

## **Scene 5**

What Prophets Longed to See

**INTERIOR - EVENING**  
**THE LIVINGSTON FAMILY LIVING ROOM**

**BETH**

So if I remember the Begats correctly...Solomon is the next king after David.  
And he was actually the one to build God a temple in Jerusalem.

**MARK**

Oh yeah, that's right...wait a minute,  
are all those begats in the Christmas story a list of Israel's kings?!

**SADIE**

Of course, daddy! Jesus is the king in a manger!

**SID**

Everyone knows that!

**MARK**

Yeah, but...he's like, an actual king? Like, from David's royal lineage?

**GRANNY IRIS**

That's right, Mark. Matthew shows us Jesus' royal lineage through his adoptive father Joseph  
and Luke gives us another genealogy of begats...which most scholars think is through his  
biological mother, Mary! So one way or another, Jesus is a legitimate heir to David's throne.

**FRANK**

So...why wasn't Jesus born in a palace as heir to the throne?  
What happened between the time of David and the time of Jesus?

**FRANC**

*Excitedly; his moment has come*

Oh! I know this! Don't worry Granny Iris, I shall take it from here.

*He pulls a huge, heavy tome of history from nowhere and slams it down on the table, opening it*  
There is a long and very detailed intertestamental history for us to unpack...

**FRANK**

*Pointing to the heavy book Franc has just produced*  
You just...carry that around with you everywhere?

**FRANC**

*Looks at him plaintively, a little confused by the question*  
Of course. I'm the fun one, Frank. Everyone knows this.

**GRANNY IRIS**

*Pushes the heavy tome off the table*

I don't think we'll be needing that, Franc. Suffice to say, a lot happened between the time of David and Jesus. The kingdom had a civil war and split into northern and southern territories. A lot of kings came and went...and most were pretty bad. They led Israel deeper and deeper into sin until the northern kingdom was ultimately destroyed and the southern kingdom was taken into captivity in Babylon. That's where the line of kings ends.

**SOPH**

Wait...I thought God said He was going to establish David's throne forever?  
How could the line of kings just end like that?

**GRANNY IRIS**

That's what the people wondered too. But the prophets continued to reaffirm God's promise to David. They said that one day, a king, a Messiah, would come from David's line. That he would be born in Bethlehem and would establish an everlasting Kingdom of Heaven.

**SAM**

And what happened to the people of Israel? Did they ever get to go back to their homeland?

**GRANNY IRIS**

Eventually, they did. But they were never really a free and independent nation again. They changed hands from nation to nation until finally Rome took control. And Rome had only been in charge for about 60 years by the time Jesus was born.

**SETH**

All that time waiting around for a Messiah...it must have felt so hopeless.

**SONG: O COME O COME EMMANUEL**

*As the song is playing, Mary and Joseph enter the scene, walking towards the manger  
Music plays softly as the scene progresses*

**JOSEPH**

*Looking around the stable*  
I think this is the place...

**MARY**

*Resting on a nearby bench and rubbing her feet as she sighs with relief*  
Whew...I can't tell you how good it feels to get off of that donkey!

**JOSEPH**

*Inspecting the stable, obviously quite disappointed*

Yeah, it's an awful long way to travel...I can't believe it's all come to...to this.

**MARY**

*She smiles a bit*

Joseph, it's Bethlehem...there's more sheep than people here! What were you expecting?

**JOSEPH**

*Sighs*

I dunno...I guess we were lucky to find anything at all. But still. With all the drama, the dreams, the angels...I thought maybe God had something amazing in store for when we got here.

I mean, this is the Messiah we're talking about!

**MARY**

*Looks around at the animals and chuckles a bit*

Why Joseph, whatever do you mean?

*She gestures to the sheep*

Behold, our royal attendants!

*She points to the chickens*

...the priests and advisors!

*A group of cows nuzzle up to her*

...and who could forget the midwives?

**JOSEPH**

*Can't help but chuckle, despite himself*

Of course, of course...still, it's not quite what I expected. Frankly, I don't know what I expected.

This is all so...so strange.

**MARY**

*Smiling*

And wonderful.

God is in the business of strange.

He told Abram to travel to a land far from his home and made a covenant with him there.

He spoke to Moses from a burning bush and told him to challenge the most powerful empire on earth.

**JOSEPH**

*Walks over and pats one of the sheep*

And he chose a young shepherd boy as king. Our ancestor, David. Do you really think this child will sit on his throne one day? Is the Messiah really coming into the world?

**MARY**

*Chuckles and rubs her stomach*

Well, hopefully not tonight! This is hardly the place where I want to—

*She stops and cries out in pain*

Oh!

**JOSEPH**

*Runs to her side*

Mary! What's wrong?!

**MARY**

I think...I think it's time!

## **SONG: HERE COMES HEAVEN**

*As the song plays, the animals gather around Mary, blocking the audience's view of the birth*

*Baby Jesus is born*

*As Mary and Joseph hold their newborn child, a gathering of shepherds surround them, marveling at the child. Joseph and Mary greet them with joy.*

*Outside of the stable, angels gather around.*

*Joining the angels is a great cloud of witnesses;  
Abraham, Moses, David, and all the other ancients who longed to see the birth of the Messiah  
and the fulfillment of God's covenant also gather around, gazing on the Messiah*

*Finally, the Livingstons gather around the stable as well*

*Believers from all time are united in this singular moment, gathered around to wonder at the birth of Jesus; the moment that Heaven touched earth; the hinge point of human salvation and the most significant event in the history of the world*

## **GRANNY IRIS**

*Facing the audience as the song ends*

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. Not as a singular event, but as the climax of a long line of promises. Promises to Abraham, to Moses, to David, to all of God's people across time and culture.

*She gestures to the great cloud of witnesses*

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them got to see what had been promised.

God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives and stories of faith a vital part of ours.

*Quoting Hebrews 12:1-2*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author...and the finisher of our faith.

Go in his Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.  
Merry Christmas.

# **CLOSING SONG: KING OF THE WORLD**

## **BOW OUT**