
Did you get supplies?

She shakes her head. He foots away.

MARK
Where's Zachariah?

Zachariah stumps in with his bible. Asher runs over to his
side and grabs his hand.

ZACHARIAH
I've been running from God for too
long. I was running in the wrong
direction. I know that now. I also
know I need His salvation.

MARTHA
Hallelujah, praise Jesus!

ZACHARIAH
I just don't know how to begin.

Mark gives him a big hug.

MARK
Start in John.

ASHER

Now you can see your son again in
heaven with Jesus.

ZACHARIAH

I sure hope so.

From the back, Caleb calls out.

CALEB

Welcome to the tribe.

INT. COMMUNITY - ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - LATER

Zachariah's about to pray. Evangeline comes in. He rises.

EVANGELINE

I don't want to interrupt.

They stand awkwardly for a moment. A very distinctive
attraction has formed between them. She gives him a big hug.

EVANGELINE

I never stopped praying for you.
Now, get to know the Father.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. COMMUNITY - MAIN ROOM - DAY

People continue their routines. Evangeline pours herself some
coffee. Mark looks towards Zachariah's door.

MARK

Has he come out?

EVANGELINE

Not yet.

ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - DAY

Pages fly as Zachariah's enamored in the word of God. He
can't seem to get enough. The storm continues on.

KITCHEN - NIGHT

The pantry shelves are diminishing. By the grace of God,
there's still enough.

EXT. COMMUNITY PORCH - DAY

Martha and others huddle under an awning.

MARTHA

Is this rain ever going to stop?

MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Asher places a tray of food at Zachariah's door. He's about to knock. Evangeline shakes her head. He sulks away.

ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zachariah's on his knees in worship.

END MONTAGE:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Caleb and John are inside the pantry. Hardly any food left.

CALEB

This isn't going to last us through the winter. We can't all survive on dried beans and a few bags of rice.

JOHN

What are you going to do?

CALEB

What Evangeline can't. I'm going to ensure this community's survival.

JOHN

Caleb, just wait on God. He hasn't failed us yet.

CALEB

There's a time to pray for the best then there's a time to prepare for the worst. There are children here.

INT./EXT. MAIN ROOM - DAY

Zachariah's door opens. Out walks a new man.

FRONT YARD

The rain's stopped and the sun's coming out. Zachariah steps onto the wet grass and falls to his knees.

ZACHARIAH
J-E-S-U-S!

The rest of the community crowds behind him.

MARK
How do you feel?

ZACHARIAH
It's indescribable.

Asher runs over. Zachariah scoops him up and twirls around, elated. Asher smiles and laughs, so excited.

EVANGELINE
What did He say to you?

ZACHARIAH
I need to be baptized.

LAKE

The entire community, aside from Caleb, congregates at the edge of the lake. Evangeline baptizes Zachariah.

He rises from under the water, smiling from ear to ear. His arms raised to the heavens. They APPLAUD, WHISTLE, and CHEER.

ZACHARIAH
When will I speak in tongues?

EVANGELINE
When you're ready.

INT./EXT. COMMUNITY - EVANGELINE'S ROOM - DAY

Sun rays splash across Evangeline's face, waking her. She gets up and sits at her dresser. She brushes her hair.

She notices a photo of her and Andrew. She takes off her ring and places it, along with the picture, inside of a drawer.

ASHER'S ROOM

She walks in to find Asher's bed empty.

EVANGELINE

Asher...

FRONT YARD

People work the grounds. Zachariah brings a basket of very little corn up to the house. Evangeline steps out.

ZACHARIAH

Good morning.

EVANGELINE

Morning. You seen Asher?

ZACHARIAH

He's in the field.

(regarding corn)

Not much left. You look pretty.

She smiles, bashfully, then paces towards the field.

CORNFIELD

Evangeline splits the stalks aside.

EVANGELINE

Asher! - - Asher!

A SCREAM comes back from the house.

MARTHA O.S.

Where are all the children?

EVANGELINE

Asher!

Evangeline hustles through the dense stalks and reaches an open area. Finding... Just Asher's clothes.

She falls to her knees and clutches his clothes tightly. Zachariah and others fill in behind her. Mark rushes up.

MARK

Everyone, you need to hear this.

MAIN ROOM

The group huddles around a radio.

REPORTER (ON RADIO)
 President Apollyannas addresses the
 world live from Israel.

DE'LIDEON APOLLYANNAS (ON RADIO)
 God created the world in six days
 and took a break on the seventh.
 I've done what He nor His prophets
 could ever do in bringing peace,
 safety and unification to our
 planet at the expense of something
 dear to many. Our extraterrestrial
 brothers and sisters required the
 children. A small sacrifice we may
 feel right now, but I assure you,
 they've been delivered from the
 harm we face in the days ahead. Now
 acknowledge that on this day as I
 sit enthroned, here in this temple,
 I, De'lideon Apollyannas, am deemed
 arbitrator. Sovereign above the
 most high. You will pray to me and
 I will answer. Bow down in worship -
 For I am your god.

An APPLAUSE erupts over the radio. Mark shuts it off.

MARK
 People can't be buying this.

Evangeline hunches over the table. She holds Asher's clothes.

EVANGELINE
 God shall send a strong delusion,
 that they should believe a lie.

She looks over the crowd. Zachariah grabs her hand and
 notices her absent ring.

EVANGELINE
 Where's Caleb?

John ebbs into the crowd.

ZACHARIAH
 Maybe we should fast. This is it,
 right? He's coming back soon.

MARTHA
 I think that's a good idea.

The crowd starts to disperse.

EVANGELINE

I knew this was coming. Didn't
realize I'd miss him so much.

ZACHARIAH

You'll see him again.

Zachariah squeezes her hand.

INT. COMMUNITY - ZACHARIAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zachariah tosses and turns in bed.

BEGIN VISION:

EXT. ANYWHERE - DAY

This is the same vision from before, only now, the whole
title reads - THE ECUMENICAL. A long bulk of text follows.

EXT. INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

Long lines of people march forward, dressed in khaki. They're
rejoicing. Some read from the magazine.

END VISION:

BACK TO:

ZACHARIAH'S ROOM

Zachariah's eyes spring open. He reads his bible.

INT. COMMUNITY - OFFICE - NIGHT

Zachariah stands at the printer. He looks around, then grabs
one of the pages from the stack. He holds it up. It reads -

"The Ecumenical" He lowers it, epiphanized.

INT. MAIN ROOM - DAY

People trickle in. Zachariah addresses everyone.

ZACHARIAH

I believe God's been trying to show me something. We're supposed to share the magazine Andrew started.

People aren't jazzed by the idea.

MARK

How are we supposed to do that?

MARTHA

It's not safe to go out there.

ZACHARIAH

I don't have all the details. But I know it's what were supposed to do.

He holds up his bible.

ZACHARIAH

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

MARK

We'll be killed for not having the mark.

Evangeline jolts up.

EVANGELINE

For whoever will save his life shall lose it: and whoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. Matthew 16:25.

Zachariah smiles to her.

ZACHARIAH

For we struggle not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12.

EVANGELINE

God has set us aside for this time.

ZACHARIAH

We're dignitaries of the faith, remember? My daughter once said, faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains.

PEOPLE start to converse and come around to the idea. Mark comes over.

ZACHARIAH

What's it going to be? Are we gonna tell God how big this mountain is or are we gonna to tell this mountain how big our God is?

MARK

I think Jesus said that.

Everyone jumps up in VICTORY! Excitement's an understatement. A member turns on the faucet - blood spews out.

LAKE

Everyone gathers around the crimson lake.

EVANGELINE

There's not much time left.

A SHOFAR modulates in the distance.

JOHN

It's Caleb.

GATE

Caleb lugs in a large sack. John helps. The group rolls up.

JOHN

It's food.

MARK

Caleb, Zach's gonna finish Andrew's magazine to reach the lost.

CALEB

Zachariah - You've become the big man on campus since I've been gone.

Evangeline rushes over.

EVANGELINE

Where have you been?

CALEB

We needed supplies. I got supplies.

EVANGELINE

How'd you get that?

CALEB

It doesn't matter how I got it. I heard about the children. I assume Asher was one of 'em. I'm sorry.

EVANGELINE

Don't be.

She hurries off. Zachariah begins to head away.

CALEB

She might be nice to look at but she's just used goods.

Zachariah rushes over. Fist raised. Caleb stumbles.

ZACHARIAH

A month ago I would've let this do the talking. Because of that woman there, I'm changed. Don't lose your faith now that you need it most.

Caleb's probably pissing himself. Zachariah walks away.

INT. COMMUNITY - MAIN ROOM - DAY

The group plans. Caleb watches off to the side.

ZACHARIAH'S ROOM

Zachariah writes vigorously behind a desk.

OFFICE

The printer surges alive. The first printed copy of The Ecumenical spits out. Zachariah holds it up to Evangeline.

EVANGELINE

How are we supposed to do this?

ZACHARIAH

I think I know where to start.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Zachariah sits in a lobby. A decomposing receptionist toddles behind a desk. She hangs up a phone.

RECEPTIONIST

He'll see you now.

JAMES (PRE-LAP)
I don't think so.

JAMES' OFFICE

James stares out of the window with the magazine. Zachariah sits in the same chair from earlier.

JAMES
I tried calling you for awhile.
After our last meeting I realized
you were onto something.

ZACHARIAH
You were right, I needed some time.
This is what I'm suppose to write.

James takes out a lighter and burns the magazine.

ZACHARIAH
What are you doing?

He sets it into an ashtray and turns around. He's got the dark circles and decaying flesh. Zachariah's heart drops.

JAMES
Absent God. That's what I want to
publish. It couldn't be any more
clear right now. We were wrong.

ZACHARIAH
Jimmy, what are you talking about?

He sits on the edge of Zachariah's chair.

JAMES
He's a myth, Zach. You showed me
that. De'lideon Apollyannas is the
only god worthy of worship.

Zachariah jumps up. James starts crawling over the chair.

JAMES
Imagine all the people we'll reach
with your books, Zach. Turn them
from this fraudulent god who's
swoon them. It's what you wanted.

Zachariah edges away.

ZACHARIAH
Not you, too. I won't do it. I was
wrong. And you're wrong, Jimmy.

JAMES

I'm afraid you don't have a say in the matter.

ZACHARIAH

You don't have to do this. Repent.

JAMES

De'lideon requires only worship.

Zachariah inches towards the door.

ZACHARIAH

Look at you. Wake up, Jimmy! What kind of god makes you do this?

James crawls towards him.

JAMES

Bow down to De'lideon. Show your allegiance.

Zachariah shakes his head and runs away.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Zachariah flies out of the building. No looking back.

ZACHARIAH (PRE-LAP)

We're on our own.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. COMMUNITY - OFFICE - NIGHT

Everyone's gathered around. Hundreds of THE ECUMENICAL are being printed. Zachariah holds them up. They CHEER.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Zachariah, Evangeline, Mark, Martha and several others march the streets, handing out magazines. They pray over people.

People fall to their knees and become saved. Others with illnesses, missing limbs etc. are restored to perfect health.

ZACHARIAH V.O.

It doesn't matter what you did or didn't do.

ZACHARIAH V.O. (CONT'D)

What remains is the truth and the truth lies in the salvation of Jesus Christ. If you have yet to call upon His name, wait no longer. The time is now. Stop living for the world and start living for The king. For those in captivity and those in hiding, it's not over, it's not finished. Continue to Run the race. Sustain your faith. Our God has risen and will return to reign. Maranatha.

EXT. CITY - INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

Zachariah and Evangeline stand at a distance. They watch many people dressed in khaki behind the barbed wire fences.

ZACHARIAH

How are we going to reach them?

END MONTAGE:

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Zachariah and Evangeline join the crew. They're about to head home when a U.N. VEHICLE approaches. Everyone huddles close.

Benjamin Gleason steps out. He's armed and holds up one of the magazines.

BENJAMIN

Are you responsible for this?

ZACHARIAH

We are.

Evangeline grabs Zachariah's hand.

BENJAMIN

Are you aware this is a direct violation and is considered an act of treason which merits death by execution under the provisions stated by lord Apollyannas?

ZACHARIAH

The only act of treason is denying Jesus Christ.

Benjamin throws his gun to the ground.

BENJAMIN

My name's staff Sgt. Benjamin
Gleason reporting for duty. I no
longer work for the enemy.

They ease in celebration. GUNSHOTS fire from a distance. They
duck for cover. Several more SHOTS ricochet past.

Everyone appears to be okay until Zachariah notices blood
dribbling out of Mark's mouth. He falls to the ground, dead.

ZACHARIAH

Mark!

He rushes over.

BENJAMIN

Everyone get in my truck.

Zachariah and Benjamin pick up Mark's body. They all pile
into the truck. SHOTS fire as Benjamin speeds away.

INT. COMMUNITY - MAIN ROOM - LATER

The door flies open. Everyone rushes in. Zachariah and
Benjamin set Mark's body on the table. People clutter around.

EVANGELINE

Help...

CALEB

What happened to him?

BENJAMIN

He was shot.

CALEB

Who's this?

Everyone chats in panic.

ZACHARIAH

Everyone quite. Let me think.

CALEB

He's dead, Zach.

Zachariah disregards his pessimism.

CALEB

Let him be.

He puts his hands on Mark and begins to pray. People join in prayer and tongues.

ZACHARIAH

I declare healing in the name of
Jesus! Wake up. Right now in the
holy name of Jesus Christ!

Mark's eyes flutter and slowly open. He rises. Everyone GASPS. This is a miracle from God they haven't seen yet.

MARK

What happened?

EVANGELINE

Welcome back!

She hugs him tightly.

ZACHARIAH

God is good -- God is good.

EVANGELINE

All right, everyone. Let's give him
some space.

Everyone starts clearing out. Evangeline helps Mark.

BENJAMIN

You truly are a man of God.

He holds out his hand. Zachariah shakes it. Benjamin follows the group. Zachariah rests against the counter.

He pulls out a photo of his kids.

CALEB

How'd you know to do that?

ZACHARIAH

My daughter.

Zachariah notices dark circles around Caleb's eyes.

ZACHARIAH

Caleb, you feeling all right?

CALEB

Fine.

He saunters off. Zachariah looks at his photo once again.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Zachariah peers around the corner of the building. Vance trots through the crowd towards the entrance.

ZACHARIAH

Vance!

Vance spots him.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Vance holds an Ecumenical. Zachariah paces around him.

VANCE

Can't believe I agreed to meet you.

ZACHARIAH

Just read it.

VANCE

What is this?

ZACHARIAH

What I tried to ignore. The truth.

VANCE

The truth? Healing in Jesus?
Nonsense. Look at my arm.

Vance throws the magazine and shows Zachariah his arm.

VANCE

Jesus didn't heal my arm, Zach.
De'lideon did. That's the truth.

He turns to leave. Zachariah fiercely spins him around.

ZACHARIAH

Can't you see it's rotting? Look at
your face!

VANCE

I don't know what you're talking
about.

Vance shoves Zachariah into the wall. An employee opens the back door with a bag of trash. Zachariah throws Vance inside.

INT. RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Vance falls over tables of dishes. Zachariah pulls him up.

VANCE

You abandoned me. De'lideon brought us all together. A love that can't be shut out. He's the true god.

Vance swings a miss. Zachariah throws him over a table and grabs a knife. He shows Vance his reflection.

ZACHARIAH

Look at yourself!

Vance stares intently at the knife. Kitchen staff gathers.

ZACHARIAH

You may think De'lideon loves you but there's no greater love than Jesus Christ. I'm not gonna shut you out again.

Zachariah takes the knife and jabs it into Vance's arm. He SQUEALS in pain and falls to the floor.

ZACHARIAH

If this is what it takes for you to be saved, so be it. You're my brother. I love you.

Zachariah cuts his arm off. He grabs a towel and wraps the wound. Vance is in shock, suffering the same injury twice.

Almost instantly, the dark circles around Vance's eyes disappear. He seems to be healing very quickly.

ZACHARIAH

Vance, is that you?

VANCE

What the hell are you talking about? Where are we?

The decomposing marked kitchen staff begins advancing towards them. Zachariah helps him up.

ZACHARIAH

I think it's time to go.

They split through the back door.

INT. INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Evangeline bandages Vance's arm. Zachariah stands aside.

VANCE

I barley recognize you with that smile.

ZACHARIAH

He brought peace. I should've been more supportive when you had faith.

Vance grabs his hand.

VANCE

You're supporting me now. How do I get what you have?

ZACHARIAH

Caroline was right. You just have to believe.

Zachariah smiles down to him. Evangeline leads him in prayer.

INT. COMMUNITY - CHURCH - DAY

Everyone's assembled together. Vance sits next to Evangeline. Zachariah steps out and addresses the group.

ZACHARIAH

I know I'm new to the Christian faith but even now as it grows dark and cold, our redeemer waits at the door. If I could go back, I would say a thousand times how sorry I am and how wrong I was. But because of who He is, I'm today the man I was destined to be. I'd like for everyone to meet my brother.

He points down to Vance. He joins Zachariah in the front.

ZACHARIAH

I can now say that everyday is a miracle. We just have to have the ears to hear and the eyes to see. Jehovah Jireh. Maranatha!

BEGIN MONTAGE:

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Zachariah, Evangeline, and Vance pray over people and hand out the magazine. Mark, Martha and others heal people.

EXT. INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

People scatter around the grounds. Benjamin passes a stack of magazines through the barbed wire fence.

A woman with a shaved head reaches out and grabs it. Many people in the camps read the magazines, encouraged.

INT. COMMUNITY - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Everyone's gathered around a large spread at the table. Zachariah blesses the food. He and Evangeline smile.

INT. MAIN ROOM - DAY

Mark's ebullient as he prays over Vance's arm. He finishes and pulls off a sheet. His arm has grown back. Perfectly.

ZACHARIAH V.O.

You are fire. And you burn deep inside of me. I am overwhelmed by all you are. In you is everything I've been looking for, everything I've been searching for. All my desires, the longing of my soul, it's you. My heart hungers and thirsts for the depths of your heart, that fiery burning place, the center of all of creation. The very reason why I am here and why you came for me and are coming again. It's your heart, my desire. But this world holds no reward for me. I count it all loss for the sake of knowing you and being found in you. For nothing compares to you Jesus. Nothing in this world, nothing compares to the burning of your presence. Maranatha.

END MONTAGE:

LATER

Dinner's wrapped up. Everyone starts to leave the table. Caleb, Zachariah, and Evangeline remain.

CALEB

Sure is quiet without that kid around.

Evangeline's uneasy.

EVANGELINE
I'm gonna take a walk.

ZACHARIAH
Want me to come with you?

EVANGELINE
I'll be fine.

CALEB
She's a big girl. Don't need to be
following her all the day long.

She leaves. Caleb uses his left hand to scratch his face.
It's starting to look very different.

ZACHARIAH
She's good company.

CALEB
I thought so too. Once.

EXT. GROUNDS - NIGHT

Evangeline walks around the perimeter.

INT. MAIN ROOM - SAME

Dark circles permeate Caleb's eyes.

ZACHARIAH
What's wrong, Caleb?

CALEB
You know, Zachariah, some things
you can't take back. Some things
can't be undone.

ZACHARIAH
What are you talking about?

EXT. GROUNDS - NIGHT

A TWIG cracks. Evangeline careens behind her. Suddenly she's
snatched away.

CALEB V.O.
And some things can't be forgiven.

INT. MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caleb scratches his face once again. This time he uses his right hand, which reveals the mark of the beast.

ZACHARIAH

Caleb, no.

GUNSHOTS fire from outside. PEOPLE scream.

CALEB

Pride is a deadly sin.

Vance and Mark burst in.

MARK

They're here.

VANCE

What do we do, Zach?

ZACHARIAH

(to Caleb)

God forgive you.

Soldier's footsteps echo through the house. More GUNSHOTS.

ZACHARIAH

Come on.

He, Mark and Vance dart out the back door. Soldiers surge through. Caleb just sits there as they chase after them.

EXT. GROUNDS - NIGHT

Zachariah, Vance and Mark race through the dense foliage.

VANCE

Where are we going to go?

Mark falls behind and is captured by a soldier.

MARK O.S.

Zachariah!

Zachariah and Vance look back.

ZACHARIAH

Keep moving.

They press on. Faster. Soldiers jump out of the brush in front of Vance. Guns drawn. He plops to his knees.

Zachariah's a few yards ahead. He looks back. A blissful smile draws across Vance's face before being executed.

Zachariah blanches, then continues on.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY - MORNING

Zachariah's been running all night. He's exhausted and on the verge of collapsing.

Buildings are on fire. Cars are crashed. Decomposing people roam in disarray, talking to themselves.

This is a very different landscape from before.

A very dirty WOMAN pushes an empty stroller. She talks as if her child is present. Zachariah's disturbed, but totters on.

EXT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Caroline's car's in the driveway. Adrenaline kicks in. Zachariah flies into the house.

ZACHARIAH
Caroline!

INT. ZACHARIAH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zachariah scans over the squalid house.

ZACHARIAH
Where are you, baby?

He rushes around, only to assure himself what he already knows. She isn't there.

He picks up the picture of him, Elijah and Caroline and is flooded with emotion.

There's a CREEK in the floor ahead of him. Something begins to cloud his periphery.

He lowers the picture to reveal a BIG BLACK APPARITION staring him down.

Gripped by fear, he drops the picture and backs away. He turns and get's knocked out by the stock of a soldier's gun.

INT. INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

Bundles of hair fall to the ground as a guard shaves Zachariah's head. He's in khaki attire, but wears defeat.

INT. INTERNMENT CAMP - HALL - LATER

Two guards escort Zachariah towards an interrogation room. The door swings open. A guard drags Evangeline out.

She's also got a shaved head. Her and Zachariah lock eyes and emanate hope as she's ushered past.

EVANGELINE

Stay strong. Finish the race.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Zachariah sits in a plastic chair facing Defarrow. He's spellbound and appears to be decomposing like everyone else.

DEFARROW

So you're responsible for this?

He holds up an Ecumenical.

DEFARROW

You Christians are all the same.
Just can't mold with society.

ZACHARIAH

You're right. I had so much hate in my heart. I often said what kind of God allowed these things to happen?

DEFARROW

And you risk your lives, for what?
Faith in a man who died thousands of years ago?

ZACHARIAH

I couldn't understand it. Until I experienced the love of Christ.

DEFARROW

That Jesus you call God is a fable.
Shame He didn't keep his promise of redemption.

Defarrow laughs and throws the magazine. He comes around to the front of the desk.

ZACHARIAH

His word says, anyone who believes
in Him will never be put to shame.

DEFARROW

I'm going to give you the same
alternative I gave the rest of 'em.
Bow down to the true god De'lideon
Apollyannas or die a martyrs death.

ZACHARIAH

Fear not those who kill the body
but cannot kill the soul.

DEFARROW

You're willing to die for faith in
a mere man?

ZACHARIAH

Some thing's are worth dying for.

Defarrow motions to the guards. They seize Zachariah.

DEFARROW

Take him out with the rest.
Such a pity.

They guide him out. The closing door fades into -

EXT. INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

- The crashing BLADE of the guillotine dropping. Someone was
just beheaded. An EXECUTIONER stands aside.

EXECUTIONER

Renounce your faith and save your
life by calling on the true god,
De'lideon Apollyannas.

Caleb clings to the side of the barbed wire fence,
shamefaced. Evangeline approaches him.

CALEB

Forgive me, Evangeline.

She grabs his hand through the fence.

EVANGELINE

It's not from me you must seek
forgiveness.

He ambles away, disheartened. Someone's carried towards the
front. SCREAMS. The blade drops. They were beheaded.

A man drops to his knees.

MAN ON KNEES
De'lideon!

A soldier drags him into the building.

INT. INTERNMENT CAMP - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Little light seeps through a bared window. Zachariah rubs Evangeline's shaved head lying in his lap. His hands tremble.

ZACHARIAH
Caroline threatened to shave her head once. She wasn't happy about some decision I made. Never ended up doing it of course.

She clasps his hand.

EVANGELINE
Tell me about your kids.

ZACHARIAH
She was beautiful. On fire for the Lord. Just like her mother.

EVANGELINE
What happened to your wife?

ZACHARIAH
There was a complication during Elijah's birth. Somehow the umbilical cord wrapped round his neck. He was losing oxygen. She was hemorrhaging. And I had to choose.

Evangeline leans up.

EVANGELINE
You made the right decision. She would have wanted her son to live.

ZACHARIAH
But he didn't.

EVANGELINE
Sometimes God disguises triumph in tragedy.

He shimmies around and caresses her cheeks.

ZACHARIAH

Evangeline, you've been my strength, my companion. I can't express the love I have for you.

EVANGELINE

You were a breath of fresh air. I love you so much, Zachariah.

ZACHARIAH

This isn't the end.

He pulls her into a strong hug.

EXT. INTERNMENT CAMP - DAY

Zachariah and Evangeline amble amongst the crowds of people. They stop near a fence Benjamin rests against.

ZACHARIAH

You doin' okay?

BENJAMIN

It's an honor to stand beside you both. Feel like one of the disciples during the crucifixion.

EVANGELINE

Imagine how Jesus felt. Let's pray.

They join hands.

EVANGELINE

Lord God, we thank you for all you've given us. And the privilege we've had to glorify your name. Lord give us the courage and strength to endure whatever lies ahead. In Jesus name.

Evangeline's jerked back. A soldier grips her arm. She holds a brilliant smile to Zachariah as their hands unlock.

GUILLOTINE

The soldier guides Evangeline past the executioner. He lays her down on the guillotine and straps her in.

Zachariah and Benjamin race through the crowd to the front.

EXECUTIONER

Why do this to yourself? Just call
on De'lideon as your god. Be saved.

EVANGELINE

Only one God can save and His name
is Jesus Christ.

ZACHARIAH

Evangeline, I love you!

She looks around and spots him. The executioner shakes his
head and pulls the cord.

EVANGELINE

(aphonic)
I love you.

The blade drops. Evangeline is now in Heaven. Zachariah turns
and falls to his knees in tears.

In an adjacent camp, the woman with the shaved head from
earlier, grips an Ecumenical.

She pulls it to her chest and looks over. Her and Zachariah
lock eyes. They recognize each other. He rushes over.

ZACHARIAH

Caroline!

She runs to her fence.

CAROLINE

Dad.

ZACHARIAH

Caroline. Oh, God, I've missed you.
I love you so much.

She can't contain her excitement or nerves. She breaks down.

ZACHARIAH

Be strong sweetheart.

CAROLINE

How did you...

ZACHARIAH

Because of your faith - I'm in here
with you. It was because of you.

She holds up the Ecumenical.

CAROLINE
This was you?

He nods.

CAROLINE
(through the sobs)
You've encouraged so many. I love
you, dad. I am so proud of you.

ZACHARIAH
No, baby. I'm so proud of you. For
your strength. And your faith. No!

A guard stomps over and tears Caroline from the fence.

CAROLINE
No, Daddy. I'm scared.

ZACHARIAH
Don't be scared. I love you,
sweetheart.

CAROLINE
I love you, dad.

She's taken out of site. Zachariah's dazed with realization.
He begins to weep. He shuts his eyes and falls to the ground.

ZACHARIAH
Jesus!

Suddenly, a rugged hand grips his shoulder. He turns to see
Jesus standing beside him.

It seems as though only he can see Him. It's overwhelming.
Instantly, he's thrown into flashbacks.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. PHARMACY - DAY

Zachariah stretches out his hand to receive the mark. Jesus
is beside him.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS - DAY

Zachariah runs from the soldiers shooting at him. Jesus
blocks all of the bullets.

INT./EXT. COMMUNITY GROUNDS - DAY

Zachariah's knelt down beside his bed praying. Jesus is right next to him.

LAKE

Jesus helps Evangeline baptize Zachariah.

INT. AIR PORT - DAY

Caroline tries to board a plane but her ticket won't go through. Jesus stands right beside her.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Zachariah leans over a bed, crying. Elijah's body lies motionless. He and Jesus walk out of the room.

END FLASHBACK:

BACK TO:

EXT. INTERNMENT CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Zachariah snaps back and sees Jesus as a brilliant light. He now has all the courage and strength, much more than before.

He looks out amongst the crowd. People are knelt down renouncing their faith. Others are scared to death.

Zachariah smiles to Benjamin, then runs around the camp.

ZACHARIAH

Abba. Father. Jehovah Jireh.
Maranatha. He is alive. Our King is
here. Lift up your eyes to heaven.
Don't give up. Our freedom is in
the name of Jesus.

People become encouraged by his faith. They rise up and join in worship and praise. The CROWD begins to roar.

BENJAMIN

Raise your voice in worship. Praise
our King!

Soldiers acknowledge the commotion and run over to Zachariah. They grab him and direct him towards the front.

ZACHARIAH

This isn't the end. He's coming
back. Sustain your faith.

GUILLOTINE

Zachariah almost trots to the machine with the aid of the
soldiers. They lay him down and begin to strap him in.

EXECUTIONER

This is what happens when you
blaspheme the name of De'lideon.

He turns to Zachariah and lifts his mask.

EXECUTIONER

Just renounce your faith.

Zachariah epitomizes bravery. He extends both his arms and
clenches his eyes shut, then EXPLODES in TONGUES.

At that - the CROWD roars like never before. This is an
uncontrollable commotion. Others join in PRAYER and TONGUES.

The soldiers stand back, not knowing how to gain control. The
executioner fumbles around the cord. Defarrow runs out.

DEFARROW

Control these people!

He grabs a soldier's M-16, then looks over the camp. He sees
Benjamin aiding people in worship.

They lock eyes. Defarrow rushes over. He jabs him with the
gun. Benjamin goes down.

DEFARROW

Where's your armor now, kid? This
is truly going to be satisfying.
For He whose got your back, huh?

With a maniacal stare - Defarrow aims the gun at Benjamin.
Benjamin rolls over. His focus veers behind defarrow.

A loud RIPPING sound echo's throughout. The sky splits like a
seam right down the middle.

The most brilliant white light seeps through, radiating
brighter and brighter.

The executioner gets a grip of the cord and yanks. The blade
drops and slices through nothing but khaki clothes.

Benjamin smiles, cleverly. Defarrow squeezes the trigger.
BANG! A cloud of smoke emits from the chamber.

Defarrow lowers the gun to see nothing but a pile of clothes.
He looks around.

Nothing but piles of khaki clothes remain. No trace of any of
the prisoners.

All of the guards are on their knees. The executioner's,
dumbstruck and follows suit. Defarrow cowers to his face.

EXT. SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - DAY

De'lideon Apollyannas sits on the throne. He SCREAMS and
shakes in defeat.

In the sky, through the brilliant light, a legion of HORSES
galloping resounds throughout the world.

FADE TO WHITE:

THE END