

# The Old Testament Fast Forward

## *Production Notes:*

The portions of the script that follow provide a companion guide to *The Old Testament Fast Forward*, giving additional production details and suggestions for staging. In the original production, the performers “acted out” the lines of verse narration throughout the musical with choreographed movement. That movement is described below. Another option for staging the play is to use projection screens with a program like Power Point, and illustrate the verse narrations and other sections of the musical with fast changing slides.

### *Notes for Page 7:*

*(At the end of “God’s Word,” the accompanist can replay the last few measures of the song as the cast move to new positions. On stage left, ADAM stands in front of a box with his back to the audience. EVE stands behind the box, also facing upstage. Two other actors stand with their backs to the audience on either side of the box. On stage right, a group of seven actors stand, backs to audience. The rest of the CAST move upstage and sit, taking themselves out of the focus. Following the music, we hear four percussion clicks and then a snare brush rhythm begins. Throughout the show, the NARRATORS recite their verse lines to this rhythm freely, with a bit of syncopation.)*

### **VERSE NARRATION 1:**

**NARRATOR 1:** In the beginning, God creates,

Six days working, *(Six of the actors on stage right flip to face the audience and pose as though digging.)*

seventh waits. *(The seventh actor on stage right flips to the audience and poses, looking at his watch.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** In God’s image, man is made, *(ADAM turns quickly to face the audience.)*

Set to rest in Eden’s shade. *(ADAM sits on the box as the actors to the right and left of the box turn to the audience and lift arms to “shade” him.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Tree of knowledge, *(Actor to the right of the box takes one step away from ADAM and lifts arms in tree pose.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** tree of life, *(Actor to the left of the box takes one step away from Adam and lifts arms in tree pose.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Takes a rib to make a wife. *(EVE turns quickly to face the audience and steps next to ADAM, placing her hand on his shoulder. ADAM and EVE look at each other.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** All would still be resting quiet...

**BOTH NARRATORS:** If those two had watched their diet. *(ADAM and EVE look out at audience and put hands over their mouths as if to say “oops”.)*

*(After a brief pause, ADAM exits as the SERPENT enters holding two apples.)*

### *Notes for Page 10-11*

### **VERSE NARRATION 2:**

*(We hear four percussion clicks, and then the snare brush rhythm begins again. During the clicks, ADAM and EVE return to downstage center and stand side-by-side facing the audience. At the same time, a group of CAST MEMBERS form a line from stage right to stage left, just upstage from ADAM and EVE—but with their backs to the audience.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Eve and Adam leave their place—*(ADAM and EVE turn and take a step or two toward the line of CAST members.)*

No trespassing, *(The line of CAST MEMBERS flip toward the audience and cross their arms over their chests, barring ADAM and EVE from continuing.)*

but by grace.

**NARRATOR 2:** Final days are spent in pain,

*(ADAM turns to the audience and freezes as he mimes weeding.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Weeding thistles...

*(Percussion ends. EVE turns to the audience and freezes as she mimes holding a baby.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** ...raising Cain.

*(After a brief pause, ADAM and EVE exit and the other CAST MEMBERS spread out, turning their backs to the audience again.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Now the Lord God did not intend to leave human beings without a hope. God promised a day would come when a child of Eve would crush the power of the serpent.

*(CAIN and ABEL enter and stand side-by-side with their backs to the audience.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** But many years of grief and waiting lay between that promise and its fulfillment.

**VERSE NARRATION 3:**

*(Rhythm accompaniment begins again.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Cain's a farmer, *(CAIN turns and poses.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Abel's not. *(ABEL turns and poses)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Abel's favored, *(ABEL clasps hands over head in "champion" pose.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Cain gets hot! *(CAIN glares at ABEL.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Soon their sibling rivalry

Ends in murder, first degree. *(CAIN mimes stabbing ABEL and both freeze.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Others copy this beginning

Till they build a world of sinning

*(Other CAST MEMBERS turn and freeze, interacting in poses of violence or gluttony.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** God observes what they have made, *(Percussion ends.)*

**BOTH NARRATORS:** Decides to rain on their parade.

**Notes for Page 13:**

**NOAH'S WIFE:** And then—as if they hadn't made a big enough mess already—Noah said to collect two of every living creature that breathes. And when they finally had them all penned up on the front lawn, he waved his hand and that huge army of animals began to move toward the boat.

*(NOAH crosses down center in front of the “ark” and waves toward the animals that are waiting to enter. As the following song begins, SHEM, JAPHETH, NOAH, and MRS. NOAH enter through the “doors” in the ark to stand behind the boxes. Then the other CAST MEMBERS representing the side of the boat and the door break from their positions and sit in front of the boxes. NOAH and MRS. NOAH stand on either side of the “doorway”—the gap formed by the center blocks. Throughout the Ark Loading Song, CAST MEMBERS representing ANIMALS enter from down left and down right, cross to this door, and turn upstage to enter the ark, taking their places on levels behind the line of boxes. As they move, they mime actions appropriate to their particular animal.)*

**SONG 3—THE ARK LOADING SONG**

FIRST CAME AARDVARKS, DANCING UP AND DOWN WITH GLEE,  
PRAISING GOD THAT NOAH CHOSE TO LOAD THEM ALPHABETICALLY.  
FURTHER DOWN THE LINE THERE WERE HISSED CATCALLS,  
CAUSE THE VIPERS AND THE ZEBRAS DIDN'T LIKE THE PLAN AT ALL.

THERE WERE HOPPING KANGAROOS, THERE WERE HYPERACTIVE SHREWS;  
THERE WERE BIRDS AND BATS AND BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER THINGS THAT FLEW;  
THERE WERE ANIMALS THAT SLITHERED ON THEIR BELLIES ON THE GROUND;  
THERE WERE FLEAS THAT USED THE BACKS OF CATS AND DOGS TO GET AROUND,

THERE WERE MILLIPEDES A'MARCHING ON A THOUSAND TINY FEET,  
AND THE CAMELS ALL WERE TRIPPING CAUSE THEY COULDN'T KEEP THE BEAT.  
THE OCTOPI WALKED WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF CHARM  
AS THEY CAME UP THE PATH ARM IN ARM, ARM IN ARM, ARM IN ARM, ARM IN  
ARM, ARM IN ARM IN ARM IN ARM IN ARM IN ARM IN ARM IN ARM.

*(OCTOPI link arms first, followed by other CAST MEMBERS until everyone is linked.)*

AS THEY PASSED MRS. NOAH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CROWD,  
THE CATS ALL CURTSEYED AND THE DOGS BOW-WOWED.  
THE ELEPHANTS SALUTED BY RAISING THEIR TRUNKS,  
THOUGH I SUSPECT THEY DID IT SO AS NOT TO SMELL THE SKUNKS.

*(For two measures, the CAST reacts to a bad smell, saying “phew”, “yuck”, etc.)*

THE SEALS SWAM FORWARD AND STARTED TO APPLAUD  
AS THE THE BIRDS SANG OUT TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

**Notes for Page 36-50:**

*(Immediately following the song “Unlikely Heroes,” a group of CAST MEMBERS representing the HEBREW PEOPLE line up behind MOSES and follow him as he circles and crosses to the other side of the stage.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** After escaping from Egypt through the Red Sea, the People of Israel followed Moses on a journey through the desert.

**NARRATOR 2:** And God provided for their needs miraculously.

**VERSE NARRATION 4:**

*(Once again, we hear four percussion clicks and the snare brush rhythm begins. The line following Moses is now stretched out from stage right to stage left across the middle of the playing area. )*

**HEBREW PEOPLE:** *(stopping and turning to audience)* At the seaside, sing hosanna!

**GROUP 1:** *(half the HEBREW PEOPLE, leaning toward GROUP 2)* What’s for supper?

**GROUP 2:** *(the other half, leaning toward GROUP 1)* Quails and manna! *(Both GROUPS freeze.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** In the desert, Sinai Mountain, *(Moses walks behind the line to center, between the GROUPS.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Tap a rock to get a fountain. *(MOSES steps forward between the two GROUPS and mimes tapping on a rock in front of him.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Suddenly they see a wonder, *(ALL look up to “God spot.”)*

**NARRATOR 2:** God appears in smoke and thunder,

**NARRATOR 1:** Moses acts as arbitrator,

**NARRATOR 2:** Other folks say:

**HEBREW PEOPLE:** *(taking a big step backwards, away from MOSES)* See you later!

*(ALL turn their backs, as MOSES walks downstage and looks up to GOD.)*

**GOD:** Moses...Moses...where are you?

**MOSES:** Yes, Lord?

**GOD:** I am Yahweh—the LORD your God—who brought you out of Egypt. Come to me on the mountain, and I will give you the commandments my people must follow.

*(MOSES walks forward into the audience and picks up stone tablets. There is writing on one side of the tablets—Hebrew letters or Roman numerals one through ten.)*

**MOSES:** *(returning to the stage and climbing to the top of a ladder.)* O.K. everybody, I got the latest word from Yahweh.

**HEBREW PEOPLE:** *(Ad libbing as they gather around him)* Alright! What’s it say? Etc.

**MOSES:** *(holding up his hand to silence them)* I've got good news, and I've got bad news. The good news is: You are God's chosen people. *(ALL respond positively.)* The bad news is: You are God's chosen people. *(ALL respond with puzzlement.)* Yeah, I'm afraid he's expecting a little something extra from you folks. And...uh...he's added a few clauses to the contract on these stone tablets. *(He turns the tablets around so everyone can see the numbers or letters. ALL groan.)* Hey, don't complain. At least I held him to ten. You should have seen number eighty-seven before I talked him out of it. *(ALL respond with disturbed mumbling)* Look, you're just gonna have to clean up your act. Now I want you to take these two tablets and call me in the morning if there's any change. *(He hands the tablets to one of the HEBREW PEOPLE.)* Remember, if you don't quit goofing up, we could be wandering in circles out here for the next forty years. O.K., let's do it!

### **VERSE NARRATION 5:**

*(Rhythm accompaniment begins. MOSES leads the HEBREW PEOPLE in a "follow-the-leader" line, moving around the stage. Two HEBREW PEOPLE in the center of the line carry the Ten Commandments—one on each end.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** In an arc commandments rest—

**NARRATOR 2:** Just a fancy word for chest.

**NARRATOR 1:** God's directions disobeyed,  
Milk and honey is delayed.

**NARRATOR 2:** Forty years on desert sand,  
Till they reach the Promised Land.

**NARRATOR 1:** Moses dies before they claim it. *(MOSES exits.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Joshua's now the man to tame it.

*(Percussion ends. JOSHUA jumps up on a box and poses, as one CAST MEMBER takes the Ten Commandments and exits upstage. The HEBREW PEOPLE join hands in a circle. A smaller group of CAST MEMBERS representing the PEOPLE OF JERICHO stand on the inside of the circle.)*

**HEBREW PEOPLE:** *(singing as they walk in a circle around the PEOPLE OF JERICHO, singing)* Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho—Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumblin' down. *(HEBREW PEOPLE collapse on the floor, leaving the PEOPLE OF JERICHO standing.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Joshua puts up quite a fight, *(JOSHUA makes a slashing motion with his arm.)*  
Decimates those Amorites, *(PEOPLE OF JERICHO drop to the floor.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Tells the sun: *(JOSHUA points up at the sun.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Stop your climb!  
I need daylight savings time.

**NARRATOR 2:** Then the soldiers he commands *(HEBREW PEOPLE stand and salute.)*  
Conquer half of Canaan Land.

**NARRATOR 1:** Keep on claiming real estate,  
Till it's time to celebrate!

*(ALL stand, cheer, and start to sing a song of celebration. The STAGE MANAGER enters with clipboard.)*

**STAGE MANAGER:** *(interrupting)* Excuse me... Excuse me! *(ALL fall silent. The STAGE MANAGER addresses the audience.)* I'm sorry I have to stop the show again. It's just that..uh... *(glances at watch)* ...we have a small problem. Could you please take out your programs, and where you wrote the word twenty—change it to thirty? That should fix it. Thank you. *(STAGE MANAGER exits.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Now after Joshua led the people into the Promised Land, they turned away from God and started worshipping idols.

**NARRATOR 1:** So God delivered them into the hands of their enemies—Ammonites...Midianites... Philistines...

**NARRATOR 2:** But when they were in great danger, the people would cry out to the Lord, and he would raise up a judge—a mighty leader—to save them.

*(In the song that follows, the lines delivered by CAST 1, 3, and 5 can actually be delivered by NARRATOR 1; and lines delivered by CAST 2, 4, and 6 can be delivered by NARRATOR 2. The lines assigned to GIDEON, SAMSON, and DELILAH can also be delivered by NARRATOR 1 by replacing "I" with the appropriate character name, and making the other necessary pronoun changes.)*

## SONG 6—JUDGES, JUDGES

**CAST 1:** Have you heard about Gideon?

**CAST 2:** Gideon?

**CAST 1:** Yeah, he defeated the entire Midianite army... *(A group of CAST MEMBERS, as MIDIANITES, rush forward with an aggressive growl.)* ...with a few hundred soldiers. *(GIDEON shouts "Hup! Two, three, four!" as he leads a small group ISRAELITE SOLDIERS on to the stage. Some carry jars and prop torches, and some carry toy horns. In the original production, the jars were made from large beige plastic flower pots. The bottoms were cut out of the pots, and beige tissue paper was stretched tightly over the hole and taped down. The torches were made from poster board rolled into long narrow cones and topped with orange, red, and yellow tissue paper "flames." When the time came to break the jars, the torch was pushed through the tissue paper from the inside.)*

**CAST 2:** How?

**GIDEON:** I took clay jars and put torches in them. *(ISRAELITE SOLDIERS put torches into the jars.)* Then—in the middle of the night— *(MIDIANITES drop to the floor and snore in an exaggerated fashion.)* ...my men crept up to the Midianites... *(ISRAELITE SOLDIERS "surround" the sleeping MIDIANITES.)* ...and on my command, they broke those jars and blew on trumpets. *(ISRAELITE SOLDIERS "break" the jars, hold up the torches, and blow on the horns. MIDIANITES wake up and freeze with looks of panic.)* The Midianites thought

they were surrounded by an army of thousands and ran away. (*MIDIANITES run off screaming in fear.*)

(*During introduction of song, GIDEON jumps up on a box and freezes in a heroic pose.*)

TAKE A LOOK AT GIDEON.  
HE FOUGHT THE ARMIES OF MIDEON  
WITH A LITTLE BITTY BRASSY BAND,  
THREE HUNDRED MEN PICKED BY HAND.  
LATE AT NIGHT HE WON THE DAY,  
WITH A COUPLE HORNS AND JARS OF CLAY.  
SO GREAT A GUY SOME DAY YOU'LL SEE:  
**GIDEON:** (*breaking from pose*) THEY'RE GONNA NAME A BIBLE AFTER ME.

JUDGES, JUDGES,  
NOT THE COURTROOM KIND.  
JUDGES, JUDGES,  
TAKE A LOOK YOU'LL FIND  
JUDGES, JUDGES,  
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE ODD,  
JUDGES, JUDGES  
GREAT LEADERS OF GOD.

(*GIDEON moves upstage. DEBORAH, BARAK, a group of CAST MEMBERS representing CANAANITES move downstage and stand with their backs to the audience.*)

**CAST 3:** Have you ever heard of Deborah?

(*DEBORAH turns to face the audience and poses.*)

**CAST 4:** Deborah?

**CAST 3:** Yeah, she was a judge who had the gift of prophecy.

**DEBORAH:** One day God told me the people of Israel could defeat their enemies. So I asked an Israelite commander to do the job— (*Looking to BARAK*) Hey, Barak, go fight the Canaanites!

(*The CANAANITES turn to face DEBORAH and BARAK and pump their arms with a grunting "Unh!"*)

**BARAK:** No way! They got chariots made out of iron.

**CANAANITES:** (*slapping their thighs, in a galloping rhythm*) Bah-bah-bah-bum, Bah-bah-bah-bum, Bah-bah-bah Bah-bah-bah Bah-bah-bah Bum!

**BARAK:** I'm not gonna go unless you do.

**DEBORAH:** O.K., but if I go, you're not gonna get any credit.

**CAST 3:** So Deborah led God's people into battle, and when the Canaanite chariots got stuck in the mud...

*(The CANAANITES again slap their thighs in rhythm, but this time they stick their tongues out comically as they speak.)*

**CANAANITES:** Blah-blah-blah-blah, Blah-blah-blah-blah, *(running down and sinking to the floor)* Blah-blah-blah, Blah-blah-blah, Blah-blah-blah Blahhhhhh...

**CAST 3:** God's people triumphed!

*(Entire CAST cheers. DEBORAH jumps up on a box and freezes in a heroic pose.)*

TAKE A LOOK AT DEBORAH,  
AND GIVE A REALLY BIG HEP-HOORAH!  
A DOUBLE THREAT WHO WORE A DRESS,  
SHE WAS A JUDGE AND PROPHETESS!  
LED AN ARMY IN A ROUT,  
WHEN ANOTHER LEADER CHICKENED OUT.  
SO REMEMBER WHEN IT'S TIME TO FIGHT:

**DEBORAH:** *(breaking from pose)* I'M TWICE THE MAN OF ANY CANAANITE.

JUDGES, JUDGES,  
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE ODD,  
JUDGES, JUDGES,  
GREAT LEADERS OF GOD.

*(DEBORAH moves upstage. SAMSON enters wearing a long-haired wig and poses. Two CAST MEMBERS form a barbell by crouching on two boxes with their backs to the audience. They extend an arm toward each other and link wrists to create the bar between the weights. A prop barbell can be substituted for these CAST MEMBERS if necessary.)*

**CAST 5:** Have you ever heard of Samson?

**CAST 6:** Samson?

**CAST 5:** He promised never to cut his hair, and God gave him great strength.

*(SAMSON moves behind the barbell and "lifts" it over his head. The CAST MEMBERS forming the weight actually do the work by standing as he lifts, and crouching down as he lowers the bar.)*

**SAMSON:** *(as he lifts and lowers twice)* Unnh! Unnh! Then one day I met a Philistine woman named Delilah... *(DELILAH enters and poses.)* ...and I told her my secret.



*(SAMSON yawns, lays his head on his folded hands, closes his eyes, and snores.)*

**DELILAH:** And the next time he went to sleep... *(removing his wig as she mimes cutting hair)* I cut off his hair. And when he woke up...

*(SAMSON wakes up and grabs the barbell again.)*

**SAMSON:** *(as he tries to lift and fails)* Unnh! ...All my strength was gone!

**DELILAH:** Then my people, the Philistines, captured him... *(PHILISTINES, growling, grab SAMSON and drag him center stage, holding him on both sides.)* ... and chained him up. *(The PHILISTINES form a "temple" with their bodies—two become columns on either side of SAMSON, two more form an arch on one side by facing each other with arms lifted, and a second pair form a similar arch on the other side.)*

**SAMSON:** But my hair grew back... *(DEBORAH puts the wig back on SAMSON.)* ...and I knocked down one of their temples with my bare hands—with everybody inside. *(He pushes on the "columns" on either side of him. All the PHILISTINES spin fall to the floor with a scream.)*

*(SAMSON jumps up on a box and freezes in a muscle builder's pose.)*

TAKE A LOOK AT SAMSON NOW.  
HE WAS STRONGER THAN A HERD OF COWS,  
TIL DELILAH CUT HIS HAIR,  
AND PHILISTINES FOUND HIM THERE.  
SO THEY CHAINED HIM CENTERSTAGE,  
HIS TRAGIC ACT WAS ALL THE RAGE.  
HIS FINAL LINE CAUSED QUITE A FRIGHT:  
**SAMPSON:** *(breaking from pose)* I'M BRINGIN' DOWN THE HOUSE TONIGHT!

*(All three JUDGES move downstage and climb up on boxes.)*

JUDGES, JUDGES,  
NOT THE COURTROOM KIND.  
JUDGES, JUDGES,  
TAKE A LOOK YOU'LL FIND,  
JUDGES, JUDGES,  
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE ODD,  
JUDGES, JUDGES,  
GREAT LEADERS OF GOD.

*(All three JUDGES freeze in heroic poses as the rest of the CAST gesture toward them.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Yet even though the Lord God saved the people of Israel again and again, they continued to stray.

**NARRATOR 2:** The day came when the entire countryside was in danger of being overrun by the Philistines.

**NARRATOR 1:** The people of God cried out and asked for a king to save them.

**NARRATOR 2:** God heard their call for help, and sent the prophet Samuel to answer them.

*(A group of CAST MEMBERS representing the ISRAELITES stand and move downstage. In the scene that follows, they whine in a wildly exaggerated fashion, maintaining an annoying nasal quality throughout. To the best example of this kind of whining, go to YouTube and look up “SNL Whiners”—the Saturday Night Live sketch with the characters of the Whiners.)*

### **Notes for Page 51**

#### **VERSE NARRATION 6:**

*(Once again we hear the four clicks leading into the snare drum rhythm. CAST MEMBERS playing ISRAELITES turn their backs. SAMUEL exits as JONATHON crosses downstage to stand beside SAUL.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Saul along with his boy John *(SAUL puts his hand on JONATHON’s shoulder.)*  
Soon display a lot of brawn. *(SAUL and JONATHON each lift one arm to show muscles.)*

Philistines are on the run *(CAST MEMBERS to the right of SAUL and JONATHON turn to face stage right and freeze in running away poses; CAST MEMBERS to the left of SAUL and JONATHON turn to face stage left and freeze in running away poses.)*

From the team of Saul and son.

**NARRATOR 2:** Saul is not a faithful man— *(JONATHON exits.)*

Doesn’t follow Yahweh’s plans.

When he sees a chance for wealth *(SAUL mimes stealing object and hiding it under his arm.)*

He decides to help himself. *(SAUL exits.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** God annoyed at Saul’s disgrace.

David picked to take his place. *(DAVID crosses downstage center and poses.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** Shepherd David sure can sing, *(DAVID mimes playing rock guitar.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Also handy with a sling. *(Percussion ends. DAVID holds up sling and freezes.)*

The primary purpose of the additional Director’s Copy Production Notes is to suggest choreography/movement for the “verse narration” sections of the musical. The David section on page 10 is the last verse narration in the musical, so this concludes the Notes.